

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1636

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

2. Patron: Campbell, R.R.

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Mountain ridges; prohibition on construction; local ordinance.

5. Summary: Prohibits the construction of any building more than 50 feet tall at any elevation within 100 feet of the crest of a vulnerable mountain ridge, as defined in the bill. The bill provides an exception for construction that complies with a county or city ordinance adopted to mitigate the effect of such structures on views of the ridge. The bill also authorizes any city or county to opt out of the prohibition on construction by referendum if the petition for such referendum is made prior to January 1, 2022. The bill directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to produce maps showing vulnerable mountain ridges in Virginia and authorizes the Department to develop a model ridge conservation ordinance.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, to Item 373 of HB30/SB30.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2021	\$106,884	1	GF
2022	\$106,884	1	GF
2023	\$106,884	1	GF
2024	\$106,884	1	GF
2025	\$106,884	1	GF
2026	\$106,884	1	GF

7b. Revenue Impact: N/A.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to produce maps identifying vulnerable mountain ridges in each county or city in the Commonwealth. In addition, DCR shall file copies of the appropriate maps with the land records in the circuit court in each county or city. It is anticipated the department will require one FTE to carry out the provisions of the bill. The position will coordinate with state and federal agencies for acquisition of best available elevation data, coordinate with localities for the acquisition of parcel data, where available, and develop and maintain license agreements with localities for use of GIS parcel data. The position will require GIS expertise to conduct analysis for identification of vulnerable ridges across pertinent areas of the Commonwealth and to develop output maps for each locality.

Due to the inconsistency of best available elevation data across the Commonwealth, this analysis will require recurrent and consistent updates to assure that “vulnerable” status is accurately applied to parcels. The bill also authorizes DCR to develop a model ridge conservation ordinance. As such, it is anticipated that this position will also assist localities with ordinances and landowner communications. Currently, DCR does not have a position dedicated to GIS responsibilities. The workload associated with this bill cannot be absorbed by current staff.

The estimated annual cost for the position is \$106,884, which includes costs for the hardware and software necessary to conduct geospatial analyses.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation; localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.