

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2014 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB858

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

**2. Patron:** Fariss

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

**4. Title:** State forest activity fee.

**5. Summary:** Authorizes the Department of Forestry to promulgate regulations to establish a special use permit fee for activities taking place in state forests. Until the regulations become effective, a fee not to exceed \$15 shall be charged for a special use permit for five specific activities: hunting, fishing, trapping, riding bikes, and riding horses. Currently, the Department can charge a fee for these specific activities but does not have the flexibility to include other types of forest-based recreational activities. The bill would allow the Department to use the regulatory process to include additional activities authorized under the special use permit, without having to amend the statutory authorization.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8, below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Department of Forestry (DOF), this bill may impact agency revenues; however, the magnitude of the impact is indeterminate at this time. DOF may use the regulatory process to establish additional permit fees for recreational activities in the state forests in addition to the five activities currently included in Section 10.1-1152, Code of Virginia (hunting, fishing, trapping, riding bikes and riding horses). Any impact on expenditures is anticipated to be minimal. Statewide there are 23 state forests.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Forestry.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.