

## Department of Planning and Budget 2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number: HB1734ER**

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

**2. Patron: Carrico, C.**

**3. Committee: Passed Both Houses**

**4. Title: Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals; licensed professional soil scientists**

**5. Summary:** Requires professional soil scientists to be licensed by the Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals effective January 1, 2012. Currently, professional soil scientists are subject to voluntary certification. The bill sets out the requirements for licensure, continuing education, and grandfathers soil scientists under certain conditions. The bill contains technical amendments.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No. The Department can absorb the additional costs within its current appropriation.

The cost of the legislation is minimal and Department's appropriation will not need to be increased for FY2012 and future years to cover the projected costs associated with this bill.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** The fiscal impact estimates are final.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2011	0	0.0	NGF
2012	100	0.0	0900 NGF
2013	0	0.0	NGF
2014	0	0.0	NGF
2015	0	0.0	NGF
2016	0	0.0	NGF
2017	0	0.0	NGF

**7b. Revenue Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2011	0	NGF
2012	5,850	0900 NGF
2013	0	NGF
2014	4,550	0900 NGF
2015	0	NGF
2016	4,550	0900 NGF

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill increases the administrative and regulatory responsibilities of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) by implementing and administering a licensure requirement for Professional Soil Scientists. The Board currently regulates about 135 soil scientists who maintain a voluntary certification. Those regulants would be required to become licensed. In addition, approximately 55-65 additional soil scientists would be affected by this requirement to become licensed.

Personal Service Costs: This legislation will not require any additional personal service costs.

Operating Costs: In FY2012, DPOR will need to send a notification to current and potential licensees, at a cost of \$100 for postage and supplies. These are one-time costs that will not recur.

Total costs are projected to be \$100 in FY2012, and \$0 in future years.

Revenue: In accordance with the provisions of Section 54.1-113 (Callahan Act) of the Code of Virginia, licensing fees are established at rates adequate to cover a program's operating costs and a proportionate share of agency support costs.

The number of licensees is expected to increase by about 65 as a result of this legislation. Revenue will increase by about \$5,850 in FY2012 as those individuals apply for initial licensure, and by \$4,550 in FY2014 and FY2016 when they renew their licenses.

The Board's current cash and revenue are expected to be sufficient to cover the increased costs associated with this legislation.

Cost to Regulants: No additional cost to current regulants is expected as a result of this legislation. New regulants are expected to pay the current application fee of \$90 upon initial application, and will receive a license that expires after two years. They will pay a license renewal fee of \$70 every two years, for an annual cost of \$35.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 01/13/2011

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