

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB206

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: Webert

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Small renewable energy projects; impact on natural resources.

5. Summary: Requires, as a condition for a permit by rule for a small energy project, that the applicant conduct an analysis of the beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed project on natural resources. The bill requires that if the Department of Environmental Quality determines that there will be a significant adverse impact on wildlife, historic resources, prime agricultural soils, or forest lands, the applicant must also submit a mitigation plan with a 90-day public comment period. The bill specifies that a disturbance of more than 10 acres of prime agricultural soils, as defined in the bill, or 50 acres of contiguous forest lands, as defined in relevant law, is deemed to be a significant adverse impact on natural resources. Finally, the bill directs the Department to convene an advisory panel to assist in developing regulations to further develop criteria for determining significant adverse impact on natural resources and guidelines for plans to mitigate such adverse impacts.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on the Department of Environmental Quality as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. The State Corporation Commission does not anticipate incurring a fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Environmental Quality; State Corporation Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.