

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1013

Patron: Tran

Bill Title: Diamondback terrapin protection areas; MRC to develop in portions of Chesapeake Bay, etc.

Bill Summary: Requires the Marine Resources Commission, in collaboration with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, to develop and establish by December 1, 2027, diamondback terrapin protection areas in those portions of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries where interactions may occur between diamondback terrapins and any nets, traps, pots, or other fishing devices or gear. The bill directs the Commission to require by regulation bycatch reduction devices, as defined in the bill, on all crab pots placed within any such diamondback terrapin protection area established by the Commission. A violation of such regulation is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: This bill involves the Marine Resources Commission (MRC) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS); however, a budget amendment is not required.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that the provisions of this bill can be implemented within current resources of MRC. Information from VIMS is pending. There may also be an indeterminate revenue impact.

Fiscal Analysis: This fiscal impact statement is preliminary and will be updated as additional information is received.

This bill requires MRC, in collaboration with VIMS, to develop and establish by December 1, 2027, diamondback terrapin protection areas. It also directs the Commission to require by regulation bycatch reduction devices on all crab pots placed within any such diamondback terrapin protection area established by the Commission. A violation of such regulation would be a Class 3 misdemeanor.

MRC does not anticipate a fiscal impact as a result of this bill. It is anticipated that any increase in workload or costs associated with the provisions of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. Estimate information from VIMS is not yet available.

A Class 3 misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to \$500. These offenses carry no jail time. All revenue collected from such fines is deposited into the Literary Fund. However, it is not possible to estimate either the number of convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the impact of this bill cannot be determined.

Other: None.