

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1686

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

2. Patron: Fariss

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources

4. Title: Stocking and sale of fish; special permit.

5. Summary: This bill requires the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to establish a special permit, valid for two years, that allows landowners whose property contains a body of water located wholly within his property to stock and sell the fish in such waters. The bill requires the cost of the permit to be based on the cost to the department of establishing and administering the permit.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	n/a	n/a	n/a
2016	\$152,831	3	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2017	\$137,831	3	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2018	\$137,831	3	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2018	\$137,831	3	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2020	\$137,831	3	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2021	\$137,831	3	Nongeneral Fund (0900)

7b. Revenue Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015		
2016	\$153,000	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2017	\$138,000	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2018	\$138,000	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2019	\$138,000	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2020	\$138,000	Nongeneral Fund (0900)
2021	\$138,000	Nongeneral Fund (0900)

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to establish and administer a special permit program related to the stocking and selling of fish propagated and raised in waters owned by a private landowner. The bill specifies that the fee associated with the permit shall be sufficient to support the

administration of the program. DGIF anticipates that to administer this program, three additional positions will be required. These positions include two permit technicians and one DNA biologist. Currently, permit staff at the agency cannot absorb additional duties and a biologist with specific expertise is required. Salary and benefits for these positions are estimated at \$120,000 a year. DGIF also anticipates that a third of a conservation police officer would be required to conduct inspections. These costs would be charged to the program at approximately \$12,000 annually. In the first year of the program, additional expenses will be incurred such as telecommunications and office support estimated at approximately \$20,000.

DGIF has stated that there are currently about 50,000 private landowners who would be eligible to participate in this program. In anticipating program requirements and potential costs, the department utilized a conservative estimate of one percent of eligible landowners participating and applying for permits. To fund the program, DGIF anticipates charging a fee of \$306 for the initial permit and a fee of \$276 each year for renewal. If the program expands beyond the one percent participation level, the department will re-evaluate administrative needs and adjustments to the fees. At this time, a budget amendment for additional appropriation is not needed based on historical expenditure patterns and unexpended appropriation balances. In addition, the agency has significant vacancies under its current maximum employment level that could serve to fulfill the required positions.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.