

072192554

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1859**

House Amendments in [ ] - January 26, 2007

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 62.1-44.19:11 of the Code of Virginia, relating to use of volunteers to monitor water quality.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Wittman

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 62.1-44.19:11 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 62.1-44.19:11. Citizen water quality monitoring program.

A. The Department of Environmental Quality shall establish a citizen water quality monitoring program to provide technical assistance and may provide grants to support citizen water quality monitoring groups if (i) the monitoring is done pursuant to a memorandum of agreement with the Department, (ii) the project or activity is consistent with the Department of Environmental Quality's water quality monitoring program, (iii) the monitoring is conducted in a manner consistent with the Virginia Citizens Monitoring Methods Manual, and (iv) the location of the water quality monitoring activity is part of the water quality control plan required under § 62.1-44.19:5. The results of such citizen monitoring shall not be used as evidence in any enforcement action.

*B. [ Citizen volunteers, who participate in the citizen water quality monitoring program as described in subsection A, shall conduct water quality monitoring on at least 10% of the river and stream miles being monitored by the Department pursuant to § 62.1-44.19:5. It shall be the goal of the Department to encourage citizen water quality monitoring so that 3,000 stream miles are monitored by volunteer citizens by 2010. ]*

ENGROSSED

HB1859E