

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1458

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

2. Patron: Hernandez

3. Committee: Passed the House.

4. Title: Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth; Office of Commonwealth Resilience; Interagency.

5. Summary: Moves the position of Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) from under the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to under the Governor and creates an Office of Commonwealth Resilience to support the CRO in his functions and duties. The bill requires the CRO to convene an Interagency Resilience Working Group to support the coordination of planning and implementation of resilience efforts, eliminates the position of Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, and requires the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation to convene an Advisory Review Committee to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund. The bill also requires the Director to convene an Advisory Review Committee to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund and adds the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and the CRO to the list of those with whom the Virginia Resources Authority is required to consult in directing the distribution of loans or grants from the Fund. The bill requires, for the two Funds, the Department to (i) make available for public inspection at the office of the Department and on a publicly accessible website records of each application for grants and loans and the actions taken thereon and (ii) provide an opportunity for a 30-day public comment period prior to each new grant or loan offering to solicit feedback on proposed revisions to the Funds' manuals. This bill incorporates HB 948.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill shifts the position of Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) from under the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to under the Governor and creates an Office of Commonwealth Resilience. Currently, the CRO position is unfilled, and funding was not provided to the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources for this position.

This bill also eliminates the position of the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection. This position was funded during the 2018-2020 biennium at \$140,000 from the general fund in each year. It is anticipated that this funding may be used to support the Chief Resilience Officer until funding and staffing needs of the Office of

Commonwealth Resilience are identified. The fifth enactment of this bill requires the CRO to submit a report on the funding and staffing needs of the Office of Commonwealth Resilience no later than December 31, 2025.

The bill requires the CRO to convene an Interagency Resilience Working Group to support the coordination of planning and implementation of resilience efforts and requires the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to convene an Advisory Review Committee to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund and the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund. The bill also requires DCR to records available and provide a 30-day comment period for these two Funds. It is anticipated that any impact on DCR and the affected agencies required to serve on the working group and the advisory committees will be minimal and can be absorbed within current resources.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Conservation and Recreation; Office of the Governor; Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources; Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Emergency Management, Energy, Environmental Quality, Forestry, General Services, Health, Historic Resources, Housing and Community Development, Transportation, and Wildlife Resources; the Marine Resources Commission; the Virginia Resources Authority.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.