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SENATE BILL NO. 1284

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-218 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Secretary of Natural Resources; development of Watershed Implementation Plans.

Patron—Hanger

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-218 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-218. Development of Watershed Implementation Plans to restore the water quality and living resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.**

The Secretary shall coordinate the development of ~~tributary plans~~ *Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) pursuant to the total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in December 2010 and amendment thereto. The WIPs shall be designed to improve water quality and restore the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Each plan shall be tributary-specific in nature and prepared for the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James River Basins as well as the western coastal basins (comprising the small rivers on the western Virginia mainland that drain to the Chesapeake Bay, not including the Potomac, Rappahannock, York and James Rivers) and the eastern coastal basin (encompassing the creeks and rivers of the Eastern Shore of Virginia that are west of U.S. Route 13 and drain to the Chesapeake Bay). Each plan shall (i) address the reduction of nutrients and suspended solids, including sediments, entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and (ii) summarize other existing programs, strategies, goals and commitments for reducing toxics; the preservation and protection of living resources; and the enhancement of the amount of submerged aquatic vegetation, for each tributary basin and the Bay. The plans WIPs shall be developed in consultation with affected stakeholders, including, but not limited to, local government officials; wastewater treatment operators; seafood industry representatives; commercial and recreational fishing interests; developers; farmers; local, regional and statewide conservation and environmental interests; and the Virginia delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission.*

INTRODUCED

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