

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2306S1

Patron: Lopez

Bill Title: Secretary of Finance; work group to assess Oak Hill as a state park; Loudoun County.

Bill Summary: Requires the Secretary of Finance, in coordination with the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, to convene a work group to review and assess possible financial models, ownership structures, and potential partners for an investment by a locality or the Commonwealth in such property or a portion thereof. The Secretary of Finance shall report his findings and any recommendations to the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and House Committee on Appropriations by November 1, 2025.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A.

Explanation: This bill involves the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources; however, a budget amendment is not required.

Fiscal Summary: Any impact is estimated to be absorbable.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. The bill requires a work group and study to be conducted by the Secretary of Finance, in coordination with the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, to review and assess possible financial models, ownership structures, and potential partners for any state or local investment in a property commonly known as Oak Hill Farm in Loudoun County. It is anticipated that any impact associated with convening the work group can be absorbed within current resources.

The Appropriation Act includes \$150,000 from the general fund in FY 2025 for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (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.

Other: Proposed budget amendments to HB1600/SB800 adopted by the House 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 existing, specifically listed state parks. Oak Hill is not a Virginia state park, but the proposed amendment adds Oak Hill to that list of parks.