

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

**1. Bill Number:** SB729

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

**2. Patron:** Surovell

**3. Committee:** Commerce and Labor

**4. Title:** Virginia Climate Innovation Authority; established; report.

**5. Summary:** Creates the Virginia Climate Innovation Authority to finance clean energy projects, greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects, and other qualified projects through the strategic deployment of public funds in the form of grants, loans, credit enhancements, and other financing mechanisms. The Authority is governed by a 12-member Board, consisting of one member of the House of Delegates, one member of the Senate, five nonlegislative citizen members to be appointed by the Governor, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Labor, and the Director of the Department of Energy. The bill contains provisions for (i) the appointment of a president and the hiring of staff, (ii) the powers and duties of the Authority, (iii) lending practices, (iv) a strategic plan, (v) an investment strategy, (vi) public outreach requirements, (vii) audits, (viii) exemptions from taxes and from personnel and procurement procedures, and (ix) reporting requirements.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, to establish the new Authority. See item 8.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill establishes the Virginia Climate Innovation Authority (the Authority) as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth to accelerate the deployment of clean energy projects, greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects, and other qualified projects through the strategic deployment of public funds in the form of grants, loans, credit enhancements, and other financing mechanisms. The Authority shall be governed by a Board of Directors, with the costs of compensation and expenses of the members to be provided by the Authority. The bill authorizes the Authority to hire employees and other such agents as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the bill. The bill provides that the Authority may expend up to 25 percent of funds appropriated for start-up purposes, which may be used for financing programs and project investments prior to adoption of the strategic plan and the investment strategy authorized and required by the provisions. No funding source is identified. Therefore, as written, the size and scope of the Authority and its staffing needs are unknown.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia House of Delegates; Virginia Senate; Secretary of Commerce and Trade; Secretary of Finance; Secretary of

Transportation; Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources; Department of Energy; Department of Labor and Industry.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.