

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB657

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

2. **Patron:** Wampler

3. **Committee:** Passed both houses

4. **Title:** Public utilities; waste coal and certain coal-fired electric generating units.

5. **Summary:** Directs the Department of Energy, in cooperation with the public institutions of higher education serving the coalfield region of the Commonwealth, to identify the approximate volume and number of waste coal piles present in the coalfield region of the Commonwealth and options for cleaning up such waste coal piles. Requires that DEN report its findings and any recommendations to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, the House Committee on Commerce and Energy, and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources by December 1, 2022. The bill also requires that the Department of Environmental Quality convene a working group, including, as appropriate, representatives from the Department of Energy, the Virginia Department of Transportation's Transportation Research Council, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the opportunities for the development of public infrastructure projects for the storage of coal ash in the Commonwealth. The working group is required to report its findings and any recommendations by December 1, 2022.

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, the Department of Transportation, or the Department of Energy as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources.

Public institutions of higher education serving the coalfield region of the Commonwealth include Radford University, University of Virginia's College at Wise, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Impact estimates from these institutions are not available.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Energy; public institutions of higher education serving the coalfield region of the Commonwealth; Department of Environmental Quality; Department of Transportation.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to SB120 and its companion, HB1326.