

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2020 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB954

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Obenshain

**3. Committee:** Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

**4. Title:** Dairy Producer Margin Coverage Premium Assistance Program.

**5. Summary:** Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish and administer the Dairy Producer Margin Coverage Premium Assistance Program (the Program). The bill provides that any dairy farmer that has a resource management plan or nutrient management plan and participates in the federal margin coverage program for dairy producers as contained in the federal Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is eligible to participate in the Program. Under the bill, each year a Program participant will receive a refund of its annual premium payment paid into the federal program.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** See item 8.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). The bill establishes the Dairy Producer Margin Coverage Premium Assistance Program that requires VDACS to reimburse qualified dairy producers for annual premium payments made under the federal Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC). Currently, 309 Virginia dairies are enrolled in the DMC; however, there are approximately 460 grade A dairies in Virginia. VDACS estimates annual payments to Program participants under the provisions of this bill to be at least \$5.0 million, depending on the number of eligible producers that enroll in the DMC and apply to the agency for premium reimbursement. VDACS is unable to absorb such reimbursements.

The agency also anticipates costs associated with processing refund applications and verifying applicant eligibility with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as provided in the bill. These costs are indeterminate at this time. Currently, DCR and soil and water conservation districts review and approve resource and nutrient management plans.

As introduced, this bill states that eligible dairy producers shall apply to DCR, not VDACS. If the intent is for DCR to receive and process applications, it is anticipated that costs will be incurred by the department; however, these costs are indeterminate.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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

**11. Other Comments:** HB1194 is similar to this bill.