

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1642

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

2. Patron: Ayala

3. Committee: Passed the House

4. Title: Coal ash ponds; medical monitoring program; drinking water well testing.

5. Summary: The bill requires each utility to commission an independent well water test on behalf of the owner of each such well by January 1, 2021, and requires such test to be done once per year during each of the five years following the approval of the closure of a coal ash pond and once every five years thereafter. The bill provides that if any test exceeds groundwater quality standards for constituents associated with coal ash, the Virginia Waste Management Board shall instruct the utility to provide alternate water supplies to the owner of the well. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality to consider the results of the tests in its permitting, monitoring, or enforcement proceedings.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on the Department of Environmental Quality as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. The State Corporation Commission anticipates no fiscal impact resulting from this bill.

Any fiscal impact to the Department of Health (VDH) is indeterminate. VDH anticipates incurring costs when drinking water supply well owners receive the results of tests conducted by utilities as required by this bill. Well owners are likely to seek assistance with interpretation of test results, risk communication, and water treatment options when applicable. VDH cannot quantify these costs, as the number of well owners who will seek guidance from VDH cannot be determined. VDH has identified 2,020 private wells and 23 public water supply (waterworks) wells within five miles of the Chesterfield Power Station, Chesapeake Energy Center, Bremo Bluff Power Station, and Possum Point Power Station coal ash ponds. VDH has not identified the number of wells located near other regulated waste disposal sites located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that were historically used by a utilities to hold, dispose of, treat, or store coal combustion by-products.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Environmental Quality, State Corporation Commission; Virginia Department of Health

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.