

16105087D

**SENATE BILL NO. 720**

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Local Government  
on February 9, 2016)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Lewis)

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-939.1, relating to local environmental cleanup programs.*

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-939.1 as follows:**

**§ 15.2-939.1. Environmental cleanup programs.**

*A locality may by ordinance establish an environmental cleanup program. Such ordinance shall include the requirements of the program and related recognition provided by the locality. An environmental cleanup program shall be voluntary and open to all retailers including chain, box, department, grocery, convenience, or drug stores located within the locality that provide single use plastic bags to consumers. An environmental cleanup program shall provide recognition to retailers, which may include publication on the locality's website as an environmentally friendly business. The purpose of the program and its recognition shall be to encourage retailers to (i) train their staffs to distribute fewer single use plastic bags, (ii) establish a customer bag credit program that provides a customer with a discount for bringing a bag to package his own purchase, (iii) establish a program in which the retailer buys back plastic bags in bulk, or (iv) establish a program in which the retailer provides for the convenient recycling of plastic bags.*