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

PUBLISHED: 2/6/2026 10:41 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB1475 **Patron:** Schmidt
Bill Title: Virginia Fungi Task Force established; report.

Bill Summary: Requires the Director of the Department of Wildlife Resources to establish the Virginia Fungi Task Force to assess, categorize, and protect the Commonwealth's natural fungi species and explore the economic potential of fungi. The bill directs the Task Force to develop recommendations to (i) conduct a gap analysis and needs assessment on the Commonwealth's natural fungi species; (ii) identify economic development opportunities for fungi; (iii) build a Virginia database of native and invasive fungi species; (iv) incorporate vulnerable fungi species in the 2035 Wildlife Action Plan; (v) conduct statewide fungal monitoring and research; (vi) support forest health, agriculture, and water quality in the Commonwealth; (vii) provide guidance on toxic mushrooms and public safety; (viii) coordinate with universities with mycology expertise; (ix) support academic expertise related to mycology; and (x) build public education and identification resources on fungi in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Task Force to report its initial findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by December 1, 2027, and update such report at least every five years.

Budget Amendment Necessary: **No** **Items Impacted:** **N/A**
Explanation: The bill involves the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR); however, impact estimates are not yet available.

Fiscal Summary: The bill may result in indeterminate expenditures.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill directs DWR to establish the Virginia Fungi Task Force, which would include representatives from DWR, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Department of Forestry (DOF), the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Virginia Tech (VT), and the Virginia Cooperate Extension (VCE). The Task Force would meet at least four times annually. It is anticipated that for each agency, costs associated with sending a representative or designee can be absorbed within existing resources. Cost estimates for facilitating and supporting the meetings are not yet available from DWR.

The Task Force is expected to discuss and develop recommendations for ten areas of focus as identified in the bill, and to deliver a report to lawmakers by December 1, 2027.

VCE anticipates that, if it is tasked with providing research support and developing recommendations for the Task Force, one new position and $100,000 annually from the general fund would be required.

Other: None.