

993552412

## HOUSE BILL NO. 2178

House Amendments in [ ] — February 8, 1999

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-1183 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Department of Environmental Quality's enforcement policy.*

Patrons—Purkey, Christian, Clement, Councill, Croshaw, Guest, Harris, Howell, Kilgore, Parrish, Rollison and Wagner; Senators: Hanger, Hawkins, Holland, Mims, Norment and Woods

Referred to Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 10.1-1183 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 10.1-1183. Creation of Department of Environmental Quality; statement of policy.

There is hereby created a Department of Environmental Quality by the consolidation of the programs, functions, staff, facilities, assets and obligations of the following agencies: the State Water Control Board, the Department of Air Pollution Control, the Department of Waste Management, and the Council on the Environment. Wherever in this title and in the Code of Virginia reference is made to the Department of Air Pollution Control, the Department of Waste Management or the Council on the Environment, or any division thereof, it shall mean the Department of Environmental Quality.

It shall be the policy of the Department of Environmental Quality to protect the environment of Virginia in order to promote the health and well-being of the Commonwealth's citizens. The purposes of the Department are:

1. To assist in the effective implementation of the Constitution of Virginia by carrying out state policies aimed at conserving the Commonwealth's natural resources and protecting its atmosphere, land and waters from pollution.

2. To coordinate permit review and issuance procedures to protect all aspects of Virginia's environment.

3. To enhance public participation in the regulatory and permitting processes.

4. To establish and effectively implement a pollution prevention program to reduce the impact of pollutants on Virginia's natural resources.

5. To establish procedures for, and undertake, long-range environmental program planning and policy analysis.

6. To conduct comprehensive evaluations of the Commonwealth's environmental protection programs.

7. To provide increased opportunities for public education programs on environmental issues.

8. To develop uniform administrative systems to ensure coherent environmental policies.

9. To coordinate state reviews with federal agencies on environmental issues, such as environmental impact statements.

10. To promote environmental quality through public hearings and expeditious and comprehensive permitting, inspection, monitoring and enforcement programs, and provide effective service delivery to the regulated community.

11. To advise the Governor and General Assembly, and, on request, assist other officers, employees, and public bodies of the Commonwealth, on matters relating to environmental quality and the effectiveness of actions and programs designed to enhance that quality.

12. *To ensure that there is [ ~~uniformity~~ consistency ] in the enforcement of the laws [ ~~and~~ , ] regulations [ and policies ] as they apply to holders of permits or certificates issued by the Department, whether the owners or operators of such regulated facilities are [ ~~governmental~~ public sector ] or private sector entities.*

ENGROSSED

HB2178E