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HOUSE BILL NO. 1098

Offered January 22, 1996

A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-104 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the powers of the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Patrons—Plum, Bloxom, Christian, Connally, Darner, Grayson, Murphy, Thomas, Van Landingham and Van Yahres; Senator: Howell

Referred to Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 10.1-104 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 10.1-104. Powers of the Department.

A. The Department shall have the following powers, which may be delegated by the Director:

1. To employ such personnel as may be required to carry out those duties conferred by law;

2. To make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers, including but not limited to contracts with private nonprofit organizations, the United States, other state agencies and political subdivisions of the Commonwealth;

3. To accept bequests and gifts of real and personal property as well as endowments, funds, and grants from the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and any other source. To these ends, the Department shall have the power to comply with such conditions and execute such agreements as may be necessary, convenient or desirable;

4. To prescribe rules and regulations necessary or incidental to the performance of duties or execution of powers conferred by law; ~~and~~

5. To perform acts necessary or convenient to carry out the duties conferred by law;

6. *To develop a statewide long-range plan for conserving natural resources, and biennially update that plan and submit the plan to the General Assembly by December 20 of each odd year;*

7. *To plan, develop and operate all of the Commonwealth's natural resources data bases and information systems;*

8. *To operate a statewide natural resources statistical analysis center which shall maintain a unified natural resources data base and produce reports and provide analysis and interpretation of natural resources statistical information;*

9. *To coordinate activities and projects relating to the acquisition and management of land for natural resources conservation purposes by state departments, agencies, and boards of the Commonwealth;*

10. *To coordinate the activities and projects of state departments, agencies and boards of the Commonwealth relating to the preparation, adoption, administration and implementation of comprehensive plans to conserve the Commonwealth's natural resources;*

11. *To review and evaluate state programs, projects and activities for natural resources conservation, and recommend revisions or alternatives to such programs, projects and activities for the purpose of conserving the Commonwealth's natural resources;*

12. *To conduct and stimulate research by public and private agencies which is designed to conserve the Commonwealth's natural resources; and*

13. *To serve as the lead agency for all state agency environmental education services.*

B. Pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.), the Department may promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this subtitle. A violation of any regulation shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor, unless a different penalty is prescribed by the Code of Virginia.

INTRODUCED

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