

Department of Planning and Budget
2021 Special Session I - Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1318

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Hashmi

3. Committee: General Laws

4. Title: Environmental justice; interagency working group.

5. Summary: Establishes the Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group as an advisory council in the executive branch of state government to further environmental justice in the Commonwealth and directs each of the Governor's Secretaries to designate at least one environmental justice coordinator to represent the secretariat as a member of the Working Group. The bill provides that the Working Group shall expire on July 1, 2031.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill establishes the Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group to further environmental justice in the Commonwealth. Each of the Governor's Secretaries shall designate at least one and no more than three environmental justice coordinators to represent the secretariat as a member of the Working Group. The Working Group, chaired by the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, shall meet at least quarterly. Members shall receive compensation and shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in § 2.2-2813, Code of Virginia. The bill provides that the Secretary of Natural Resources shall provide staff support to the Working Group, and all agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Working Group, upon request. It is anticipated that the costs associated with supporting the Working Group can be absorbed in current resources.

According to the Department of Environmental Quality, the new definitions added to the bill may impact the department's operations; however, the impact is indeterminate at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: All Cabinet Secretaries, state agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB2074 also addresses environmental justice.