

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB152

Patron: Hackworth

Bill Title: Bicentennial farm program; State Forester to establish and administer.

Bill Summary: Directs the State Forester to establish and administer a bicentennial farm program to honor farm families in the Commonwealth whose property has been in the same family for 200 years or more. In order to be eligible for recognition under the program, a farm shall (i) have been owned by the same family for at least 200 consecutive years; (ii) be lived on, or actually farmed, by a descendant of the original owners; and (iii) gross more than \$2,500 annually from the sale of farm products. The bill also repeals a provision of law to reflect the transfer of the Century Farm Program from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to the Department of Forestry's Office of Farmland Preservation as a result of the passage of HB 892 and SB 616 in the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: This bill impacts the Department of Forestry (DOF) and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS); however no budget amendment is needed.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any impacts resulting from this bill can be absorbed with existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill would establish a Bicentennial Farm Program to recognize families who have owned and farmed properties in Virginia for 200 years or more. The family must reside on or actually farm the property and receive income from farm operations as defined in the bill. DOF anticipates that fewer than 100 total farms are eligible for this recognition, and not all will pursue it. The anticipated increase in workload is estimated to be 100 hours per year, which can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

The bill also repeals Code language relating to the Century Farm Program under VDACS. Chapters 10 and 146, 2024 Acts of Assembly, transferred the Century Farm Program from VDACS to DOF. DOF's Office of Working Lands currently administers the Century Farm Program, which recognizes families who have owned and farmed properties in Virginia for 100 years or more. VDACS anticipates that repeal of this section may result in a slightly decreased workload, but no fiscal impact to VDACS is anticipated.

This impact estimate is preliminary and may be updated if new information becomes available.

Other: This bill is the companion to HB 105.