

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB313

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron: VanValkenburg

3. Committee: Passed both houses

4. Title: Commissioner of Agricultural and Consumer Services; regulations regarding mandatory solar.

5. Summary: Requires the Board for Contractors to adopt regulations requiring (i) all Class A, B, and C residential contractors to use legible written contracts and (ii) that in transactions involving door-to-door solicitations or any residential rooftop solar installation, a statement of protections be provided by the contractor to the homeowner, consumer, or buyer. Under current law, the Board is authorized but not required to promulgate such regulations.

Requires the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to review its licensing exam for alternative energy system contracting to ensure such exam includes questions related to the physical installation of alternative energy systems on preexisting structures; by July 1, 2025, the Board for Contractors create a disclosure form to be provided in any transaction involving a residential rooftop solar installation to include specific disclosures regarding the risks associated with residential rooftop solar installation; the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders, including a representative from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) or his designee, the Director of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) or his designee, to develop recommendations for any additional consumer protections regarding the sale, lease, or installation of a solar energy facility with a generating capacity of 25 kilowatts or less. The State Corporation Commission is required to submit a written report of the work group's recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and Labor and Commerce and the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and Commerce and Labor by November 30, 2024. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: Based on prior experience, the Public Utility Regulation Division of the SCC anticipates an estimate cost of approximately \$75,000 to hire a facilitator to manage this work group. It is anticipated that this cost as well as any costs to VDACS, OAG, and DPOR can be absorbed within existing resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Occupational and Professional Regulation, Office of the Attorney General, State Corporation Commission

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is the companion to HB576.