

## Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB18

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

**2. Patron:** Stuart

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

**4. Title:** Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact; removes authorization for State's membership.

**5. Summary:** This bill removes authorization for Virginia's membership in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) serves as the administrative body coordinating the state's membership in the Compact. The purpose of the Compact is to promote better utilization of the marine, shell, and anadromous fisheries of the Atlantic seaboard through the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries and by the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause. If any state desires to remove itself from the Compact, it must send a six months' notice in writing to the member states of its intention to withdraw from the Compact.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 374 and strike paragraph A of the Item.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:** N/A

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2012	0	0	General Fund
2013	(\$41,000)	0	General Fund
2014	(\$41,000)	0	General Fund
2015	(\$41,000)	0	General Fund
2016	(\$41,000)	0	General Fund
2017	(\$41,000)	0	General Fund
2018	(\$41,000)	0	General Fund

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill will reduce the general fund dollars allocated to VMRC in the amount of \$41,000. This funding is provided to the agency for the sole purpose of paying membership dues to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact.

It is uncertain whether the revocation of membership in the Compact will result in further fiscal impact to the agency. VMRC receives three federal grants totaling approximately \$1.3 million dollars. These funds are considered part of the agency's base budget. According to VMRC, these federal allocations are somewhat based on the number of fisheries landings in

the state. It is possible, per VMRC, that removal from membership in the Compact could negatively impact the total quantity of landings in the Commonwealth because Virginia would have no input into the decision and regulatory requirements made by the Compact involving limitations on harvests and catch sizes, thereby possibly causing a reduction in federal grant monies to the agency.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 1/20/12

**Document:** G:\Legislation\2012 Session\SB18.DOC