

## Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB 871

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

**2. Patron:**        Ticer

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

**4. Title:**         **Reporting requirements; Department of Health**

**5. Summary:** Relieves the Department of Health of its responsibility to report to the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry on the implementation of policies related to the protection of farm and forest lands. After the transfer of responsibilities for the land application of biosolids to the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health no longer has duties that impact farmland preservation.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** None.

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** None.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Health, Department of Environmental Quality, Secretary of Natural Resources, and Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

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

**11. Other Comments:** The legislation exempts the Department of Health (VDH) from submitting an annual plan to the Secretary of Natural Resources and Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, which contains the analysis of the impact that the agency's regulations and projects have on the conversion of farm and forest lands. The exemption of this reporting requirement does not have a fiscal impact for VDH.

The legislation is consistent with House Bill 2802, which was passed by the 2007 General Assembly, and consolidated the regulation of the biosolids program under the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The responsibility for the regulation of the biosolids program had been shared between DEQ and VDH. The passage of the legislation removed VDH's responsibilities relating to farm preservation, which would no longer require VDH to submit an annual plan analyzing the impact of its regulations and projects on the conversion of farm and forest lands. VDH transferred appropriation and positions provided for the biosolids program to DEQ and are reflected in the 2008 Appropriations Act, Chapter 879.

**Date:** 1/16/2009 lrj

**Document:** G:\VDH\GA\Legislation\FIS\FY 2009/SB871.doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources  
Secretary of Natural Resources  
Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry