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

PUBLISHED: 2/18/2026 9:23 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB461 S1 **Patron:** Stuart
Bill Title: Commercial electrofishing licenses; MRC to temporarily prohibit in portions of Rappahannock River.

Bill Summary: Requires that the Marine Resources Commission (i) prohibit commercial electrofishing in the portion of the Rappahannock River north of the Downing Bridge in Tappahannock until January 1, 2027, and (ii) examine the practice of commercial electrofishing in the waters of the Commonwealth and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources no later than January 1, 2027.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: This bill involves the Marine Resources Commission (MRC); however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section, below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that this bill may result in an indeterminate decrease in nongeneral fund revenue due to a loss of license revenue for commercial electrofishing licenses. This bill may also result in an increase in workload and expenditures for MRC related to the required report; it is anticipated that any costs associated with the provisions of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary and will be updated as information is received. This legislation requires that MRC temporarily prohibit commercial electrofishing in the portion of the Rappahannock River north of the Downing Bridge in Tappahannock until January 1, 2027. This may result in a decrease in nongeneral fund revenue for MRC associated with commercial electrofishing licenses; however, this amount is indeterminate. According to the agency, the commercial electrofishing license was established by the agency in 2021. MRC states that each year from 2021 to 2025, the agency has issued the license to all three individuals that have been eligible to purchase the license, at a cost of $100 each.

Additionally, this bill requires the Commission to examine the practice of commercial electrofishing in the waters of the Commonwealth and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources no later than January 1, 2027. This provision may result in an increase in workload and expenditures for MRC, but it is anticipated that any associated costs can be absorbed within existing resources.

Other: None.