

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Environmental Quality to study tree planting as a land cover type*
3 *and stormwater best management practice.*

4 [H 520]

5 Approved

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

7 **1. § 1.** *That the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shall convene a stakeholder advisory*
8 *group for the purpose of studying the planting or preservation of trees as an urban land cover type and*
9 *as a stormwater best management practice (BMP).*

10 **§ 2.** *The stakeholder advisory group shall be composed of representatives of the residential and*
11 *commercial development and construction industry, the community associations industry, the linear*
12 *infrastructure development industry, the Virginia Forestry Association, and local Virginia stormwater*
13 *management program authorities; professional environmental technical experts; and other technical*
14 *experts whom DEQ deems necessary.*

15 **§ 3.** *Technical assistance shall be provided to DEQ by the Department of Forestry and the Department*
16 *of Conservation and Recreation. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to DEQ for*
17 *this study, upon request.*

18 **§ 4.** *The Department of Environmental Quality shall publish on its website a report containing the*
19 *findings of the stakeholder advisory group by November 1, 2020, and shall include in the report a*
20 *recommendation as to whether the planting or preservation of trees shall be deemed a creditable land*
21 *cover type or BMP and, if so, how much credit shall be given for its optional use. The Department of*
22 *Environmental Quality shall, before the first day of the 2021 Session of the General Assembly, report*
23 *the findings of the stakeholder advisory group to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture,*
24 *Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural*
25 *Resources.*

ENROLLED

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