

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB455

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

2. **Patron:** Marsden

3. **Committee:** Passed the Senate.

4. **Title:** Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund established; report.

5. **Summary:** Establishes the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund to provide grants for projects that conserve or enhance wildlife corridors prioritized by the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan and associated wildlife crossing infrastructure projects. A grant program is established for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Department of Forestry (DOF), the Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to disburse moneys from the Fund, and such departments are directed to submit a biennial report to the General Assembly concerning funding, the awarding of grants from the Fund, and the progress of projects funded by the Fund, including data on the use of project infrastructure by wildlife. DWR is to administer the Fund.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, to capitalize the Fund. Item 367 of HB30 as Introduced. See item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The bill establishes the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund. A budget amendment is needed to capitalize the Fund. DWR is to manage the Fund and in consultation with the departments, determine how to disburse grants from the Fund. Moneys in the Fund are to be used for eligible projects that conserve or enhance wildlife corridors and associated wildlife crossing infrastructure projects. The bill allows the use of monies in the Fund for administrative costs.

It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on DOF and DWR as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. Any impact to VDOT is indeterminate and would need to be absorbed within existing resources. Information from DCR is not available at this time.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Forestry, Transportation, and Wildlife Resources.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.