

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB672

Patron: Maldonado

Bill Title: Minimum energy and water conservation standards; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning facilities and home appliances; Department of Energy; prohibited practices; penalty.

Bill Summary: Provides that if any of the energy or water conservation standards issued or approved for publication by the U.S. Secretary of Energy as of January 1, 2026, pursuant to Parts 430 and 431 of the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (the EPCA) are withdrawn, repealed, or otherwise voided, the minimum energy or water efficiency level permitted for products previously subject to federal energy or water conservation standards in the Commonwealth shall be the applicable federal standards as of January 1, 2026. The bill prohibits the sale, lease, rental, and manufacture of home appliances covered under the EPCA that fail to meet or exceed the energy or water conservation standards under the EPCA as of January 1, 2026. The bill excludes any energy or water conservation standards set aside by a court and any product if federal law preempts the application of imposing the minimum energy and water conservation standards as of January 1, 2026, to such product. Finally, the bill makes any violation of its provisions a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Explanation: This bill has indeterminate fiscal impacts to the Department of Energy and Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

Fiscal Summary: If trigger conditions are met, this bill will create additional workload for Energy and OAG and result in an indeterminate general fund expenditure impact. If Energy is required to implement a program similar to that established by the federal government, the impact could be significant.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill directs Energy to test certain appliances available for sale in the Commonwealth to confirm compliance with current federal energy and water efficiency standards in the event that the federal government repeals, amends, or withdraws such standards. The bill prohibits the sale of noncompliant products, and makes a violation enforceable under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA).

If federal appliance energy and water conservation standards are not amended, repealed, or withdrawn, no fiscal impact is anticipated.

If Energy becomes responsible for testing, the agency anticipates a significant increase in workload outside the scope of current duties and expertise. The impact to expenses and positions is indeterminate.

OAG is responsible for enforcement of the VCPA. Impact estimates are not yet available from the agency, but it is anticipated that an indeterminate increase in workload is possible, varying based on the number of complaints.

Other: None.