

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2023 General Assembly Session | 01/18/23

In accordance with the provisions of 30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of legislation impacting local governments.

HB 1370: Landfill siting; proximity to private wells. (Patron: Delegate R. Lee Ware)

Bill Summary: Landfill siting; proximity to private wells. Prohibits the siting of a new municipal solid waste landfill within one mile upgradient of any existing private well.

Local Fiscal Impact: Net Additional Expenditure: X Net Reduction of Revenues:

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 6 Cities, 5 Counties, 6 Towns, 1 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 to \$0.48 million over the biennium.

Most localities identified no fiscal impact as the provision of the bill would not apply to them in the foreseeable future. The one locality that did identify a fiscal impact noted a significant but indeterminate increase in expenditures needed to ship waste to other localities for disposal.

A few localities noted that the provisions of the bill would make citing landfills in rural localities difficult, as there would be few locations outside a one mile radius of a private groundwater well. This would produce a negative, but indeterminate fiscal impact whenever those localities need to cite a new landfill.

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Juris	Recurring Expense- Personnel		Recurring Expense - Operating		Recurring Expense - Capital		Recurring Expense - Other	
		FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24
City of Alexandria	City								
City of Danville	City								
City of Harrisonburg	City								
City of Manassas	City								
City of Norfolk	City								
City of Richmond	City								
Augusta County	County								
Henrico County	County								
Mecklenburg County	County								
Prince George County	County								
Rappahannock County	County			\$235,000	\$247,000				
Roanoke County	County								
Northern Neck PDC	Other								
Town of Blacksburg	Town								
Town of Christiansburg	Town								
Town of Leesburg	Town								
Town of Luray	Town								
Town of Marion	Town								
Town of Scottsville	Town								

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

[illegible]

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
City of Alexandria	As currently written, the City does not believe this proposed bill is applicable to us. In addition to the unlikelihood that a new landfill would ever be approved to be built in the City, it would not add materially to the cost of conducting the land use review.
City of Danville	No impact estimated as no plans for future siting of landfills in city limits.
City of Harrisonburg	
City of Manassas	
City of Norfolk	To the best of our knoweldge, we do not anticipate this will have a significant fiscal impact
City of Richmond	
Augusta County	This bill seems to only pertain to new landfills. In the most recent air space analysis, the life expectancy of our current permit shows over thirty-five years of airspace remaining. This bill would not have an immediate monetary impact on this facility. That being said, the Augusta Regional Landfill owns property that may be viable for future development as a landfill. This bill has the potential to have a substantial monetary impact on any future landfill development on that site. Overall, it would be hard to find a property that is not within 1 mile upgradient of a well.
Henrico County	
Mecklenburg County	
Prince George County	This legislation does not have a measurable expenditure impact to Prince George County.
Rappahannock County	There is no practical way to analyze the cost of this bill because in rural areas that relay nearly solely on private groundwater drinking wells, there would be practically no locations where landfills can be cited. Rappahannock County is one of the least densely populated and developed counties in the state, and even in this county there is very likely no location that could satisfy the test of not being within one mile (5,280 feet) upgradient of a private groundwater drinking well. This practically means that waste will have to be shipped to cities (where there are no private wells) or to other states. The increased cost to do this is not able to be accurately calculated, but for the purposes of this program is assumed to double current hauling and disposal costs.
Roanoke County	Not going to impact us because we are part of a Resource Authority and use this as a regional landfill.
Northern Neck PDC	The NNPDC has no jurisdiction over landfills. Since the legislation affects only new facilities, no impact is anticipated.
Town of Blacksburg	No fiscal impact to town expenditures.

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Town of Christiansburg	I would not anticipate any new costs in the next two years as we are not trying to site a new landfill, however this could increase the cost when the Town or Solid Waste Authority look at the possibility in the future.
Town of Leesburg	N/A
Town of Luray	
Town of Marion	
Town of Scottsville	There are no landfills in our small town. The radius in the bill would not require any significant staff work.

* Penny value is defined as the amount a locality would need to raise their real estate tax rate to cover the fiscal impacts of the bill, assuming no other changes to revenues or expenditures. It is represented in terms of dollars (e.g., 0.01 is a one cent increase in the real estate tax rate, etc.).