

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-306, 5.1-158, 44-146.17, and 44-146.28 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency management and preparedness.*

[S 1202]

Approved

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

**1. That §§ 2.2-306, 5.1-158, 44-146.17, and 44-146.28 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-306. Secure Commonwealth Panel; membership; duties; compensation; staff.

A. The Secure Commonwealth Panel (the Panel), is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government. The Panel shall consist of 29 34 members as follows: three members of the House of Delegates and two nonlegislative citizens to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate of Virginia and two nonlegislative citizens to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; the Lieutenant Governor; the Attorney General; *the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia*; the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Health and Human Resources, Public Safety, Technology and Transportation; two local first responders; three local government representatives; two physicians with knowledge of public health; *four members from the business or industry sector*; and four additional members from the private sector. Except for appointments made by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the Senate Committee on Rules, all other appointments shall be made by the Governor. Additional ex officio members may be appointed to the Panel by the Governor at his discretion. Legislative members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office or until their successors shall qualify. Nonlegislative citizen members shall serve for terms of four years. The Assistant to the Governor of the Office shall be the chairman of the Panel.

B. The Panel shall monitor and assess the implementation of statewide prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives and where necessary to review, evaluate, and make recommendations relating to the emergency preparedness of government at all levels in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the Panel shall facilitate cabinet-level coordination among the various agencies of state government related to emergency preparedness and shall facilitate private sector preparedness and communication. The Panel shall make quarterly reports to the Governor concerning the state's emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and prevention efforts.

C. Members of the Panel shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties as provided in § 2.2-2825.

D. Staff support for the Panel and funding for the costs of expenses of the members shall be provided by the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness.

§ 5.1-158. Police.

A. The Commonwealth hereby grants, accepts and agrees to concurrent police power authority over the Metropolitan Washington Airports as provided in Section 6009 (c) of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986.

B. The Authority is authorized to establish and maintain a regular police force and to confer police powers to be exercised with respect to offenses occurring on the Authority Facilities upon its employees meeting the minimum requirements of the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Such police officers shall have all powers vested in police officers under Chapter 17 of Title 15.2, Chapter 11 of Title 16.1, Title 18.2, Title 19.2, and Title 46.2 of the Code of Virginia as those titles may be amended from time to time and shall be responsible upon the Authority Facilities and within 300 yards of the Facilities for enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth, the Authority's rules and regulations and all other applicable ordinances, rules, and regulations.

Such police officers may issue summons to appear, or arrest on view or on information without warrant as permitted by law, and conduct before any judicial officer of competent jurisdiction any person violating, upon Authority Facilities, any rule or regulation of the Authority, any ordinance or regulation of any local political subdivision, or any other law of the Commonwealth.

C. The Department of State Police shall exercise the same powers upon Authority Facilities as elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

D. The Authority may enter into reciprocal or mutual aid agreements with the local political subdivisions in ~~which the Authority Facilities are situated~~, *National Capital Region as defined in § 2674 (f) (2) of title 10 of the United States Code, those counties with a border abutting that area, and any*

57 *municipalities therein; any agency of the Commonwealth, the District of Columbia, the State of*  
 58 *Maryland; or the federal government; or any combination of the foregoing; for cooperation in the*  
 59 *furnishing of police services during a public service event, an emergency, or planned training, including*  
 60 *law-enforcement, fire, rescue, emergency health, and medical services, transportation, communications,*  
 61 *public works and engineering, mass care, and resource support. When responding to a request under*  
 62 *such an agreement, Authority employees may go outside Authority facilities, and the Authority and its*  
 63 *employees shall enjoy the same immunities from liability as localities and their employees do in*  
 64 *responding under similar circumstances.*

65 E. The police force of Arlington County shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the police force  
 66 established herein at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The Authority shall enter into an  
 67 agreement with Arlington County regarding the exercise of police authority.

68 F. The sheriffs and police forces of Loudoun and Fairfax Counties shall continue to exercise  
 69 concurrent jurisdiction with the police force established herein over the Authority Facilities situated  
 70 within their respective counties.

71 § 44-146.17. Powers and duties of Governor.

72 The Governor shall be Director of Emergency Management. He shall take such action from time to  
 73 time as is necessary for the adequate promotion and coordination of state and local emergency services  
 74 activities relating to the safety and welfare of the Commonwealth in time of natural or man-made  
 75 disasters.

76 The Governor shall have, in addition to his powers hereinafter or elsewhere prescribed by law, the  
 77 following powers and duties:

78 (1) To proclaim and publish such rules and regulations and to issue such orders as may, in his  
 79 judgment, be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter including, but not limited to such  
 80 measures as are in his judgment required to control, restrict, allocate or regulate the use, sale, production  
 81 and distribution of food, fuel, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods, services and resources  
 82 under any state or federal emergency services programs.

83 He may adopt and implement the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, which  
 84 provides for state-level emergency operations in response to any type of disaster or large-scale  
 85 emergency affecting Virginia and that provides the needed framework within which more detailed  
 86 emergency plans and procedures can be developed and maintained by state agencies, local governments  
 87 and other organizations.

88 He may direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the populace from any stricken or threatened  
 89 area if this action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life, implement emergency mitigation,  
 90 preparedness, response or recovery actions; prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destination in  
 91 connection with evacuation; and control ingress and egress at an emergency area, including the  
 92 movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein.

93 Executive orders, to include those declaring a state of emergency and directing evacuation, shall have  
 94 the force and effect of law and the violation thereof shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor in  
 95 every case where the executive order declares that its violation shall have such force and effect.

96 Such executive orders declaring a state of emergency may address exceptional circumstances that  
 97 exist relating to an order of quarantine or an order of isolation concerning a communicable disease of  
 98 public health threat that is issued by the State Health Commissioner for an affected area of the  
 99 Commonwealth pursuant to Article 3.02 (§ 32.1-48.05 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 32.1.

100 Except as to emergency plans issued to prescribe actions to be taken in the event of disasters and  
 101 emergencies, no rule, regulation, or order issued under this section shall have any effect beyond June 30  
 102 next following the next adjournment of the regular session of the General Assembly but the same or a  
 103 similar rule, regulation, or order may thereafter be issued again if not contrary to law;

104 (2) To appoint a State Coordinator of Emergency Management and authorize the appointment or  
 105 employment of other personnel as is necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and to  
 106 remove, in his discretion, any and all persons serving hereunder;

107 (3) To procure supplies and equipment, to institute training and public information programs relative  
 108 to emergency management and to take other preparatory steps including the partial or full mobilization  
 109 of emergency management organizations in advance of actual disaster, to insure the furnishing of  
 110 adequately trained and equipped forces in time of need;

111 (4) To make such studies and surveys of industries, resources, and facilities in the Commonwealth as  
 112 may be necessary to ascertain the capabilities of the Commonwealth and to plan for the most efficient  
 113 emergency use thereof;

114 (5) On behalf of the Commonwealth enter into mutual aid arrangements with other states and to  
 115 coordinate mutual aid plans between political subdivisions of the Commonwealth. *After a state of*  
 116 *emergency is declared in another state and the Governor receives a written request for assistance from*  
 117 *the executive authority of that state, the Governor may authorize the use in the other state of personnel,*

equipment, supplies, and materials of the Commonwealth, or of a political subdivision, with the consent of the chief executive officer or governing body of the political subdivision;

(6) To delegate any administrative authority vested in him under this chapter, and to provide for the further delegation of any such authority, as needed;

(7) Whenever, in the opinion of the Governor, the safety and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth require the exercise of emergency measures due to a threatened or actual disaster, he may declare a state of emergency to exist;

(8) To request a major disaster declaration from the President, thereby certifying the need for federal disaster assistance and ensuring the expenditure of a reasonable amount of funds of the Commonwealth, its local governments, or other agencies for alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering resulting from the disaster;

(9) To provide incident command system guidelines for state agencies and local emergency response organizations; and

(10) Whenever, in the opinion of the Governor or his designee, an employee of a state or local public safety agency responding to a manmade or natural disaster has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area, such as the destruction of a personal residence or the existence of living conditions that imperil the health and safety of an immediate family member of the employee, the Governor may direct the Comptroller of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, for up to three calendar months, to the employee to assist the employee with the hardship.

§ 44-146.28. Authority of Governor and agencies under his control in declared state of emergency.

(a) In the case of a declaration of a state of emergency as defined in § 44-146.16, the Governor is authorized to expend from all funds of the state treasury not constitutionally restricted, a sum sufficient. Allotments from such sum sufficient may be made by the Governor to any state agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth to carry out disaster service missions and responsibilities. Allotments may also be made by the Governor from the sum sufficient to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants located in an area declared to be in a state of emergency, but not declared to be a major disaster area for which federal assistance might be forthcoming. This shall be considered as a program of last resort for those local jurisdictions that cannot meet the full cost. *Allotments may also be made by the Governor from the sum sufficient to provide financial assistance to Virginia state agencies and political subdivisions responding to a declared state of emergency in another state as provided by § 44-146.17, whether or not a state of emergency is declared in the Commonwealth.*

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management shall establish guidelines and procedures for determining whether and to what extent financial assistance to local governments may be provided.

The guidelines and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Participants may be eligible to receive financial assistance to cover a percentage of eligible costs if they demonstrate that they are incapable of covering the full cost. The percentage may vary, based on the Commission on Local Government's fiscal stress index. The cumulative effect of recent disasters during the preceding twelve months may also be considered for eligibility purposes.

(2) Only eligible participants that have sustained an emergency or disaster as defined in § 44-146.16 with total eligible costs of four dollars or more per capita may receive assistance except that (i) any town with a total population of less than 3,500 shall be eligible for disaster assistance for incurred eligible damages of \$15,000 or greater and (ii) any town with a population of 3,500 or more, but less than 5,000 shall be eligible for disaster assistance for incurred eligible damages of \$20,000 or greater and (iii) any town with a population of 5,000 or greater with total eligible costs of four dollars or more per capita may receive assistance. No site or facility may be included with less than \$1,000 in eligible costs. However, the total cost of debris clearance may be considered as costs associated with a single site.

(3) Eligible participants shall be fully covered by all-risk property and flood insurance policies, including provisions for insuring the contents of the property and business interruptions, or shall be self-insured, in order to be eligible for this assistance. Insurance deductibles shall not be covered by this program.

(4) Eligible costs incurred by towns, public service authorities, volunteer fire departments and volunteer rescue squads may be included in a county's or city's total costs.

(5) Unless otherwise stated in guidelines and procedures, eligible costs are defined as those listed in the Public Assistance component of Public Law 93-288, as amended, excluding beach replenishment and snow removal.

(6) State agencies, as directed by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, shall conduct an on-site survey to validate damages and to document restoration costs.

(7) Eligible participants shall maintain complete documentation of all costs in a manner approved by the Auditor of Public Accounts and shall provide copies of the documentation to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management upon request.

179 If a jurisdiction meets the criteria set forth in the guidelines and procedures, but is in an area that has  
180 neither been declared to be in a state of emergency nor been declared to be a major disaster area for  
181 which federal assistance might be forthcoming, the Governor is authorized, in his discretion, to make an  
182 allotment from the sum sufficient to that jurisdiction without a declaration of a state of emergency, in  
183 the same manner as if a state of emergency declaration had been made.

184 The Governor shall report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee, the House  
185 Appropriations Committee, and the House Finance Committee within thirty days of authorizing the sum  
186 sufficient pursuant to this section. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management shall report  
187 annually to the General Assembly on the local jurisdictions that received financial assistance and the  
188 amount each jurisdiction received.

189 (b) Public agencies under the supervision and control of the Governor may implement their  
190 emergency assignments without regard to normal procedures (except mandatory constitutional  
191 requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring of  
192 obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials  
193 and expenditures of public funds.