

Department of Planning and Budget

2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2349

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Marshall, R.G.

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Bioengineered foods; GMO content; genetically modified fish; labeling.

5. Summary: This bill requires certain products containing a genetically modified organism (GMO) to bear a label stating, "Congress prohibits states from requiring the on-package labeling of the GMO content of this product." The bill requires retail food stores to post notices and information sheets regarding bioengineered foods and to install digital scanners to read the matrix barcodes that certain packaged foods may use to provide information on GMO content. The bill also requires that any genetically modified fish or fish product be so labeled and that a fish or fish product that is labeled "wild," "antibiotic-free," "hormone-free," or free of added colors or additives be harvested from a river or ocean, not raised in captivity under control for its entire life, and free from added colors and additives. The bill provides that some of its provisions shall be repealed if Congress amends the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard to prohibit the on-package disclosure of bioengineered food solely by means of an electronic or digital link.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill may result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) if extensive monitoring regarding proper and accurate labeling of genetically-engineered foods is required. However, VDACS is not able to determine a fiscal impact at this time. If sampling of bioengineered food products is required, the Department of General Services, Division of Consolidated Laboratories (DCLS) has indicated that they currently do not have the capability to verify whether or not a food product is genetically engineered or contains genetically engineered ingredients to assist in enforcing this bill. DCLS has further indicated that the costs associated with developing the methodologies and purchasing the necessary equipment and supplies to perform this testing are indeterminate at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of General Services - Division of Consolidated Laboratories.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.