

## Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1290

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

**2. Patron:** Mason

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

**4. Title:** ConserveVirginia program; established.

**5. Summary:** Establishes in the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) a data-driven Geographical Information Systems model to prioritize potential conservation areas across the Commonwealth that would provide quantifiable benefits to the citizens of Virginia, known as ConserveVirginia. Aspects of the program include (i) the synthesis of multiple mapped data inputs, divided into categories, each representing a different overarching conservation value, and periodic revision of such values; (ii) access to the model by the public and all state and federal agencies; and (iii) incorporation of the model into acquisition or grant decisions when appropriate. The bill requires the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to report on the success of the program and incorporate the program into needs assessments for expenditures from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.

As substituted, the bill expands on the information and coordination required between DCR and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Forestry regarding this program.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Conservation and Recreation. On April 19, 2019, the Governor officially announced the launch of ConserveVirginia. This bill codifies a program that is currently administered by the department.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Conservation and Recreation; Secretary of Natural Resources; Department of Forestry; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Department of Historic Resources; Department of Wildlife Resources; Department of Environmental Quality; Marine Resources Commission.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.