Department of Planning and Budget 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: SB1151 Patron: French

Bill Title: Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program and Fund

established.

Bill Summary: Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish and administer the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program. The bill allows any person to participate in the Program if such person (i) owns livestock that graze in the Commonwealth, (ii) is enrolled in the federal Rainfall Index Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage insurance program (PRF insurance) and provided proof of payment of his annual premium, and (iii) certifies to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that, within the past three years and in accordance with the general sampling recommendations from Virginia Cooperative Extension for the land enrolled in PRF insurance, soil samples have been taken from the land enrolled in PRF insurance and analyzed. The bill allows the Commissioner to request documentation of such soil sampling from a Program participant who receives reimbursement through the Program and requires the person to repay such reimbursement to the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program Fund if the person fails to provide the requested documentation. The bill allows the Department to reimburse 50 percent, up to a maximum of \$500, of the Program participant's annual premium payment. The bill specifies that such reimbursement shall be provided on a first-come, first-served basis and shall be subject to availability of funds. Finally, the bill creates the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program Fund to be used for carrying out the provisions of the bill. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2030.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, see below. Items Impacted: 86

Explanation: This bill involves the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Language and dollars are included in Item 86 of the Introduced Budget. While additional funding is not needed, language would need to be amended to allow for deposit into the

Fund created by this bill. See Fiscal Analysis section below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any expenditure impact this bill may have on VDACS can be absorbed within existing resources. Funding for the program is included in the Introduced Budget; however, budget language is needed to direct the general fund dollars included in the Introduced budget bill to the nongeneral fund established in this bill.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. HB1600/SB800 (the Introduced Budget bill) includes \$250,000 from the general fund in FY 2026 to create the program and implement partial reimbursements. Item 86 directs these dollars toward the program but not the Fund; therefore, language would need to be

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amended to direct the deposit of the \$250,000 into the new Fund created by this bill. According to VDACS, as of July 8, 2024, 371 livestock producers in Virginia participate in this federal insurance program; if all were reimbursed at the maximum amount, the payments would amount to \$185,500. The funding in the Introduced budget bill anticipates growth in participation in the program; participation in the federal program increased 27 percent between 2023 and 2024.

Other: None.