

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to establish the Carbon Sequestration Task Force; report.*

3 [S 1374]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**6 1. § 1 A. *The Secretary of Natural Resources shall, jointly with the Secretary of Agriculture and*
7 *Consumer Services, convene a task force for the purpose of studying carbon sequestration in the*
8 *Commonwealth.*9 *B. The task force shall be composed of the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of*
10 *Agriculture and Consumer Services; the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or his*
11 *designee; the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation or his designee; the Director*
12 *of the Department of Wildlife Resources or his designee; the Commissioner of Agriculture and*
13 *Consumer Services or his designee; the Virginia State Forester or his designee; the Marine Resources*
14 *Commissioner or his designee; technical experts from the University of Virginia, the Virginia*
15 *Polytechnic Institute and State University, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, and Virginia State*
16 *University; a representative from each of the Virginia Farm Bureau, the Virginia Agribusiness Council,*
17 *the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Virginia Forestry Association, the*
18 *Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Shellfish Growers of Virginia, and the*
19 *Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations; and other technical experts, as needed. The*
20 *Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall serve as*
21 *co-chairs of the task force.*22 *C. The task force shall (i) consider possible methods of increasing carbon sequestration within the*
23 *natural environment through state land and marine resources use policies; agricultural, aquacultural,*
24 *and silvicultural practices; and other practices to achieve natural resources restoration and long-term*
25 *conservation; (ii) recommend short-term and long-term benchmarks for increasing carbon sequestration;*
26 *(iii) develop a standardized methodology to establish baseline carbon levels and account for increases in*
27 *carbon sequestration over time; (iv) identify existing carbon markets and considerations relevant to*
28 *potential participation by the Commonwealth; and (v) identify other potential funding mechanisms to*
29 *encourage carbon sequestration practices in the Commonwealth.*30 *D. The task force shall, before the first day of the 2022 Session of the General Assembly, submit a*
31 *report of its findings to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural*
32 *Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.*