

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-2223.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to urban development areas.*

[H 1071]

Approved

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

**1. That § 15.2-2223.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 15.2-2223.1. Comprehensive plan to include urban development areas.

A. For purposes of this section:

"Commercial" means property devoted to usual and customary business purposes for the sale of goods and services and includes, but is not limited to, retail operations, hotels, motels and offices. "Commercial" does not include residential dwelling units, including apartments and condominiums, or agricultural or forestal production, or manufacturing, processing, assembling, storing, warehousing, or distributing.

"Commission" means the Commission on Local Government.

"Developable acreage," solely for the purposes of calculating density within the urban development area, means land that is not included in (i) existing parks, rights-of-way of arterial and collector streets, railways, and public utilities and (ii) other existing public lands and facilities.

"Population growth" means the difference in population from the next-to-latest to the latest decennial census year, based on population reported by the United States Bureau of the Census. In computing its population growth, a locality may exclude the inmate population of any new or expanded correctional facility that opened within the time period between the two censuses.

"Urban development area" means an area designated by a locality that is (i) appropriate for higher density development due to its proximity to transportation facilities, the availability of a public or community water and sewer system, or a developed area and (ii) to the extent feasible, to be used for redevelopment or infill development.

B. Every county, city, or town locality that has adopted zoning pursuant to Article 7 (§ 15.2-2280 et seq.) of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 this chapter and that (i) has a population of at least 20,000 and population growth of at least 5% five percent or (ii) has population growth of 15% 15 percent or more, shall, and any county, city or town locality may, amend its comprehensive plan to incorporate one or more urban development areas. For purposes of this section, population growth shall be the difference in population from the next-to-latest to the latest decennial census year, based on population reported by the United States Bureau of the Census. For purposes of this section, an urban development area is an area designated by a locality that is appropriate for higher density development due to proximity to transportation facilities, the availability of a public or community water and sewer system, or proximity to a city, town, or other developed area.

1. The comprehensive plan of a locality having a population of less than 130,000 persons shall provide for commercial and residential densities within urban development areas that are appropriate for reasonably compact development at a density on the developable acreage of at least four residential single-family residences, six townhouses, or 12 apartments, condominium units, or cooperative units per gross acre, and a minimum an authorized floor area ratio of at least 0.4 per gross acre for commercial development, or any proportional combination thereof.

The urban development areas may provide for a mix of residential housing types, including affordable housing, to meet the projected family income distributions of future residential growth.

2. The comprehensive plan of a locality having a population of 130,000 or more persons shall provide for urban development areas that are appropriate for development at a density on the developable acreage of at least eight single-family residences, 12 townhouses, or 24 apartments, condominium units, or cooperative units per acre, and an authorized floor area ratio of at least 0.8 per acre for commercial development, or any proportional combination thereof.

3. The comprehensive plan shall designate one or more urban development areas designated by a locality shall be sufficient to meet projected residential and commercial growth in the locality for an ensuing period of at least 10 but not more than 20 years, which may include phasing of development within the urban development areas. Where an urban development area in a county with the urban county executive form of government includes planned or existing rail transit, the planning horizon may be for an ensuing period of at least 10 but not more than 40 years. Future residential and commercial growth shall be based on official estimates and projections of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public

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57 Service of the University of Virginia or other official government sources projections of the Virginia  
58 Employment Commission or the United States Bureau of the Census.

59 4. The boundaries and size of each urban development area shall be reexamined and, if necessary,  
60 revised every five years in conjunction with the update review of the comprehensive plan and in  
61 accordance with the most recent available population growth estimates and projections. Such districts  
62 may be areas designated for redevelopment or infill development.

63 5. The boundaries of each urban development area shall be identified in the locality's comprehensive  
64 plan and shall be shown on future land use maps contained in such comprehensive plan.

65 B 6. The comprehensive plan shall further incorporate principles of new urbanism and traditional  
66 neighborhood development design in the urban development area, which may include but need not be  
67 limited to (i) pedestrian-friendly road design, (ii) interconnection of new local streets with existing local  
68 streets and roads, (iii) connectivity of road and pedestrian networks, (iv) preservation of natural areas,  
69 (v) satisfaction of requirements for stormwater management, (vi) mixed-use neighborhoods, including  
70 mixed housing types, (vii) with affordable housing to meet the projected family income distributions of  
71 future residential growth, (vi) reduction of front and side yard building setbacks, and (viii) (vii)  
72 reduction of subdivision street widths and turning radii at subdivision street intersections.

73 C 7. The comprehensive plan shall describe any financial and other incentives for development in the  
74 urban development areas.

75 8. A portion of one or more urban development areas shall be designated as a receiving area for  
76 any transfer of development rights program established by the locality.

77 D C. No county, city, or town locality that has amended its comprehensive plan in accordance with  
78 this section shall limit or prohibit development pursuant to existing zoning or shall refuse to consider  
79 any application for rezoning based solely on the fact that the property is located outside the urban  
80 development area.

81 E D. Any county, city, or town locality that would be required to amend its plan pursuant to this  
82 section subsection B that determines that its plan accommodates growth in a manner consistent with this  
83 section subsection B, upon adoption of a resolution certifying describing such compliance  
84 accommodation and describing any financial and other incentives for development in the areas that  
85 accommodate such growth, shall not be required to further amend its plan pursuant to subsection B.  
86 Any locality that has adopted a resolution certifying compliance with subsection B prior to February 1,  
87 2010, shall not be required to comply with this subsection until review of the locality's comprehensive  
88 plan as provided for in provision 4 of subsection B.

89 E. Localities shall consult with adjacent localities, as well as the relevant planning district  
90 commission and metropolitan planning organization, in establishing the appropriate size and location of  
91 urban development areas to promote orderly and efficient development of their region.

92 F. Any county that amends its comprehensive plan pursuant to this section subsection B may  
93 designate one or more urban development areas in any incorporated town within such county, if the  
94 governing body council of the town has also amended its comprehensive plan to designate the same  
95 areas as urban development areas with at least the same density designated by the county. However, if a  
96 town has established an urban development area within its corporate boundaries, the county within  
97 which the town is located shall not include the town's projected population and commercial growth  
98 when initially determining or reexamining the size and boundary of any other urban development area  
99 within the county.

100 G. To the extent possible, federal, state and local transportation, housing, and water and sewer  
101 facility, economic development, and other public infrastructure funding for new and expanded facilities  
102 shall be directed to the urban development area, or in the case of a locality that adopts a resolution  
103 pursuant to subsection D, to the area that accommodates growth in a manner consistent with this  
104 section.

105 H. Documents describing all urban development area designations, as well as any resolution adopted  
106 pursuant to subsection D, together with associated written policies, zoning provisions and other  
107 ordinances, and the capital improvement program shall be forwarded, electronically or by other means,  
108 to the Commission within 90 days of the adoption or amendment of comprehensive plans and other  
109 written policies, zoning provisions and other ordinances. The Commission shall annually report to the  
110 Governor and General Assembly the overall compliance with this section including densities achieved  
111 within each urban development area. Before preparing the initial report, the Commission shall develop  
112 an appropriate format in concert with the relevant planning district commission. Other than the  
113 documents, policies, zoning provisions and other ordinances, resolutions, and the capital improvement  
114 program forwarded by the locality, the Commission shall not impose an additional administrative  
115 burden on localities in preparing the annual report required by this subsection.

116 I. Any locality that becomes subject to provision 2 of subsection B shall have until July 1, 2012, to  
117 amend its comprehensive plan in accordance with this section.

**118**     *J. Any locality that becomes subject to this section due to population growth shall have two years*  
**119**     *following the report of the United States Bureau of the Census made pursuant to P.L. 94-171 to amend*  
**120**     *its comprehensive plan in accordance with this section.*

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