

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB406

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:** Hashmi

**3. Committee:** General Laws and Technology

**4. Title:** Virginia Environmental Justice Act.

**5. Summary:** Establishes the Virginia Environmental Justice Act to promote the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, income, faith, or disability with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies. Under the bill, state agencies are required to examine any new regulation or policy or amendment to an existing regulation or policy involving state action or funds in relation to its impact on environmental justice prior to adoption of the regulation or policy. The bill requires the Governor's Secretaries to develop a policy or strategy to promote environmental justice in ways that are tailored to the specific authority, mission, and programs under their Secretariat no later than January 1, 2021.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** See item 8.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill requires that every state agency examine the impact on environmental justice that may result from any new regulation or policy or change to any existing regulation or policy involving state action or funds. The extent of the review required is undefined. It is anticipated that this bill will have a greater impact on agencies in certain Secretariats, including the Secretariats of Transportation, Natural Resources, and Commerce and Trade, as the agencies in these areas promulgate and enforce a multitude of regulations and undertake construction projects. Additional resources are likely to be required; however, the totality of such resources cannot be determined.

The bill requires each of the Governor's Secretaries to develop a policy or strategy to promote environmental justice in ways that are tailored to the specific authority, mission, and programs under their Secretariat no later than January 1, 2021. In addition, each Secretary shall designate an Environmental Justice Coordinator to facilitate these policies. Lastly, the bill establishes the Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group, composed of the designated Environmental Justice Coordinators, with the purpose of assisting in the implementation of the provisions of the bill.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All state agencies; All Cabinet Secretaries.

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

**11. Other Comments:** HB704 is similar to this bill.