



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation

Virginia State Corporation Commission

Published: January 30, 2026

House Bill 155

Version: Introduced

Patron: Thomas

Title: Electric utilities; certificate of operation for high-load facilities.

Summary: Prohibits any person from operating a high-load facility, defined in the bill as a facility whose electricity demand exceeds 25 megawatts that was not operating before July 1, 2026, without first having obtained a certificate of operation from the State Corporation Commission. The bill includes factors for the Commission to consider in reviewing a petition to operate a high-load facility. The bill establishes a presumption that a high-load facility shall be considered to have met certain requirements if the high-load facility has secured sufficient contracts for energy storage resources or zero-carbon electric generating resources or that the high-load facility has a plan to implement sufficient demand reduction measures. The bill also requires the Commission to consider certain factors in a review of a petition for a certificate to operate a high-load facility, including whether there is sufficient energy, capacity, and grid infrastructure to support the operation of the high-load facility and whether the operation of the high-load facility would create an unreasonable cross-subsidy across customers served by the incumbent electric utility.

Effective Date(s): July 1, 2026

Amendment Necessary: ☒ Budget, Item 475
☐ Technical, see *Technical Note* below
☐ None

Fiscal Summary

TYPE OF IMPACT	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
REVENUE					
<i>General (XXXX)</i>					
<i>Nongeneral (XXXX)</i>					
EXPENDITURES					
<i>General (XXXX)</i>					
<i>Nongeneral (0208)</i>	\$1,242,000	\$1,242,000	\$1,242,000	\$1,242,000	\$1,242,000
CHANGE IN FTE					
<i>General (XXXX)</i>					
<i>Nongeneral (0208)</i>	11				

Fiscal Analysis

Revenue

When considered individually, the SCC can meet this bill's requirements with the adjustments identified in the fiscal impact summary table and within its existing funding authority. If enacted, the SCC will review operational and fiscal impacts of this legislation along with other enacted 2026 electric utility bills to determine implementation.

Expenditures

To meet the requirements of this bill, the SCC will need to hire eleven full-time employees.

Change in FTE

This bill will require an additional eleven full-time employees, consisting of six utilities analyst, three utilities engineers, and two attorneys.

Other Comments

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill will result in a significant number of new proceedings annually. The new proceedings will require the SCC to conduct comprehensive investigations and analysis, covering reliability, environmental, and cost impacts of high-load facility operations. Each proceeding will necessitate involvement from the following staff: engineering analyst, rate analyst, and an attorney. Current SCC staff levels, already operating at or near capacity, cannot absorb this additional workload. Based on recent projections of utility customer growth, the SCC estimates between 30 to 60 new proceedings could result each year as a result of this bill.

Technical Note

None.