

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2034ER

Patron: Simonds

Bill Title: Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources; protection of existing tidal and nontidal wetlands; wetland restoration and creation; policy task force; report.

Bill Summary: Directs the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to establish a policy task force to develop (i) strategies to protect existing tidal and nontidal wetlands and restore, create, and plan for the persistence of such wetlands in the Commonwealth and (ii) mechanisms to incorporate such strategies into appropriate plans, including the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, to address losses and adverse impacts from human activities and climate change. The bill requires the task force to include certain relevant stakeholders, to meet at least two times annually, to report its initial findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources by December 1, 2025, and to update its report at least every two years.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A.

Explanation: This bill involves several state agencies to establish a task force; however, no budget amendments are required.

Fiscal Summary: Any fiscal impact can be absorbed within current resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is final. It is anticipated that the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Department of Wildlife Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Marine Resources Commission, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science can absorb any costs associated with this bill within current resources.

Other: None.