

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB668

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

2. Patron: Mullin

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Field investigations permit; archaeologist qualifications.

5. Summary: Restricts the type of applicant to whom the Director of the Department of Historic Resources may issue a permit to conduct any type of field investigation, exploration, or recovery operation involving any object of antiquity on state-controlled land or on a state archaeological site or zone. Current law provides that an applicant for such permit can be a historic, scientific, or educational institution, professional archaeologist, or amateur who is qualified and recognized in the area of field investigations or archaeology. The bill specifies that an applicant may no longer be an institution and must be a qualified professional archaeologist who meets or exceeds certain minimum standards of education, experience, and demonstrated knowledge before being issued such permit. This bill provides that any person who willfully misrepresents any information on an application for a permit is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Additionally, any person who willfully misrepresents the results, information, or data collected during a permitted field investigation, exploration, or recovery operation is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor, pursuant to the provisions of the bill. This bill also provides the definition of field supervisor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Historic Resources.

This bill alters the qualifications for applicants under the provisions of the bill. Violations of the provisions result in a Class 1 misdemeanor offense. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate the increase in jail population as a result of this proposal. However, any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds a large portion of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2019), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$34.07 per inmate, per day in FY 2018.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Historic Resources; local and regional jails.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.