

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1485

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Webert

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan; effective date.

5. Summary: Changes the contingency for the effective date of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan provisions to (i) allow consideration of a combination of point or nonpoint source pollution reduction efforts other than agricultural best management conservation practices and (ii) the Commonwealth has fully funded the amount calculated pursuant to § 10.1-2128.1 for effective soil and water conservation district technical assistance and implementation of agricultural best management practices pursuant to § 10.1-546.1, Code of Virginia, from July 1, 2023, when determining whether the Commonwealth's commitments in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan have been satisfied. The bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to convene a stakeholder advisory group to review annual progress and make recommendations toward the implementation of the Commonwealth's agricultural commitments in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. The bill adds reporting requirements to soil and water conservation districts and that no regulatory action shall be imposed on agricultural practices prior to July 1, 2030, provided that reasonable progress is being achieved.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that both the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) can implement the provisions of this bill within current resources. DCR has stated that the agency does not currently separate the required data by river basin, and that developing this information, or additional new reports and metrics, may create an additional workload for existing staff.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation; Department of Environmental Quality; Secretaries of Natural and Historic Resources, and Agriculture and Forestry.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB1129, as substituted, also addresses the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.