

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB 1871

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

2. **Patron:** Bulova

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

4. **Title:** Registration of wells.

5. **Summary:** Requires certified water well systems providers to register wells being constructed in ground water management areas with the State Water Control Board (SWCB) within 30 days of the completion of the well's construction. The bill requires the Department of Health (VDH) to provide the SWCB annually with a list of the wells that were permitted during the previous year and the SWCB to provide VDH annually with a list of the wells that were registered during the previous year. The bill also requires VDH to give the SWCB copies of all historical VDH records on permitted private well construction.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	-	-	-
2016	149,760	4	GF
2017	67,338	4	GF
2018	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill would have a fiscal impact on the commonwealth and would require four contracted positions. The bill requires that the Department of Health (VDH) provide all records to DEQ from across 40 local health departments. VDH began tracking this data back in FY 2003 using the Virginia Environmental Informational System (VENIS); however records prior to that year are only available in a hard copy format that varies by locality.

The variability of hard copy filing systems across the 40 health departments can make locating one specific type of record difficult. Locating all of the requested private well

records requires someone to review every hard copy record on file and then place the record into the VENIS database.

VDH estimates there are 993,300 total paper records for onsite sewage systems, private wells, subdivision approvals; of these records, VDH estimates a total of 60,926 private well records.

VENIS has 29,238 records for private wells from FY 2003 to present day so there are at least 31,688 records for private wells from FY 1990 to FY 2003 within a groundwater management area (GWMA) that have not been entered into VENIS. They agency would need four temporary positions to identify the records and enter the data into the VENIS system.

VDH estimates it will take at least 80 weeks to complete this task (12,061 hours / 4 temporary staff). This task would require an expenditure of \$149,760 in FY16 (4 temporary staff x 2080/hours x \$18.00/hour), and \$67,338 in FY 17 (4 temporary staff x 935.25/hours x \$18.00/hour). VDH would work with DEQ to ensure that the transfer of data includes all information requested by DEQ that is available to VDH.

VDH could provide DEQ with paper copies of the requested records, or have a third party scan the paper records into an electronic format. While these options may reduce cost for VDH, they are less favorable methods because the reason for providing the records is to input data into an electronic database for analysis. If paper copies or scanned copies of paper records are provided, then more time, cost, and work is likely required of DEQ staff to upload those records into a database. Additionally, there would be considerable time before either agency or the public could reap any benefit from VDH providing the records.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.