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HOUSE BILL NO. 649**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on General Laws
on February 28, 1996)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Deeds)

A BILL to amend Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 10.1-1406.1, relating to abandoned waste sites.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 10.1-1406.1 as follows:**

§ 10.1-1406.1. Access to abandoned waste sites.

A. For the purposes of this section, "abandoned waste site" means a waste site for which (i) there has not been adequate remediation or closure as required by Chapter 14 (§ 10.1-1400 et seq.) of Title 10.1, (ii) adequate financial assurances as required by § 10.1-1410 or § 10.1-1428 are not provided, and (iii) the owner, operator, or other person responsible for the cost of clean-up or remediation under state or federal law or regulation cannot be located.

B. Any local government or agency of the Commonwealth may apply to the appropriate circuit court for access to an abandoned waste site in order to investigate contamination, to abate any hazard caused by the improper management of substances within the jurisdiction of the Board, or to remediate the site. The petition shall include (i) a demonstration that all reasonable efforts have been made to locate the owner, operator or other responsible party and (ii) a plan approved by the Director and which is consistent with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The approval or disapproval of a plan shall not be considered a case decision as defined by § 9-6.14:4.

C. Any person, local government, or agency of the Commonwealth not otherwise liable under federal or state law or regulation who performs any investigative, abatement or remediation activities pursuant to this section shall not become subject to civil enforcement or remediation action under this chapter or other applicable state laws or to private civil suits related to contamination not caused by its investigative, abatement or remediation activities.

D. This section shall not in any way limit the authority of the Board, Director, or Department otherwise created by Chapter 14 (§ 10.1-1400 et seq.) of Title 19.1.