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

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Bill Number: SB492 ER **Patron:** Pekarsky
Bill Title: Professions and occupations; regulation of geologists.

Bill Summary: Adds geology to the definition of "professional services" as used in the Virginia Public Procurement Act. The bill also eliminates the option for the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists to waive the examination requirement for licensure as a professional geologist for an applicant who has at least 12 years of geological work. The bill also requires the Board to promulgate regulations governing continuing education requirements for geologists licensed by the Board that require the completion of eight hours annually in continuing education for any license renewal or reinstatement.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None
Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR); however, no budget action is needed.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact to DPOR can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill directs DPOR's Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists to establish continuing certain education requirements and eliminates the option for the Board to waive exam requirements for individuals with at least 12 years of experience. It is anticipated that the Board will be able to complete all work required by the bill through regularly scheduled meetings with existing resources.

The bill also adds geology to the list of "professional services" under the Virginia Public Procurement Act. According to the Department of General Services (DGS), the Act mandates the use of competitive negotiation for professional services over $80,000. For professional services under $80,000 small purchase procedures are permitted and must provide for competition wherever practicable. DGS anticipates that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to state agencies contracting with geologists.

Other: This bill is the companion to HB 1289.