

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB443-E

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Hanger

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Nutrient credit certification; priority consideration.

5. Summary: Directs the State Water Control Board (the Board) to establish a system for priority consideration of an application for a land conversion project, with a \$10,000 fee. The Department of Environmental Quality will be required to review such a priority application ahead of normal applications and approve or deny it within 30 days. The bill also directs the Board to certify credits that are located in tributaries outside the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the state fiscal impact of this bill cannot be determined. This bill would likely increase revenues and expenditures, but both amounts are unknown at this time. However, it is anticipated that the additional fee could offset the additional costs to hire extra staff to handle the increase in workload required in processing and approving these applications within the 30 day timeframe.

In addition, DEQ notes that there is no anticipated state fiscal impact to the State Water Control Board to certify credits that are located in tributaries outside the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Department of Environmental Quality and the State Water Control Board.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.