

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

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. The bill directs DCR to establish the Virginia Fungi Task Force, which would include representatives from DCR, the Department of Forestry (DOF), the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Virginia Tech (VT), Virginia State University (VSU), and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). The Task Force shall meet at least four times annually to discuss and develop recommendations. The initial report shall be submitted by December 1, 2027, and updated at least every five years.

While updates to the report and recommendations are required to be completed at least every five years, DCR anticipates yearly activities and costs to meet the provisions of the bill. Currently, the agency does not have staff expertise necessary to support the provisions. To implement the bill, DCR will need to hire a staff mycologist at a cost of \$140,000 including salary and benefits. In addition, the department anticipates costs associated with additional equipment, laboratory leases, and travel estimated at \$60,000. Once equipment is acquired, the continuing funds would be used to support wage research staff.

It is anticipated that for DOF, DWR, VDACS, VT, VSU, and VCE, costs associated with sending a representative or designee can be absorbed within existing resources.

Other: None.