

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB313

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

2. Patron: VanValkenburg

3. Committee: Passed the Senate

4. Title: Commissioner of Agricultural and Consumer Services; regulations regarding mandatory solar.

5. Summary: Requires the Commissioner of Agricultural and Consumer Services to promulgate regulations for mandatory disclosures, outlined in the bill, to be included in any marketing materials that promote the sale, lease, or installation of any solar energy facility and to be included in any contract between a seller and consumer involving the sale, lease, or installation of any solar energy facility. The bill requires the Commissioner to develop a standardized form for any required disclosures. Additionally, the bill requires the Commissioner to convene a work group to develop recommendations for any additional consumer protections regarding the sale, lease, or installation of a solar energy facility that generates 25 kWh or less. The Commissioner is required to submit a written report of the work group's recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committees on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and Commerce and Energy and the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and Commerce and Labor by November 30, 2024.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. See Item 8.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) anticipates the need to hire a facilitator to conduct this workgroup, as the agency does not have in-house solar energy expertise. VDACS estimates that it would cost approximately \$25,000 to hire such a facilitator. It is anticipated that any fiscal impact from this bill could be absorbed within current resources at the Office of the Attorney General. Estimates from the Department of Occupational and Professional Regulation are unavailable.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Occupational and Professional Regulation

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None