

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2223.6, relating to*
3 *comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy.*

4
5 Approved

[H 208]

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

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-2223.6 as follows:**

8 **§ 15.2-2223.6. *Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy.***

9 *A. Beginning July 1, 2024, a locality may, during the next scheduled and all subsequent reviews of*
10 *its comprehensive plan, as required in § 15.2-2230, consider adopting a healthy communities strategy*
11 *that meets the requirements of this section.*

12 *B. The healthy communities strategy may include:*

13 *1. Identifying major sources of pollution or hazardous waste sites within the locality's jurisdiction, on*
14 *the basis of data from any federal, state, or local environmental agency or health department;*

15 *2. Identifying policies to mitigate the unique or compounded health risks to residents that may be*
16 *caused by the pollution sources or hazardous waste sites identified pursuant to subdivision 1 by means*
17 *that include the reduction of pollution exposure; the improvement of air and water quality; emergency*
18 *management; resilience to increased flooding and excessive heat; and the promotion of public facilities,*
19 *food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity;*

20 *3. Identifying objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in public decision-making*
21 *processes by residents;*

22 *4. Identifying objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that promote healthy*
23 *communities, including low-cost broadband Internet programs and Internet adoption initiatives*
24 *encompassing digital literacy and device access, job training, access to healthy foods, access to aging in*
25 *place assistance, equitable access to public parks and greenways, increased tree canopy, public transit*
26 *services, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, electric vehicle charging, and other clean transportation*
27 *options; and*

28 *5. Identifying objectives and policies that encourage linking public transit with community and health*
29 *services and siting or co-locating health services in unconventional settings to ensure convenient access*
30 *for all community members.*

ENROLLED

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