

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB616

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

**2. Patron:** Pillion

**3. Committee:** Passed the Senate

**4. Title:** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Department of Forestry;  
Office of Farmland.

**5. Summary:** Transfers from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to the Department of Forestry (DOF) the Office of Farmland Preservation and its powers and duties and reporting requirements, the Virginia Farm Link Program, the Century Farm Program, and the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund. The bill renames the Office as the Office of Working Lands Preservation. The bill also requires the Department of Environmental Quality to take effects on farm and forest land under consideration when preparing environmental reports and to report annually to the Department of Forestry on nonpoint source nutrient credits. The bill makes technical amendments to effectuate the transfer.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Items 86 and 96, HB30, Introduced Budget Bill.

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

**7a. Expenditure Impact: VDACS (Item 86)**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	None		
2025	(\$589,070) (60,000)	(1.00)	GF NGF
2026	(\$589,070) (60,000)	(1.00)	GF NGF
2027	(\$589,070) (60,000)	(1.00)	GF NGF
2028	(\$589,070) (60,000)	(1.00)	GF NGF
2029	(\$589,070) (60,000)	(1.00)	GF NGF
2030	(\$589,070) (60,000)	(1.00)	GF NGF

**Expenditure Impact: DOF (Item 96)**

2024	None		
2025	\$589,070 60,000	1.00	GF NGF

2026	\$589,070	1.00	GF
	60,000		NGF
2027	\$589,070	1.00	GF
	60,000		NGF
2028	\$589,070	1.00	GF
	60,000		NGF
2029	\$589,070	1.00	GF
	60,000		NGF
2030	\$589,070	1.00	GF
	60,000		NGF

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Budget amendments will be necessary to move appropriation currently supporting the preservation of farm and forest lands from VDACS to DOF. In each year, the Introduced budget contains \$437,500 from the general fund deposit to the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund, \$151,570 from the general fund to support a position administering the program, and a nongeneral fund appropriation of \$60,000 to spend funds generated from the sale of specialty license plates. The Department of Environmental Quality anticipates being able to absorb any fiscal impact from the passage of this legislation within current resources.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Forestry, Department of Environmental Quality

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

**11. Other Comments:** None