

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2306E

Patron: Lopez

Bill Title: Department of Conservation and Recreation; acceptance of property to establish a state park; Loudoun County.

Bill Summary: Authorizes the Department of Conservation and Recreation to accept or acquire from The Conservation Fund approximately 1,240 acres of real property and any buildings or structures thereon between Little River Turnpike, James Monroe Highway, and Tail Race Road, known as Oak Hill Farm, in Loudoun County for the purpose of establishing and operating a state park that provides outdoor recreation and historic interpretation opportunities and supports agricultural uses on such property.

Budget Amendment Necessary: See Fiscal Analysis. **Items Impacted:** N/A.

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). A capital project is required for all acquisitions of property; however, a timeline for such acquisition is unknown.

Fiscal Summary: The bill authorizes DCR to accept and acquire property with the intent of establishing the property as a state park. A capital project is required for all acquisitions of property. A project may be established administratively depending on the timeline. Funding to support a state park will not be required until such acquisition is complete.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. The bill authorizes DCR to accept or acquire property for the purpose of establishing a new state park. At this time, any costs associated with such acceptance or acquisition are not finalized. The Appropriation Act includes \$150,000 from the general fund in FY 2025 for DCR to conduct a study of the potential acquisition and development of Oak Hill as a state park. The study is to include an assessment of the challenges in acquiring and developing the property, (ii) identify upfront costs and ongoing and future obligations of the Commonwealth, (iii) assess the involvement and contribution of Loudoun County, where the property is located, and (iv) assess potential philanthropic contributions and/or other funding resources to support the project.

All acquisitions of property required the establishment of a capital project. A project may be established administratively depending on the timeline.

To establish the property as a state park, funding and positions will be required for day-to-day operations for management, maintenance and upkeep, law enforcement, historic preservation, and education programming. Costs associated with such work would be determined as part of the master planning process.

Proposed budget amendments to HB1600/SB800 by the House Appropriations Committee include a nongeneral fund appropriation of \$1.3 million and five positions to support operations at Oak Hill. The budget allows DCR to acquire land adjacent to or contiguous to specifically listed state parks; the proposed amendment adds Oak Hill to that list of parks under the agency's state park acquisition capital item.

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Other: None.