

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB297

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: Gooditis

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Goat grazing on stream buffers.

5. Summary: Authorizes a locality that procures and utilizes goats for the temporary grazing of stream buffers to remain in compliance with a resource management plan for pasture land. Such compliance qualifies the locality for matching grants for agricultural best management practices provided through the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program. The bill also clarifies that such grazing is not prohibited by certain provisions of the State Water Control Law.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, livestock grazing of stream buffers is a prohibited practice under the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Cost-Share (VACS) Program, as the state does not receive nutrient credit reductions for agricultural buffers that are grazed. As such, any grants awarded from VACS for this practice will divert resources from allowable practices that qualify for nutrient credit reductions which are necessary for the Commonwealth to meet its required targets.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation; Department of Environmental Quality.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB770 and SB648 are companions to this bill.