

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1099

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

2. Patron: Stuart

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

4. Title: Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority.

5. Summary: Authority. Creates the Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority to facilitate, coordinate, and support the development of the solar energy industry and solar-powered electric energy facilities in the Commonwealth. The Authority is directed to do so by developing programs to increase the availability of financing for solar energy projects, facilitate the increase of solar energy generation systems on public and private sector facilities in the Commonwealth, promote the growth of the Virginia solar industry, and provide a hub for collaboration between entities to partner on solar energy projects. The Authority will be composed of 11 members appointed by the Governor. Members may be representatives of solar businesses, solar customers, renewable energy financiers, state and local government solar customers, and solar research academics. The Authority is charged with, among other tasks, (i) identifying existing state and regulatory or administrative barriers to the development of the solar energy industry, (ii) collaborating with entities such as higher education institutions to increase the training and development of the workforce needed by the solar industry in Virginia, including industry-recognized credentials and certifications, (iii) applying to the U.S. Department of Energy for loan guarantees for such projects, and (iv) performing any other activities as may seem appropriate to increase solar energy generation in Virginia and the associated jobs and economic development and competitiveness benefits. At the recommendation of the Authority, the Director of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) may utilize nonstate-funded support to carry out any duties assigned to the Director. Funding for nonstate support may be provided by any source, public or private, for the purposes for which the Authority is created.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8, below.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill requires that the Director of DMME serve as the director of the Authority and that the staff of DMME serve as staff for the authority. In the execution of his duties as director of the Authority, he shall maintain and be custodian of all books, documents, and papers of or filed with the Authority; maintain all meeting minutes and other records and documents of the Authority; and perform other duties required by the Authority in the performance of its responsibilities. The bill also requires the Authority to submit an annual summary of its activities and recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of

the House Appropriations Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House and Senate Commerce and Labor Committees. It is anticipated that DMME will be able to absorb any additional workload or expenses created by the Authority using existing staff and resources.

The bill requires the Office of the Attorney General to provide counsel to the Authority. It is anticipated that the Office of the Attorney General will be able to absorb any additional workload or expenses created by the Authority using existing staff and resources.

Under the provisions of the bill, members of the Authority will serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The costs to reimburse such expenses are indeterminate, and would depend on such factors as the number of meetings, members who attend, and location of such meetings.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, Office of the Attorney General.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is a companion to HB1725.