

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1961

House of Origin	<u>X</u>	Introduced	___	Substitute	___	Engrossed
Second House	___	In Committee	___	Substitute	___	Enrolled

2. Patron: Mathieson

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: **Special conservation police officers.**

5. Summary: The bill clarifies the definition of a conservation police officer by removing the words “special” and “regular” from language referring to a conservation police officer. Due to the bill’s first amendment, special conservation police officers no longer exist and, the bill eliminates the obsolete language authorizing a special conservation police to exercise police power on properties owned or controlled by the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries. The bill also eliminates language approving the compensation by a local government body to any person appointed by the Board as a special conservation officer to carry out law enforcement directly related to or incidental to general game laws of the Commonwealth.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: The bill has no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

8. Fiscal Implications: None

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: If it is the intent to remove any distinction between special conservation police officers then a clarifying technical amendment is necessary to strike the word “regular” on line 247.

11. Other Comments: The second enactment clause repeals § 29.1-217 of the Code of Virginia that permits certain landowners to employ and pay special conservation police officers that receive no compensation from the Commonwealth.

It is unclear if the bill could impact localities that currently use special conservation officers.

Date: 1/27/2009 dpbbrb

Document: G:\FIS 2009\DGIF\HB1961.doc

cc: Secretary of Natural Resources