

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB182

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

2. Patron: Marshall, R.G.

3. Committee: General Laws

4. Title: Virginia Museum of Natural History and Science Museum of Virginia;
consolidation thereof.

5. Summary: Transfers the governance and operations of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History to the Board of Trustees of the Science Museum of Virginia. In addition, moves the Museum of Natural History from the Secretary of Natural Resources to the Secretary of Education.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Delete Item 380 and insert as Item 245.1.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation will result in minimal, if any, efficiency savings.

This legislation appears to leave the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum as two separate agencies both under the purview of the Secretary of Education. However, it is not completely clear that this is the case. The legislation could be interpreted as merging the two museums into one entity under the Secretary of Education. If the latter is the intent, minimal, if any, efficiency savings would result. Both the Science Museum of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of Natural History operate with minimum administrative staff. To manage both museums effectively will require both staffs to be retained, resulting in no appreciable savings.

The legislation does, however, eliminate the governing board of the Museum of Natural History and places it under the governance of the Science Museum's board. Currently the Virginia Museum of Natural History is governed by a board made up of 25 individuals. The members of the board are allowed per diem and expenses associated with travel to attend board meetings. The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) is currently budgeted approximately \$5,000 to fund board related costs. Disbanding the Board for the VMNH would result in a savings of approximately \$5,000. However, the workload on the existing board of the Science Museum of Virginia, made up of 15 members, would increase. This could increase the length of the monthly meetings or the number of meetings, increasing the per diem paid by the Science Museum of Virginia to the board and thus reducing the savings.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Science Museum of Virginia, Virginia Museum of Natural History.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: The Science Museum Board of Trustees is presently set up of individuals primarily from Central and Northern Virginia and is not representative of the Martinsville area where the Natural History Museum is located.

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