

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 10.1-1183 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Department of*
 3 *Environmental Quality's enforcement policy.*

[H 2178]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 10.1-1183 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 10.1-1183. Creation of Department of Environmental Quality; statement of policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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