

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB500H1

Patron: McAuliff

Bill Title: Department of Conservation and Recreation; acquisition of property to establish a state park; Loudoun County.

Bill Summary: Authorizes the Department of Conservation and Recreation to accept from The Conservation Fund approximately 1,240 acres of real property and any buildings or structures thereon between Little River Turnpike, James Monroe Highway, and Tail Race Road in Loudoun County, known as Oak Hill Farm, for the purpose of establishing and operating a state park on such property. As substituted, the bill incorporates HB239.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A.

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Conservation and Recreation; however, a budget amendment is not necessary. See Fiscal Analysis section.

Fiscal Summary: The introduced budget bill, HB30/SB30, includes a language only capital item authorizing the acquisition of this property to establish a new state park upon meeting certain conditions. See fiscal analysis.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. This bill authorizes the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to accept certain property to establish a state park in Loudoun County, known as Oak Hill. Item C-15 of HB30/SB30 also provides DCR with the authorization to accept this property for the purpose of establishing it as state park under certain conditions. These conditions include the submission of a comprehensive funding plan that includes confirmation of \$52.0 million of nongeneral fund resources to fully support the acquisition and subsequent development and operation of the proposed park, including \$22.0 million from Loudoun County, up to \$18.0 million in state and federal nongeneral funds, and at least \$12.0 million in philanthropic and private sector support. The language specifies that the acquisition and operation of this new state park will not be supported by any general fund appropriation. DCR is to select a community foundation to manage an endowment of the park, as well as a community support organization (CSO) to operate as a non-profit affiliate and support organization for the park.

The budget language also provides that the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, is authorized to establish nongeneral fund appropriation for both the acquisition and operation of the state park upon approval of the Secretary of Finance and the Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. Item 363, paragraph E, of HB30/SB30, as introduced, prohibits DCR from initiating or accepting any new lands for use as a State Park without a specific appropriation for such purpose by the General Assembly.

As the appropriation act overrides the Code of Virginia, any conflict between this bill and the act will default to the act.

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Other: SB157 also authorizes the acceptance of Oak Hill.