



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

HB0114 - Revise timelines for water right permit and change process (Vinton, Sue )

**Status:** As Introduced

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact     | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

### FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2024 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$1,297,002	\$1,214,579	\$1,232,798	\$1,251,290
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u>(\$1,297,002)</u>	<u>(\$1,214,579)</u>	<u>(\$1,232,798)</u>	<u>(\$1,251,290)</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** HB 114 proposes to increase efficiencies and transparency in the water right permit and change process and reduce the overall application processing timeline. The existing statutory timeline for application review, decision-making, and public notice of an application is 360 days. This bill reduces that timeframe down to 105 days when the applicant completes a pre-application meeting. This bill will also allow for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to address comments prior to a final decision, improving agency decisions and reducing the need for hearings and associated hearings costs assumed by applicants. To meet the improved processing timelines associated with the bill, the Water Resources Division (WRD) of DNRC will need additional permanent FTEs.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:**

1. WRD will hire 13.00 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) to improve processing timelines:
  - a. 3.00 FTE hydrologist 2 for technical analysis
  - b. 8.00 FTE water conservation specialist 2 for application processing
  - c. 2.00 FTE compliance specialist 3 for decision review

2. Operating expenses for new employee set up \$36,400 (((\$2,800)\*13.00 FTE), \$50,000 for office cubicles into existing space in FY 2024, \$19,500 (\$1,500\*13.00 FTE) ongoing ITSD costs per year, travel of \$6,500 per year, supplies and materials \$6,500 per year, ongoing database operations and maintenance \$144,000 per year.
3. An appropriation for these funds is provided in Section 6 of the bill along with language that the FTE and appropriation will be included as part of the base budget for the DNRC for the 2027 Biennium.

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>				
FTE	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Personal Services	\$1,034,102	\$1,038,079	\$1,053,651	\$1,069,455
Operating Expenses	\$262,900	\$176,500	\$179,148	\$181,835
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<u>\$1,297,002</u>	<u>\$1,214,579</u>	<u>\$1,232,799</u>	<u>\$1,251,290</u>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$1,297,002	\$1,214,579	\$1,232,799	\$1,251,290
<b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>	<u>\$1,297,002</u>	<u>\$1,214,579</u>	<u>\$1,232,799</u>	<u>\$1,251,290</u>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	(\$1,297,002)	(\$1,214,579)	(\$1,232,799)	(\$1,251,290)

REV  
Sponsor's Initials

01/05/23  
Date

[Signature]  
Budget Director's Initials

1-2-23  
Date