

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB698

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

2. Patron: French

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Dam Safety, Flood Prevention, and Protection Assistance Fund; percentage of funds available.

5. Summary: Reduces from 50 percent to 30 percent the project match required of applicants to receive funds from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention, and Protection Assistance Fund for grants (i) to a local government that owns a dam, (ii) to a local government for a dam located within the locality, or (iii) to a private entity that owns a dam for the design, repair, and safety modifications of such a dam if it is identified in a safety report. The bill provides that grants made from the Fund to a local government or private entity for the determination of the hazard classification for impounding structures, dam break analysis, the mapping and digitization of dam break inundation zones, incremental damage analysis, and other engineering requirements shall require no more than a 10 percent match by the applicant except that such applicant shall be required to provide a minimum of \$5,000 of the cost of the project, if funded, and such match provided by such applicant may be used to pay the application fees for the necessary impounding structure operation and maintenance certificate. The bill removes the 50 percent limit on matching grants that owners of impounding structures may be eligible for from the Fund and other sources of funding available to the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation to assist in the development of dam break inundation zone maps and for conducting incremental damage assessments in accordance with the Virginia Impounding Structure Regulations. The bill also removes the limitation that the total amount of expenditures for grants in any fiscal year are not to exceed 50 percent of the total noninterest or income deposits made to the Fund during the previous fiscal year together with the total amount collected in interest or income from the investment of moneys in the Fund from the previous year as determined at the beginning of the fiscal year.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this proposal will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Conservation and Recreation or the Virginia Resources Authority. The bill removes the limitation on the total amount of expenditures from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund for grants in any fiscal year. Currently that limit is 50 percent of the total noninterest or income deposits made to the Fund during the previous

fiscal year, together with the total amount collected in interest or income from the investment of moneys in the Fund from the previous fiscal year as determined at the beginning of the fiscal year. The bill also reduces the required financial match for various grants from the Fund.

The introduced budget bill, HB30/SB30, includes \$5,732,147 the first year and \$732,147 the second year from the general fund for deposit to the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund. Awards from the Fund are subject to appropriation.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation; Virginia Resources Authority

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB259 is the companion to this bill.