

Department of Planning and Budget

2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2067

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

2. Patron: Webert

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Solar facilities; permit by rule.

5. Summary: Lowers from 150 to 50 megawatts the maximum generation capacity of an electrical generation facility that generates electricity only from sunlight to qualify for issuance of a permit by rule.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Any expenditure impact on the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a result of this bill is indeterminate. DEQ anticipates a nominal workload change if the capacity threshold is changed to 50 megawatts. A reduction in workload as a result of the elimination of projects between 50 and 150 megawatts may be partially compensated with a potential increase in the number of smaller projects, given the goals set by the Administration for renewable energy. According to DEQ, the 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act requires the Commonwealth to have "carbon free" electricity energy by 2045, determining 16,100 megawatts of solar and onshore wind to be in the public interest. Based on this goal, DEQ anticipates a steady increase in solar facilities. Given that larger solar facilities have to go through the State Corporation Commission process, which is comparatively more complex, DEQ anticipates an increase in smaller projects.

Information on any potential impact resulting from this bill on the State Corporation Commission is pending.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Environmental Quality; State Corporation Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.