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HOUSE BILL NO. 1623

FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by Senator Petersen
on February 20, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Wright)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 10.1-1425.17, 62.1-256.2, and 62.1-69.35:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee; Department of Environmental Quality; reports.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 10.1-1425.17, 62.1-256.2, and 62.1-69.35:2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 10.1-1425.17. Evaluation report.

The Department shall ~~submit post~~ an annual report to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the General Assembly. ~~The report shall include regarding~~ an evaluation of its pollution prevention activities ~~on its website~~. The report shall be submitted by December 1 of each year, beginning in 1994. The report shall include, to the extent available, information regarding progress in expanding pollution prevention activities in the Commonwealth.

§ 62.1-256.2. (Expires July 1, 2025) Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee established; sunset.

A. The Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) shall establish the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) as an advisory committee to assist the State Water Commission and the Department in the management of groundwater in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Director of the Department and shall be composed of nonlegislative citizen members consisting of representatives of industrial and municipal water users; representatives of public and private water providers; developers and representatives from the economic development community; representatives of agricultural, conservation, and environmental organizations; state and federal agency officials; and university faculty and citizens with expertise in water resources-related issues. The Department shall convene the Committee at least four times each fiscal year. Members of the Committee shall receive no compensation for their service and shall not be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

B. During each meeting of the Committee, the Department shall (i) update the Committee on activities pertaining to groundwater management in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area and (ii) solicit members to present topics and analysis for examination at future meetings. The Committee may develop specific statutory, budgetary, and regulatory recommendations, as necessary, to enhance the effectiveness of groundwater management in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area.

C. The Department shall annually report the results of the Committee's examinations and related recommendations; and ~~any responses from the Department, to the State Water Commission, the Governor, and the General Assembly post a copy of such report on its website~~ no later than November 1 of each year.

~~D. The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2025.~~

§ 62.1-69.35:2. Chairman's executive summary of activity and work of the advisory committee.

The chairman of the advisory committee shall ~~submit to the Governor and the General Assembly post on its website~~ an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the advisory committee no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. ~~The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.~~