Department of Planning and Budget
2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB431

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

2. **Patron:**   Watkins

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

4. **Title:**   Remediation fees.

5. **Summary:** Removes the $5,000 cap on registration fees collected by the Department of Environmental Quality from persons conducting voluntary remediation of contaminated properties. The fees defray the costs of administering the voluntary remediation program. The bill also exempts the Virginia Waste Management Board from the regulatory requirements of the Administrative Process Act (APA) so that new regulations needed to adjust the fee schedule will be in place by July 1, 2014. The bill requires any subsequent adjustment to the fee schedule to be in compliance with the APA.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** According to the Department of Environmental Quality, the revenue impact resulting from this bill is indeterminate at this time. The revenue collected would be determined by the new application fee schedule to be established.

    The bill eliminates the $5,000 cap on application fees for entry into the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). The program currently assesses an application fee of one percent of remediation costs, up to $5,000. Currently the program is funded primarily by federal grant funds and $75,000 in application fees, which represents the average annual application fee revenue collected. The total cost of the existing program is approximately $720,000. However, there continues to be a possibility of reduced federal funding in this program.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Department of Environmental Quality.

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

11. **Other Comments:** None.

SB431.doc/jlm
Date: 01/24/2014

cc: Secretary of Natural Resources