

# 2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1837

Offered January 13, 2021

Prefiled January 6, 2021

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-502 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Soil and Water Conservation Board; membership.*

Patrons—Plum and Guzman

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

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

**1. That § 10.1-502 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

#### **§ 10.1-502. Soil and Water Conservation Board; composition.**

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is continued and shall perform the functions conferred upon it in this chapter. The Board shall consist of nine ~~voting~~ *nonlegislative citizen* members and one *ex officio* member with nonvoting privileges. The Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, or his designee, shall be a nonvoting *ex officio* member of the Board. Three ~~at-large~~ *nonlegislative citizen* members of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor. ~~After the initial staggering of terms, nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of four years. At as at-large members, of whom at least two members shall be appointed by the Governor as at-large~~ members and shall have a demonstrated interest in natural resource conservation with a background or knowledge in dam safety, soil conservation, or water quality protection. Additionally, four *nonlegislative citizen* members shall be farmers at the time of their appointment and two *nonlegislative citizen* members shall be farmers or district directors. *Each of the six nonlegislative members who is a farmer or district director shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of two qualified nominees for each vacancy jointly submitted by the Board and the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in consultation with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation and the Virginia Agribusiness Council, and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, each. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of four years. All appointed members shall not serve more than two consecutive full terms. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made in the same manner as the original appointments, except that such appointments shall be for the unexpired terms only. The Board may invite the Virginia State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, to serve as an advisory nonvoting member. The Board shall keep a record of its official actions, shall and adopt a seal and may perform acts, hold public hearings, and promulgate adopt regulations necessary for the execution of its functions under this chapter.*

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