

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB783

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: Lewis

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Marine Resources Commission; carbon market participation.

5. Summary: Authorizes the Marine Resources Commission to participate in any carbon market for which submerged aquatic vegetation restoration qualifies as an activity that generates carbon offset credits and to enter into agreements necessary to effect such participation, including with private entities for assistance with registration and sale of offset credits. The bill requires any revenue resulting from the sale of such credits to be used to implement additional submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring, restoration, and research or to cover any administrative costs of participation in the credit market. The bill also requires the Commission to hold exclusive title to credits until sold.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that any expenditure impact on the Marine Resources Commission (MRC) as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. Any revenue impact resulting from this measure is indeterminate, as it is not possible to estimate the degree to which the agency will be able to participate in any carbon market, or the magnitude of any proceeds. MRC is aware of voluntary credit markets through which some restoration projects may generate carbon offsets, but no defined estimate of the potential proceeds has been identified.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Marine Resources Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.