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

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Bill Number: HB2035 Patron: Simonds

Bill Title: High-energy facilities; water and energy usage information reports; statewide

clearinghouse established.

Bill Summary: Requires any owner or operator of a high-energy facility, as defined in the bill, to submit to the Department of Environmental Quality no later than May 1, 2026, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, a report that contains certain information relating to water and energy usage for each such facility. The bill requires the Department, no later than July 1, 2026, to design, implement, and maintain a publicly accessible website to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for information relating to water and energy usage of all high-energy facilities operating in the Commonwealth. The bill provides that, in order to fully cover the costs of designing, implementing, and maintaining the statewide clearinghouse, the Department shall assess an initial fee to each owner or operator of a high-energy facility and may assess an annual fee thereafter for each year that such high-energy facility is in active use. The bill requires any owner or operator of a high-energy facility to notify the Department of any substantial change in operations or technologies that would require an update to the information required by the bill at least 60 days prior to making such change. The bill also requires the Department to convene a work group of stakeholders for the purpose of identifying additional information required to be published to the statewide clearinghouse. Such work group is required to convene at least three times by July 1, 2026, in a manner that is open to the public, and each such meeting is required to include a public comment period of no less than 60 days following such meeting.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No. Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The bill requires the

Department to design, implement, and maintain a publicly accessible website and directs the

Department to establish a fee to recover its costs. See "Fiscal Analysis."

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that this bill may have a nongeneral fund fiscal impact on the Department of Environmental Quality. The department estimates the initial cost may be up to \$250,000 and annual costs approximately \$41,400. The bill requires the Department incur an upfront cost to design and implement the website and enact a fee to recover its costs.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. The bill tasks DEQ with creating and maintaining a publicly accessible website for water and energy usage data of high-energy facilities, assessing fees to cover the associated costs, overseeing facility reporting and updates, and convening a work group to determine additional data for the clearinghouse. The Department estimates the cost of designing and implementing the website may be approximately \$250,000, and annual maintenance costs approximately \$40,000. It is anticipated that additional nongeneral fund appropriation is not required.

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Other: SB1353 and HB2035 are companions.