

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB932

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Lingamfelter

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Nutrient management.

5. Summary: This bill expands the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Program to also assist owners of agricultural lands and turf in achieving economic benefits from the effective management and application of nutrients. The bill adds representatives to the stakeholder group, specifically farmers who currently operate farms, agribusiness representative who serve the farming community, and specifies that the group is to include at least two members of the Virginia delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission and one representative from the Rappahannock River Basin Commission. The bill sets dates to begin testing of software and full implementing the program, exempts the information collected pursuant to the Code section from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and authorizes up to \$150,000 for an annual transfer from the Natural Resources Commitment Fund within the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), to the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Fund.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill sets deadlines of July 1, 2013, and January 1, 2014, respectively, for the start of software testing and full implementation of the Virginia Nutrient Management Plan Program. It also expands the services provided through the program to include assistance in achieving economic benefits from the effective management and application of nutrients. The deadlines and additional services established by this bill are anticipated to result in additional costs to DCR. However, the bill directs an annual transfer of up to \$150,000 from the Natural Resources Commitment Fund (NRCF), a subfund of the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) within DCR, to the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Fund (NMTCF). These monies are to be used to support costs associated with the development and operation of the program. According to DCR, the annual transfers from the NRCF mandated by this bill should be sufficient to support initial and ongoing costs associated with the provisions of this bill. As such, DCR anticipates that this bill will not result in costs to the agency that are not provided for by the transfer.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation, Chesapeake Bay Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Revenue to the NRCF consists of recordation tax fees and transfers from general fund deposits to the WQIF. Annual estimated revenue to the NRCF from recordation taxes is approximately \$9.1 million; transfers from the WQIF are one-time in nature and vary. The bill stipulates that, out of monies deposited to the NRCF, the transfer of \$150,000 from the NRCF to the NMTCF is to occur first and any remaining monies are to be allocated to the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program in accordance with the current provisions of § 10.1-2128.1. B.

Date: 1/19/2012