

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1639

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

2. Patron: Guzman

3. Committee: Passed both Houses

4. Title: Department of Environmental Quality; work group to research rural fill disposal.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to convene a work group to discuss the practice of rural landowners allowing, or allowing for compensation, the use of their lands as disposal sites for construction fill and debris from road construction and development projects. The work group shall consider recommending changes to guidance or regulations for possible adoption by relevant agencies, including recommendations regarding a model ordinance for adoption by localities, and statutory changes. The work group shall report its research and recommendations to the Director of DEQ, the State Forester, the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation by December 1, 2020. The work group also may provide any recommendations to the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) anticipates that the activities in this bill will cost the agency \$50,000 for contractual support to facilitate meetings and assist with report development. DEQ anticipates these costs can be absorbed within resources included in HB30/SB30 as introduced, which provides \$31 million in general fund support over the biennium to restore and enhance DEQ's capacity in several programs. Budget amendments to HB30/SB30 adopted by the House and the Senate, respectively, reduce funding proposed for DEQ in the introduced budget bill, but it is unclear whether these reductions affect the funding DEQ would use toward the implementation of this bill.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services can absorb any impact resulting from this bill. The Departments of Transportation and Forestry have not yet provided information on the potential impact of this bill.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Environmental Quality; Department of Transportation; Department of Forestry; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.