

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1621

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

**2. Patron:** Plum

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

**4. Title:** Virginia Urban Agriculture Advisory Council created; report.

**5. Summary:** Creates the Virginia Urban Agriculture Advisory Council as an advisory council in the legislative branch of state government to encourage urban agriculture and contribute to building a local food economy. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2023.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that there will be costs to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) in administering the provisions of this bill; however, such costs can be absorbed. The bill requires VDACS to provide staff support to the Virginia Urban Agriculture Advisory Council and to fund the costs of the compensation and expenses of the 23 Council members. While the bill does not prescribe the number of meetings the Council must hold each year, most state boards meet at least quarterly. Based on the expenses of other boards administered by the agency, VDACS estimates that, assuming the Council holds four one-day meetings in a central location each year, expenses for the room rental for the meeting and the mileage, lunch, and lodging expenses for the 23 members would be approximately \$23,133 annually. This estimate assumes that only 10 of the Council members would require lodging.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** SB854 is the companion to this bill.