

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB136

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

2. Patron: Knight

3. Committee: Engrossed by the House.

4. Title: Duck blinds; damaged stationary blinds in Virginia Beach, notification to DGIF.

5. Summary: This engrossed bill requires a person who holds a duck blind license for a stationary blind located in the City of Virginia Beach to immediately notify the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) when his blind has been abandoned, is in a state of disrepair, or does not meet the duck blind standards. The bill provides that any owner of such blind who fails to place a PVC pipe marker with reflecting tape into the water six feet above mean low water at the site of the blind (i) within seven days of discovery of the condition of the blind or (ii) within seven days of notification by DGIF of the marking requirement is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100 a day.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a significant fiscal impact to DGIF. According to the department, there are 270 blinds currently issued for Virginia Beach/Back Bay. DGIF expects that no more than 10 percent of the total number of blinds would be subject to the proposed civil penalty, in that they were “abandoned, in a state of disrepair, or do not meet the duck blind standards” and could not be brought into compliance. It is also expected that most owners of blinds who may be assessed a civil penalty of \$100 per day would achieve compliance almost immediately; therefore, assessing civil penalties for multiple days would likely be uncommon. The proposed bill requires that the civil penalty be deposited to the Motorboat and Water Safety Fund administered by DGIF.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.