

## Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB630

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Thomas

**3. Committee:** Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

**4. Title:** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; noxious weeds; Hydrilla verticillata.

**5. Summary:** The bill directs the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to declare Hydrilla verticillata as a noxious weed and to conduct an assessment of the build-up of water weeds in the waters of the Commonwealth. The assessment is to include recommendations of measures to mitigate or remove Hydrilla verticillata.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, to Item 90 of HB30/SB30.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See item 8.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2018	\$0	n/a	n/a
2019	\$100,000	0	GF
2020	\$0	n/a	n/a
2021	\$0	n/a	n/a
2022	\$0	n/a	n/a
2023	\$0	n/a	n/a
2024	\$0	n/a	n/a

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill requires an assessment of all waters of the Commonwealth to determine the presence of water weeds. While the bill does not define “all waters,” it is anticipated that the assessment would be conducted in Virginia waters where weeds could survive and include lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, intermittent streams, and wetlands. To complete the assessment, VDACS anticipates the need to contract with an outside agency or private company, as such assessment will be time and resource intensive. The agency does not have the staff to conduct this kind of assessment. The cost estimate is based on previous experience with similar studies.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.