

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB217

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

2. Patron: Locke

3. Committee: General Laws

4. Title: Virginia Business Ready Expedited Permitting Program; established.

5. Summary: Establishes the Virginia Business Ready Expedited Permitting Program and directs the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority to designate up to two sites and six projects for participation in the Program. Sites and projects eligible for the Program shall include only (i) sites eligible for a site development grant under the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program or (ii) projects with significant local, regional, or statewide economic impact that the governing body of the locality in which the project is located has either (a) approved following a public meeting or hearing or (b) submitted, by resolution, for consideration to be included in the Program. No more than two eligible sites or projects shall be designated as part of the Program within one locality annually. The Authority shall complete a review process within 45 days of designating a site to reduce permitting conflicts and provide relevant guidance to applicants. Any application for a permit or request for approval associated with a designated site shall be evaluated within 180 days. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025, and shall expire on June 30, 2028. No project shall be considered eligible to enter the expedited program after December 31, 2027.

The third enactment of the bill states that every state agency that issues permits or approvals for eligible sites shall establish guidelines and procedures for implementing a comprehensive permit review and evaluation pursuant to the Virginia Business Ready Expedited Permitting Program. The fourth enactment requires VEDP to report annually by December 1 to the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations on the progress of the program.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill establishes a new program to expedite permitting for up to two sites and six projects. 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, as well as \$1.8 million in each year for administration of a comprehensive Virginia Business Ready Sites program, to include the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program established by § 2.2-2240.2:1, the Virginia Business Ready Sites Acquisition Program established by § 2.2-2761, Code of Virginia, and to characterize,

inventory, develop, market and deploy economic sites in the Commonwealth, which includes business investment activities. According to VEDP, an additional \$150,000 from the general fund annually is needed to administer the permitting program established in this bill.

House approved amendments to HB30/SB30 include \$150,000 in each year from the general fund to implement the provisions of this bill and its companion HB1125.

This new expedited program may increase the number of eligible applicants for a Virginia Business Ready Sites Program. The bill requires state agencies that issue permits or approvals to establish guidelines and procedures for implementing a comprehensive review. It is anticipated that affected state agencies can absorb such work within current resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Economic Development Partnership; Department of General Services; Department of Historic Resources; Department of Environmental Quality; all state agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB1125, as passed by the House, is the companion to this bill.