

**50 DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION  
2011 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Patron** R. Creigh Deeds

**3. Committee** House Finance

**4. Title** Taxation: Fillable Tax Forms

**2. Bill Number** SB 1450

**House of Origin:**

           **Introduced**

           **Substitute**

           **Engrossed**

**Second House:**

  X   **In Committee**

           **Substitute**

           **Enrolled**

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

This bill would require the Department of Taxation to make all state tax forms fillable in portable document format (PDF) for periods beginning on and after January 1, 2012 on the Department of Taxation's website. The bill would further require the Department of Taxation would begin making fillable forms available no later than January 1, 2012 and would make all fillable forms available no later than March 1, 2013.

In addition, the Department of Taxation would be required to develop guidelines for using fillable forms and publish them on its website.

**6. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**7. No Fiscal Impact.** (See Line 8.)

**8. Fiscal implications:**

Administrative Impact

The Department of Taxation does not require additional funding to implement this bill.

Revenue Impact

There is no revenue impact for this bill.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Department of Taxation

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

## 11. Other comments:

### Background

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) currently provides fillable forms on its web-site in a PDF format. These forms can be downloaded and filled in by typing letters and numbers into the appropriate boxes. The forms provide no arithmetic or limit checks to assist with the accuracy of the form and cannot be filed electronically.

PDF (Portable Document Format) is a file format based on the PostScript page description language that represents a document independently of the software or computer platform that created it. PDF files can be composed of text, graphics and images and can be read, browsed, searched and printed on most major operating systems using either the freely available viewing program, Adobe Reader, or other programs capable of reading PDF files.

### Proposal

Under this bill, the Department of Taxation would be required to provide all state tax forms as fillable forms in PDF on its website. The fillable forms would be similar to the IRS format and would provide no arithmetic or limit checks to assist with the accuracy of the form and could not be filed electronically.

The Department of Taxation would begin making fillable forms available no later than January 1, 2012 and would make all forms available in a fillable format no later than March 1, 2013. It is anticipated that the Department of Taxation would focus its efforts first on business tax forms. As a component of the Virginia Free File Program, most individual income tax returns will be available in a fillable format prior to the start of the 2011 tax return filing season.

cc : Secretary of Finance

Date: 2/9/2011dtm  
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