

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB997

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

2. Patron: Mason

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Oyster Replenishment Fund; oyster resource user fees to be credited to Fund.

5. Summary: Creates the Oyster Shell Waste Diversion Fund (the Fund). The bill requires that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the Fund and allows DEQ to contract with a nonprofit entity for its administration. Allowable uses of the moneys in the Fund include the provision of grants to certain persons who donate oyster shells for use in oyster restoration projects. The bill provides that grants may be awarded in an amount equal to \$4 per bushel of oyster shells donated during a calendar year but not to exceed an aggregate grant of \$1,500 for all donations made by any person during a year. The bill requires that the aggregate amount of grants available for this purpose for each calendar year be \$250,000. Additionally, the bill allows moneys in the Fund to be used towards grants for the establishment, maintenance, management, and operation of oyster shell recycling collection bins; educating the public; and paying the costs of managing the Fund as incurred by a nonprofit entity.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 9.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: A budget amendment to Item 377, HB1400/SB800, as introduced, would be needed to capitalize the Fund. The bill provides that the aggregate amount of grants available shall be \$250,000 for each calendar year. Additionally, the bill allows the department to contract with a nonprofit entity to manage Fund operations, and for the Fund to be used to pay the contracted entity's costs of managing the Fund.

DEQ anticipates that any costs the department may incur in administering the fund can be absorbed within existing resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Environmental Quality.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.