

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB784 S1

Patron: Stuart

Bill Title: Prohibiting bioslurry injection wells in a groundwater management area.

Bill Summary: The bill prohibits the injection of bioslurry into wells in a groundwater management area.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Energy, or the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any state fiscal impact can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill amends the Virginia Oil and Gas Act to define the term “bioslurry injection” and prohibits bioslurry injection into any well drilled in a groundwater management area, as established by DEQ. Under current law, hydraulic fracturing is prohibited in such areas.

A violation of the Virginia Oil and Gas Act constitutes a Class 1 misdemeanor. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. Proceeds of all fines and penalties collected for offenses committed against the Commonwealth are paid into the state treasury to the credit of the Literary Fund. Estimates of enforcement costs are not yet available from OAG.

This impact statement is preliminary and may be updated if additional information becomes available.

Other: This bill is the companion to HB 1381.