

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB135

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

2. Patron: Head

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority; eligible site for site development grant.

5. Summary: Authorizes the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to determine a site of at least 50 contiguous acres to be an “eligible site” under the Virginia Business Ready Sites program if such site meets the criteria in clauses (ii) and (iii) and (a) is located in Region 1 or 2, (b) is located in a locality or region in which topographic or environmental factors constrain the availability of viable sites for economic development, (c) presents a unique economic development opportunity based on infrastructure, logistics, or other distinguishable features of the site, or (d) creates an economic development opportunity not currently available in the regional inventory of economic development sites. The second enactment requires VEDP to develop guidelines for determining whether a site of at least 50 but less than 100 contiguous acres meets the requirements of clauses set out in the bill.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: As passed the House, this bill allows the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to determine a site of at least 50 contiguous acres to be an “eligible site” under the Virginia Business Ready Sites program under certain criteria and requires VEDP to develop guidelines for such determination. The introduced budget bill, HB30/SB30, includes \$150.0 million the first year and \$50.0 million the second year from the general fund for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund. Budget language associated with this Fund provides that VEDP “consider investing these funds in economic development sites over 1,000 acres (“mega-sites”), and smaller sites of at least 50 acres concentrated in GO Virginia Regions 1 and 2.” This language may need to be amended to achieve the intent of this legislation. The reduction in acreage may increase the number of eligible applicants; the amount of grant payments is limited to the available appropriation of the Fund.

Both House and Senate approved amendments to HB30/SB30 include language related to this program and eligibility. Any conflict between the Code of Virginia and the Appropriation Act defaults to the Appropriation Act.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB233, as passed by the House, is the companion to this bill.