

**Department of Planning and Budget
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB238

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Knight, B. D.

3. Committee: Passed both houses.

4. Title: Management of blue crabs in Albemarle and Currituck watersheds.

5. Summary: This bill clarifies the jurisdictions of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) in the Albemarle and Currituck watersheds. The bill specifies that VMRC, and not DGIF, is authorized to manage the recreational and commercial harvesting of blue crabs in those watersheds. In turn, management of and jurisdiction over species other than blue crab will reside with DGIF.

The second enactment of the bill provides that regulations adopted by VMRC pertaining to marine and brackish fish that are not currently regulated by DGIF in these watersheds shall remain in force until regulations are adopted by DGIF.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will have minimal to no fiscal impact. According to the DGIF, the potential exists that 85 to 100 individuals or businesses will need to purchase commercial haul seine and/or gill net permits from DGIF as a result of this legislation, totaling up to approximately \$3,825 in additional revenue per year. DGIF has sufficient nongeneral fund appropriation to cover this increase in revenues. There should be no financial impact to VMRC as the agency would still receive the revenue generated from the sale of commercial crab licenses statewide and commercial fishing licenses for Chesapeake Bay waters.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Virginia Marine Resources Commission; the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 3/7/12

Document: G:\Legislation\2012 Session\HB238ER.DOC