

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 28.2-1205.1 and 62.1-44.15:5.01, relating to coordination of permits for water resources projects.

[S 1248]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 28.2-1205.1 and 62.1-44.15:5.01 as follows:

§ 28.2-1205.1. Coordinated review of water resources projects.

A. Applications for water resources projects that require a Virginia Marine Resources permit and an individual Virginia Water Protection Permit under § 62.1-44.15:5 shall be submitted and processed through a joint application and review process.

B. The Commissioner and the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Department of Historic Resources, the Department of Health, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and any other appropriate or interested state agency, shall coordinate the joint review process to ensure the orderly evaluation of projects requiring both permits.

C. The joint review process shall include, but not be limited to, provisions to ensure that: (i) the initial application for the project shall be advertised simultaneously by the Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality; (ii) project reviews shall be completed by all state agencies that have been asked to review and provide comments, within 45 days of project notification by the Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality; (iii) the Commission and the State Water Control Board shall coordinate permit issuance and, to the extent practicable, shall take action on the permit application no later than one year after the agencies have received complete applications; (iv) to the extent practicable, the Commission and the State Water Control Board shall take action concurrently, but no more than six months apart; and (v) upon taking its final action on each permit, the Commission and the State Water Control Board shall provide each other with notification of its action and any and all supporting information, including any background materials or exhibits used in the application.

§ 62.1-44.15:5.01. Coordinated review of water resources projects.

A. Applications for water resources projects that require an individual Virginia Water Protection Permit and a Virginia Marine Resources permit under § 28.2-1205 shall be submitted and processed through a joint application and review process.

B. The Director and the Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, in consultation with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Department of Historic Resources, the Department of Health, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and any other appropriate or interested state agency, shall coordinate the joint review process to ensure the orderly evaluation of projects requiring both permits.

C. The joint review process shall include, but not be limited to, provisions to ensure that: (i) the initial application for the project shall be advertised simultaneously by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission; (ii) project reviews shall be completed by all state agencies that have been asked to review and provide comments, within 45 days of project notification by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission; (iii) the Board and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission shall coordinate permit issuance and, to the extent practicable, shall take action on the permit application no later than one year after the agencies have received complete applications; (iv) to the extent practicable, the Board and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission shall take action concurrently, but no more than six months apart; and (v) upon taking its final action on each permit, the Board and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission shall provide each other with notification of their actions and any and all supporting information, including any background materials or exhibits used in the application.

D. If requested by the applicant, the Department of Environmental Quality shall convene a preapplication review panel to assist applicants for water resources projects in the early identification of issues related to the protection of beneficial instream and offstream uses of state waters. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Department of

58 *Game and Inland Fisheries, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Department of*
59 *Environmental Quality shall participate in the preapplication review panel by providing information and*
60 *guidance on the potential natural resource impacts and regulatory implications of the options being*
61 *considered by the applicant. However, the participation by these agencies in such a review process*
62 *shall not limit any authority they may exercise pursuant to state and federal laws or regulations.*