

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB958S1

**Patron:** Stuart

**Bill Title:** Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund; Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund.

**Bill Summary:** Provides that until July 1, 2027, in any fiscal year, 50 percent of any funds previously distributed to the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program for the purpose of grants for agriculture best management practices on lands in the Commonwealth that cannot be obligated by June 15 by a soil and water conservation district during such fiscal year, regardless of whether such lands are within or outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, may be reallocated by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board to any soil and water conservation district for conservation practices. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board may reallocate the remaining previously distributed funds that cannot be obligated by June 15 to the soil and water conservation districts within the same watershed.

Finally, the bill directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to include in its annual reports relating to the clean-up plan for the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia the amounts of funds reappropriated between watersheds pursuant to these provisions.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**Items Impacted:** N/A.

**Explanation:** This bill involves the Department of Conservation; however, no budget amendment is necessary.

**Fiscal Summary:** No state fiscal impact.

**Fiscal Analysis:** This impact statement is preliminary. This bill establishes conditions under which the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board may reappropriate unobligated funds of Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program (VACS), specifying that, until July 1, 2027, half of previously distributed funds that are unobligated can be reallocated to districts regardless of whether such lands are within or outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Currently, the practice of the Board is to reallocate unobligated VACS allocations, including unobligated funds from prior fiscal years, keeping cost-share within the drainage basin it was originally allocated within. It is anticipated that the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Board can absorb any impact of this bill within current resources.

**Other:** HB2170H1 is the companion to this bill.