

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2020 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB520

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Bulova

**3. Committee:** Passed both Houses

**4. Title:** Department of Environmental Quality; tree planting as land cover type, best management practice; stakeholder advisory group

**5. Summary:** Directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to convene a stakeholder advisory group for the purpose of studying the planting or preservation of trees as a land cover type and as a stormwater best management practice (BMP). The bill provides that the stakeholder group shall be composed of development and construction industry representatives, environmental technical experts, the community associations industry, the linear infrastructure development industry, the Virginia Forestry Association, local Virginia stormwater management program authorities, local government representatives, and others; and that technical assistance shall be provided to DEQ by the Department of Forestry and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The bill directs DEQ to report the findings of the stakeholder group by November 1, 2020, and to include a recommendation as to whether the planting or preservation of trees shall be deemed a creditable land cover type or BMP and, if so, how much credit shall be given for its optional use. Additionally, this bill requires DEQ to before the first day of the 2021 Session of the General Assembly, report the findings of the stakeholder advisory group to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See #8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on DEQ as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. The Department of Forestry and the Department of Conservation and Recreation anticipate no fiscal impact from this bill.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.