

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1279

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: Hanger

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Consolidation of water quality programs.

5. Summary: This bill moves the water quality programs currently administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Department of Environmental Quality. The Department of Environmental Quality and the State Water Control Board will have oversight of water quality planning and laws dealing with stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas. The composition of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is changed, reducing the number of voting members from 12 to seven, and the Department of Environmental Quality is assigned responsibility for staffing the Board. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will continue its oversight responsibilities of the soil and water conservation districts and of resource management planning. The Board of Conservation and Recreation will be responsible for administration of the flood prevention and dam safety laws.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 360 under Department of Conservation and Recreation and a new Item under Department of Environmental Quality unless budget language sets forth to administratively execute the transfer.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary; see item 8, below.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation anticipate this action to be budget neutral and do not expect any short-term savings with the transfer of functions along with the associated funding and positions between agencies. Long-term the consolidation of water quality program may result in some savings as functions and systems are streamlined. Yet, these savings are indeterminate. There may also be some short-term costs related to moving personnel and office equipment between agencies. This too is indeterminate at this point.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Environmental Quality

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB2048 is the companion bill.

Date: 01/17/2013

Document: G:\ACD\Legislative Session 2013\FIS\DEQ\SB1279.docx