

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-4209 of the Code of Virginia, relating to regional strategic plans.*

3 [H 2326]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**6 **1. That § 15.2-4209 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**7 **§ 15.2-4209. Preparation and adoption of regional strategic plan.**8 A. Except in planning districts in which regional planning *also* is conducted by multi-state councils
9 of government, each planning district commission shall prepare a regional strategic plan for the guidance
10 of the district. The plan shall concern those elements which are of importance in more than one of the
11 localities within the district, as distinguished from matters of only local importance. The plan shall
12 include regional goals and objectives, strategies to meet those goals and objectives and mechanisms for
13 measuring progress toward the goals and objectives. The strategic plan shall include those subjects
14 necessary to promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic
15 elements of the district such as transportation, housing, economic development and environmental
16 management. The plan may be divided into parts or sections as the planning district commission deems
17 desirable. In developing the regional strategic plan, the planning district commission shall seek input
18 from a wide range of organizations in the region, including local governing bodies, the business
19 community and citizen organizations.20 B. *In planning districts in which regional planning also is conducted by multi-state councils of*
21 *government, each planning district commission may prepare a regional strategic plan for the guidance*
22 *of the district. If prepared in accordance with this section, such plan shall conform with the*
23 *requirements of subsection A and also shall include references to the relevant provisions of the most*
24 *current regional strategic plan prepared by the multi-state council of governments that includes any of*
25 *the area comprising the planning district.*26 C. Before the strategic plan is adopted, it shall be submitted to the Department of Housing and
27 Community Development and to the governing body of each locality within the district for a period of
28 not less than thirty days prior to a hearing to be held by the planning district commission thereon, after
29 notice as provided in § 15.2-2204. Each such local governing body shall make recommendations to the
30 planning district commission on or before the date of the hearing with respect to the effect of the plan
31 within its locality. The Department of Housing and Community Development shall notify the planning
32 district commission prior to the hearing as to whether the proposed strategic plan conflicts with plans of
33 adjacent planning districts.34 ~~C.~~ D. Upon approval of the strategic plan by a planning district commission after a public hearing, it
35 shall be submitted to the governing body of each locality (excluding towns of less than 3,500 population
36 unless members of the commission) within the district for review and possible adoption. The plan shall
37 become effective with respect to all action of a planning district commission upon approval by the
38 planning district commission. The plan shall not become effective with respect to the action of the
39 governing body of any locality within the district until adopted by the governing body of such locality.40 ~~D.~~ E. The adopted strategic plan shall be submitted within thirty days of adoption to the Department
41 of Housing and Community Development for information and coordination purposes.