

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 62.1-44.38:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to regional water plans.

[H 552]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 62.1-44.38:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 62.1-44.38:1. Comprehensive water supply planning process; state, regional and local water supply plans.

A. The Board, with the advice and guidance from the Commissioner of Health, local governments, public service authorities, and other interested parties, shall establish a comprehensive water supply planning process for the development of local, regional and state water supply plans consistent with the provisions of this chapter. This process shall be designed to (i) ensure that adequate and safe drinking water is available to all citizens of the Commonwealth, (ii) encourage, promote, and protect all other beneficial uses of the Commonwealth's water resources, and (iii) encourage, promote, and develop incentives for alternative water sources, including but not limited to desalinization.

B. Local or regional water supply plans shall be prepared and submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with criteria and guidelines developed by the Board. Such criteria and guidelines shall take into account existing local and regional water supply planning efforts and requirements imposed under other state or federal laws. *The criteria and guidelines established by the Board shall not prohibit a town from entering into a regional water supply plan with an adjacent county.*

ENROLLED

HB552ER