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HOUSE BILL NO. 1540

Offered January 8, 2003

Prefiled December 20, 2002

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-2242 of the Code of Virginia, relating to adequate public facilities.

 Patron—Marshall, R.G.

 Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 15.2-2242 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 15.2-2242. Optional provisions of a subdivision ordinance.

A subdivision ordinance may include:

1. Provisions for variations in or exceptions to the general regulations of the subdivision ordinance in cases of unusual situations or when strict adherence to the general regulations would result in substantial injustice or hardship.

2. A requirement for the furnishing of a preliminary opinion from the applicable health official regarding the suitability of a subdivision for installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems where such method of sewage disposal is to be utilized in the development of a subdivision.

3. A requirement that, in the event streets in a subdivision will not be constructed to meet the standards necessary for inclusion in the secondary system of state highways or for state street maintenance moneys paid to municipalities, the subdivision plat and all approved deeds of subdivision, or similar instruments, must contain a statement advising that the streets in the subdivision do not meet state standards and will not be maintained by the Department of Transportation or the localities enacting the ordinances. Grantors of any subdivision lots to which such statement applies must include the statement on each deed of conveyance thereof. However, localities in their ordinances may establish minimum standards for construction of streets that will not be built to state standards.

For streets constructed or to be constructed, as provided for in this subsection, a subdivision ordinance may require that the same procedure be followed as that set forth in provision 5 of § 15.2-2241. Further, the subdivision ordinance may provide that the developer's financial commitment shall continue until such time as the local government releases such financial commitment in accordance with provision 11 of § 15.2-2241.

4. Reasonable provision for the voluntary funding of off-site road improvements and reimbursements of advances by the governing body. If a subdivider or developer makes an advance of payments for or construction of reasonable and necessary road improvements located outside the property limits of the land owned or controlled by him, the need for which is substantially generated and reasonably required by the construction or improvement of his subdivision or development, and such advance is accepted, the governing body may agree to reimburse the subdivider or developer from such funds as the governing body may make available for such purpose from time to time for the cost of such advance together with interest, which shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes, at a rate equal to the rate of interest on bonds most recently issued by the governing body on the following terms and conditions:

a. The governing body shall determine or confirm that the road improvements were substantially generated and reasonably required by the construction or improvement of the subdivision or development and shall determine or confirm the cost thereof, on the basis of a study or studies conducted by qualified traffic engineers and approved and accepted by the subdivider or developer.

b. The governing body shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, a report accepted and approved by the subdivider or developer, indicating the governmental services required to be furnished to the subdivision or development and an estimate of the annual cost thereof for the period during which the reimbursement is to be made to the subdivider or developer.

c. The governing body may make annual reimbursements to the subdivider or developer from funds made available for such purpose from time to time, including but not limited to real estate taxes assessed and collected against the land and improvements on the property included in the subdivision or development in amounts equal to the amount by which such real estate taxes exceed the annual cost of providing reasonable and necessary governmental services to such subdivision or development.

5. In a county having the urban county executive form of government, in any city located within or adjacent thereto, or any county adjacent thereto or a town located within such county, in any county with a population between 57,000 and 57,450, or in any county with a population between 60,000 and

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59 63,000, and in any city with a population between 140,000 and 160,000, provisions for payment by a
60 subdivider or developer of land of a pro rata share of the cost of reasonable and necessary road
61 improvements, located outside the property limits of the land owned or controlled by him but serving an
62 area having related traffic needs to which his subdivision or development will contribute, to reimburse
63 an initial subdivider or developer who has advanced such costs or constructed such road improvements.
64 Such ordinance may apply to road improvements constructed after July 1, 1988, in a county having the
65 urban county executive form of government; in a city located within or adjacent to a county having the
66 urban county executive form of government, or in a county adjacent to a county having the urban
67 county executive form of government or town located within such county and in any county with a
68 population between 57,000 and 57,450, or in any county with a population between 60,000 and 63,000,
69 such ordinance may only apply to road improvements constructed after the effective date of such
70 ordinance.

71 Such provisions shall provide for the adoption of a pro rata reimbursement plan which shall include
72 reasonable standards to identify the area having related traffic needs, to determine the total estimated or
73 actual cost of road improvements required to adequately serve the area when fully developed in
74 accordance with the comprehensive plan or as required by proffered conditions, and to determine the
75 proportionate share of such costs to be reimbursed by each subsequent subdivider or developer within
76 the area, with interest (i) at the legal rate or (ii) at an inflation rate prescribed by a generally accepted
77 index of road construction costs, whichever is less.

78 For any subdivision ordinance adopted pursuant to provision 5 of this section after February 1, 1993,
79 no such payment shall be assessed or imposed upon a subsequent developer or subdivider if (i) prior to
80 the adoption of a pro rata reimbursement plan the subsequent subdivider or developer has proffered
81 conditions pursuant to § 15.2-2303 for offsite road improvements and such proffered conditions have
82 been accepted by the locality, (ii) the locality has assessed or imposed an impact fee on the subsequent
83 development or subdivision pursuant to Article 8 (§ 15.2-2317 et seq.) of Chapter 22, or (iii) the
84 subsequent subdivider or developer has received final site plan, subdivision plan, or plan of development
85 approval from the locality prior to the adoption of a pro rata reimbursement plan for the area having
86 related traffic needs.

87 The amount of the costs to be reimbursed by a subsequent developer or subdivider shall be
88 determined before or at the time the site plan or subdivision is approved. The ordinance shall specify
89 that such costs are to be collected at the time of the issuance of a temporary or final certificate of
90 occupancy or functional use and occupancy within the development, whichever shall come first. The
91 ordinance also may provide that the required reimbursement may be paid (i) in lump sum, (ii) by
92 agreement of the parties on installment at a reasonable rate of interest or rate of inflation, whichever is
93 less, for a fixed number of years, or (iii) on such terms as otherwise agreed to by the initial and
94 subsequent subdividers and developers.

95 Such ordinance provisions may provide that no certificate of occupancy shall be issued to a
96 subsequent developer or subdivider until (i) the initial developer certifies to the locality that the
97 subsequent developer has made the required reimbursement directly to him as provided above or (ii) the
98 subsequent developer has deposited the reimbursement amount with the locality for transfer forthwith to
99 the initial developer.

100 6. Provisions for establishing and maintaining access to solar energy to encourage the use of solar
101 heating and cooling devices in new subdivisions. The provisions shall be applicable to a new subdivision
102 only when so requested by the subdivider.

103 7. Provisions, in any town with a population between 14,500 and 15,000, granting authority to the
104 governing body, in its discretion, to use funds escrowed pursuant to provision 5 of § 15.2-2241 for
105 improvements similar to but other than those for which the funds were escrowed, if the governing body
106 (i) obtains the written consent of the owner or developer who submitted the escrowed funds; (ii) finds
107 that the facilities for which funds are escrowed are not immediately required; (iii) releases the owner or
108 developer from liability for the construction or for the future cost of constructing those improvements
109 for which the funds were escrowed; and (iv) accepts liability for future construction of these
110 improvements. If such town fails to locate such owner or developer after making a reasonable attempt to
111 do so, the town may proceed as if such consent had been granted. In addition, the escrowed funds to be
112 used for such other improvement may only come from an escrow that does not exceed a principal
113 amount of \$30,000 plus any accrued interest and shall have been escrowed for at least five years.

114 8. Provisions for clustering of single-family dwellings and preservation of open space developments,
115 which provisions shall comply with the requirements and procedures set forth in subdivision A 12 of
116 § 15.2-2286.

117 9. *In any high-growth locality, reasonable provisions for the deferral of approval of subdivision plats*
118 *or site plans, when the locality determines that existing facilities for schools, roads, public safety*
119 *including fire and police, public sewer and water including both collection and distribution lines,*
120 *treatment capacity and availability of adequate water supply are inadequate to support the development*

when built out. For purposes of this subsection, "high- growth locality" means any locality that has had an annual population growth rate greater than 1 percent for at least 3 of the previous 5 years, and has a population of at least 55,000.

Infrastructure shall be deemed inadequate if, at the time of the submission of a plat or plan, or preliminary plat or plan where preliminary plats or plans are required, the cost to the locality of providing infrastructure necessary to serve the development proposed in such plat or plan at build out would exceed \$100,000. Such determination shall take into account any enforceable agreement by the developer to pay for or provide, at the developer's expense, such infrastructure.

In order to defer approval of a plat or plan under this subsection a locality must have in force, or promptly initiate and diligently pursue the adoption, for the area in which the plat or plan is proposed, a capital improvement plan that provides that adequate infrastructure, as defined in this subsection, shall be available to serve the development shown in such proposed plat or plan within no more than 12 years of the date of submission of such plat or plan, provided that the plat or plan at the time of submission otherwise meets the requirements of the local ordinance for approval. Such capital improvement plan shall be funded on at least an annual basis in an amount necessary to provide sufficient funds to ensure that those elements of infrastructure that were deemed inadequate for purposes of such deferral will be adequate at the end of such 12-year period.

During the deferral period, the applicant shall be entitled to the approval of a subdivision plat, otherwise in compliance with applicable regulations, at the lowest density permitted in the locality for any zoning district.

A deferral pursuant to any local ordinance adopted in conformity with this subsection shall not be subject to the provisions of subdivisions B and C of § 15.2-2297, subdivisions B and C of § 15.2-2298, or § 15.2-2307.

Nothing contained in this subsection shall be deemed to affect the ability of a locality to approve or deny a site plan or subdivision plat for reasons other than the adequacy of infrastructure.