

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 [S 595]

5 Approved

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

SB595ER