

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

## CHAPTER 405

*An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-958.3:1, relating to local green banks.*

[H 1919]

Approved March 30, 2021

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-958.3:1 as follows:**

**§ 15.2-958.3:1. Local green banks.**

A. As used in this section, "clean energy technologies" means energy resources and emerging technologies that have significant potential for commercialization and do not involve (i) the combustion of coal, petroleum or petroleum products, or municipal solid waste or (ii) nuclear fission. "Clean energy technologies" includes renewable energy sources, projects, and infrastructure; energy efficiency projects; alternative fuels used for electricity generation; alternative fuel vehicles and related infrastructure such as electric vehicle charging station infrastructure; and smart grid.

B. Any locality may, by ordinance, establish a green bank to promote the investment in clean energy technologies in its locality and provide financing for clean energy technologies. Such ordinance may include the following functions for a green bank:

1. Finance investment or financial support of investment in clean energy technologies to foster the growth and development of renewable energy sources;

2. Stimulate the demand for renewable energy and the deployment of clean energy technologies that serve end-use customers;

3. Before making any loan, loan guarantee, or other form of financing support for clean energy technologies, develop rules, policies, and procedures to specify borrower eligibility and any other term or condition of financial support;

4. Provide financing or financial support for clean energy technologies;

5. Develop consumer protection standards for investments to ensure that the green bank and its partners are lending in a transparent and responsible manner that is in the financial interests of the borrowers; and

6. Undertake any other activity as needed to support the mission of the green bank.

C. In establishing a green bank, the locality shall determine whether the green bank will be a public entity, quasi-public entity, depository bank, or nonprofit entity.

D. The locality shall offer private lending institutions the opportunity to participate in the green bank established pursuant to this section.

E. Prior to the adoption of any ordinance pursuant to this section, the locality shall conduct a public hearing at which interested persons may object to or inquire about the proposed green bank or any of its particulars. The public hearing shall be advertised once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality.