

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1169

Patron: Cole, N.T.

Bill Title: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Office of Small Farms and Virginia Small Farms Fund established; report.

Bill Summary: Creates, within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Office of Small Farms, headed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The bill authorizes the Office to facilitate the growth and development of small farms, as defined in the bill, in the Commonwealth and support and expand programs for such farms. The bill creates the Virginia Small Farms Fund to provide funding to administer the provisions of the bill. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Resources to submit a written report on the operation of the Office by December 1 of each year to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

Items Impacted: 86

Explanation: It is anticipated that the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will require additional funding to implement the provisions of this bill. This bill also involves the Virginia Department of Education, Department of Corrections, and Department of General Services, but they all anticipate being able to absorb within current resources any expenses associated with the implementation of this legislation.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that this bill will result in an annual general fund expenditure of \$150,000 to be reflected in a budget amendment to Item 86.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
301 (VDACS)	-	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
TOTAL	-	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

Fiscal Analysis: According to the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service Virginia Field Office, as of 2023, the Commonwealth of Virginia has 39,000 farms, of which 35,800 (91.8 percent) are small farms. VDACS anticipates needing one FTE to manage the proposed Office of Small Farms, facilitate the growth of small farms, assist small farms in securing resources, facilitate building infrastructure, support programs that provide technical assistance to small farms, and coordinate interagency policies with an annual cost of approximately \$150,000 (\$96,793 salary, \$43,411 fringe, \$9,796 overhead).

Any expenses to the Virginia Department of Education, Department of Corrections, and Department of General Services are anticipated to be absorbable with current resources.

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Other: None.