

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1324

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

2. Patron: Reynolds

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Notice of election of Soil and Water Conservation District directors

5. Summary: The bill requires that notice of the date that nominating petitions and the date of the election for soil and water conservation district directors have to be posted in a prominent location at each district office 30 days before the filing date. Districts may use additional means to provide notice to the public of the election of district directors. Currently, such notice has to be published in a newspaper of general circulation with the district. The bill also requires the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board to notify each district that it's the district's responsibility to post such notice.

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

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill removes the requirement that notice of soil and water conservation district elections be published in a newspaper of general circulation. The elections are held every four years. The Department of Conservation and Recreation estimates that the measure will result in savings of approximately \$45,000 statewide from the districts' administrative budgets. These costs are not included in the base budget for the districts because the election are only held periodically, instead the department uses carryforward balances to pay for both the advertising and the required district audits. It is anticipated that any savings realized in advertising will be used to off-set increasing audit costs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation, soil and water conservation districts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The bill is identical to House Bill 2218.

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources