

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB16

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

**2. Patron:**        Marshall, R.G.

**3. Committee:** Rules

**4. Title:**            Shenandoah National Park, Commission on Reconveyance of; established, report.

**5. Summary:** Creates the Commission on the Reconveyance of Shenandoah National Park to develop recommendations regarding any proposed reconveyance of Shenandoah National Park by the United States government to the Commonwealth. The bill authorizes the Governor to accept a proposed reconveyance and to establish as a state park any lands conveyed. For its first year of existence, if the Commission on the Reconveyance of Shenandoah National Park is not funded by a separate appropriation in the appropriation act, then Commission may be funded from the operating budgets of the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate upon the approval of the Joint Rules Committee. If the Commission is not funded by a separate appropriation in the appropriation act for any year thereafter, this chapter shall expire on July 1 of the fiscal year that the Commission fails to receive such funding. This chapter shall expire on July 1, 2017.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 1 (HB30/SB30).

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2014	\$0	N/A	-
2015	\$11,040	N/A	GF
2016	\$11,040	N/A	GF
2017	\$11,040	N/A	GF
2018	\$0	N/A	-
2019	\$0	N/A	-
2020	\$0	N/A	-

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Having five House members as prescribed in the bill and assuming four meetings, the estimated cost for members of this Commission could be approximately \$6,900. Using this same type of estimate as a base for the three Senate members, an additional \$4,410 may be needed, for a total of \$11,040 general fund support. Not knowing which members might

be appointed, an average of mileage reimbursement and meals/incidentals was used to calculate the estimate. However, the actual costs would depend on the number of meetings, and other assistance, if necessary, provided to the Commission.

The Commission shall consist of nine members (eight legislative members and one nonvoting ex officio member). Legislative members may receive compensation and are reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses. Administrative staff support is provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. The Division of Legislative Services will provide legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the Commission. The Department of Conservation and Recreation, and such other state agencies as may be considered appropriate by the Commission, shall provide staff assistance to the Commission. The purpose of the Commission is on the possible conveyance of the Shenandoah National Park.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Office of the Clerk of the Senate, the Division of Legislative Services, The Department of Conservation and Recreation, and localities adjacent, or nearby, to the Shenandoah National Park

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

**11. Other Comments:** Shenandoah National Park is one of the flagship national parks in the east with nearly 200,000 acres, including 79,579 acres of federally designated Wilderness under the National Wilderness Act. It's most prominent feature is the Sky Line Drive – a 105 mile scenic highway that runs the entire length of the park and connects with the Blue Ridge Parkway at Afton Mountain and that is a National Historic Landmark. There are over 500 miles of hiking and equestrian trails in the park, including 75 paved overlooks, thousands of linear feet of historic stone walls, drainage systems, culverts, as well as summer mowing and winter snow and ice removal. If the park were transferred to the State, then the State would have to absorb the full cost of maintaining all of its associated features. To compare, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's State Park system consist of about 70,000 acres, with its largest park being Pocahontas at 8,000 acres. The Commonwealth provides about \$17 million in General Fund support of the \$35.9 million appropriation for its state parks and has five land banked park sites waiting development funding.

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources