

Under the provisions of this bill, the Division would be required to establish and attend Committee meetings, prepare meeting minutes, present recommendations and annual reports to the Commission, consult with the Committee on certain policy changes, and evaluate Committee recommendations under the provisions of this bill. MRC anticipates an increase in workload as a result of this legislation; however, the amount is indeterminate. Paragraph C of § 28.2-104.2, Code of Virginia, in this bill states that the Habitat Policy Oversight Committee must meet no less than three times per year but does not specify a number of meetings. MRC estimates that each Committee meeting will require 36 hours of staff time for associated work, for a minimum amount of staff time of 108 hours per year.

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

---

The Habitat Policy Oversight Committee would consist of nine voting members appointed by the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources (the Secretary), which include an Associate Commissioner of the Marine Resources Commission, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), and an employee of a higher education institution in Virginia. The Deputy Commissioner and Chief of the Habitat Management Division at the Commission must also serve as nonvoting ex officio members. It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on the Secretary, VIMS, and an institution of higher education as stakeholder agencies that may result of this bill can be absorbed within agencies' existing resources.

**Other:** This bill is similar to HB390.