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SENATE BILL NO. 1304

Offered January 21, 1999

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.1-1.5, 10.1-202, 10.1-1017, 10.1-1018, 10.1-1020, 10.1-1021 and 10.1-2213 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

Patron—Hanger

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.1-1.5, 10.1-202, 10.1-1017, 10.1-1018, 10.1-1020, 10.1-1021 and 10.1-2213 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.1-1.5. Entities not subject to standard nomenclature.

The following entities are not subject to the provisions of § 2.1-1.2 due to the unique characteristics or the enabling legislation of the entities:

Authorities

Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority.
Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority.
Richmond Eye and Ear Hospital Authority.
Small Business Financing Authority.
Virginia Agriculture Development Authority.
Virginia College Building Authority.
Virginia Economic Development Partnership.
Virginia Housing Development Authority.
Virginia Information Providers Network Authority.
Virginia Innovative Technology Authority.
Virginia Port Authority.
Virginia Public Building Authority.
Virginia Public School Authority.
Virginia Resources Authority.

Boards

Board of Commissioners, Virginia Agriculture Development Authority.
Board of Commissioners, Virginia Port Authority.
Board of Directors, Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority.
Board of Directors, Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority.
Board of Directors, Richmond Eye and Ear Hospital Authority.
Board of Directors, Small Business Financing Authority.
Board of Directors, Virginia Economic Development Partnership.
Board of Directors, Virginia Innovative Technology Authority.
Board of Directors, Virginia Resources Authority.
Board of Regents, Gunston Hall Plantation.
Board of Regents, James Monroe Memorial Law Office and Library.
Board of Trustees, Family and Children's Trust Fund.
Board of Trustees, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia.
Board of Trustees, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.
Board of Trustees, Miller School of Albemarle.
Board of Trustees, Rural Virginia Development Foundation.
Board of Trustees, The Science Museum of Virginia.
Board of Trustees, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.
Board of Trustees, Virginia Museum of Natural History.
Board of Trustees, Virginia Outdoor Foundation.
Board of Visitors, Christopher Newport University.
Board of Visitors, The College of William and Mary in Virginia.
Board of Visitors, George Mason University.
Board of Visitors, Gunston Hall Plantation.
Board of Visitors, James Madison University.
Board of Visitors, Longwood College.
Board of Visitors, Mary Washington College.
Board of Visitors to Mount Vernon.

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- 60 Board of Visitors, Norfolk State University.
- 61 Board of Visitors, Old Dominion University.
- 62 Board of Visitors, Radford University.
- 63 Board of Visitors, University of Virginia.
- 64 Board of Visitors, Virginia Commonwealth University.
- 65 Board of Visitors, Virginia Military Institute.
- 66 Board of Visitors, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.
- 67 Board of Visitors, Virginia State University.
- 68 Commonwealth Health Research Board.
- 69 Governing Board, Virginia College Building Authority.
- 70 Governing Board, Virginia Public School Authority.
- 71 Library Board, The Library of Virginia.
- 72 Motor Vehicle Dealer Board.
- 73 State Board for Community Colleges, Virginia Community College System.
- 74 Virginia-Israel Advisory Board.
- 75 (Effective until July 1, 2002) Wireless E-911 Service Board.
- 76 Commissions
- 77 Advisory Commission on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.
- 78 Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission.
- 79 Charitable Gaming Commission.
- 80 Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission.
- 81 Hampton Roads Sanitation District Commission. Districts
- 82 Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel District.
- 83 Hampton Roads Sanitation District.
- 84 Educational Institutions
- 85 Christopher Newport University.
- 86 College of William and Mary in Virginia.
- 87 Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia.
- 88 George Mason University.
- 89 James Madison University.
- 90 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.
- 91 Longwood College.
- 92 Mary Washington College.
- 93 Miller School of Albemarle.
- 94 Norfolk State University.
- 95 Old Dominion University.
- 96 Radford University.
- 97 The Science Museum of Virginia.
- 98 University of Virginia.
- 99 Virginia Commonwealth University.
- 100 Virginia Community College System.
- 101 Virginia Military Institute.
- 102 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.
- 103 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.
- 104 The Library of Virginia.
- 105 Virginia State University. Foundations
- 106 Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation.
- 107 Rural Virginia Development Foundation.
- 108 Virginia Arts Foundation.
- 109 Virginia *Land* Conservation and Recreation Foundation.
- 110 Virginia Historic Preservation Foundation.
- 111 Virginia Outdoor Foundation. Museum
- 112 Virginia Museum of Natural History. Partnership
- 113 A. L. Philpott Manufacturing Extension Partnership.
- 114 Plantation
- 115 Gunston Hall Plantation.
- 116 § 10.1-202. Gifts and funds for state parks to constitute Conservation Resources Fund.
- 117 Gifts of money, entrance fees, fees from contractor-operated concessions, and all funds accruing
- 118 from, on account of, or to the use of state parks acquired or held by the Department shall constitute the
- 119 Conservation Resources Fund. The Fund shall be under the direction and control of the Director and
- 120 may be expended for the conservation, development, maintenance, and operations of state parks acquired
- 121 or held by the Department. However, expenditures from the Fund for operation of state parks shall not

exceed, in any fiscal year, an amount equal to twenty-five percent of the revenues deposited into the Fund from fees and charges paid by visitors to state parks. The remainder of the revenues deposited into the Fund from fees and charges paid by visitors to state parks shall be expended for the conservation and development of state parks. Revenues generated from state park concessions operated by the Department shall be deposited into a separate special fund for use in operating such concessions. Unexpended portions of the Fund shall not revert to the state treasury at the close of any fiscal year unless specified by an act of the General Assembly. The Fund shall not include any gifts of money to the Virginia Land Conservation and Recreation Foundation or other funds deposited in the Virginia Land Conservation and Recreation Fund.

The proceeds from the sales of surplus property shall be used exclusively for the acquisition and development of state parks.

CHAPTER 10.2.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FOUNDATION.

§ 10.1-1017. Foundation created.

There is hereby created the Virginia Land Conservation and Recreation Foundation, hereinafter referred to as the Foundation, a body politic and corporate to have such powers and duties as hereinafter provided.

§ 10.1-1018. Virginia Land Conservation Board of Trustees.

A. The Foundation shall be governed and administered by a Board of Trustees, consisting of the Secretary of Natural Resources, the State Treasurer or his designee, and seven trustees from the Commonwealth at large. Three of the trustees-at-large shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly; two shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and two shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. The trustees-at-large shall have experience or expertise, professional or personal, in one or more of the following areas: natural resource protection and ~~conservation~~ *conservation*, construction and real estate development, natural habitat protection, environmental resource inventory and identification, forestry management, *farmland preservation*, fish and wildlife management, historic preservation, and outdoor recreation. The trustees-at-large shall initially be appointed for terms of office as follows: two for a term of two years, two for a term of three years, and three for a term of four years. Appointments thereafter shall be made for four-year terms. No trustee-at-large shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. All trustees-at-large shall post bond in the penalty of \$5,000 with the State Comptroller prior to entering upon the functions of office. The terms of the Secretary of Natural Resources and the State Treasurer or ~~his~~ *their designee designees* shall be coincident with that of the Governor. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made for the unexpired term.

B. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall serve as the chairman of the Board of Trustees. The chairman shall serve until his successor is appointed. The trustees-at-large shall elect a vice-chairman annually from the members of the Board. A majority of the members of the Board serving at any one time shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The board shall meet at the call of the chairman.

C. Trustees of the Foundation shall receive no compensation for their services but shall receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Foundation.

D. The chairman of the Board, the State Treasurer, and any other person designated by the ~~board~~ *Board* to handle the funds of the Foundation shall give bond, with corporate surety, in such penalty as is fixed by the Governor, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties. The premium on the bonds shall be paid from funds available to the Foundation for such purpose.

§ 10.1-1020. Virginia Land Conservation Fund; purposes of Foundation.

A. The Foundation shall establish, administer, manage, including the creation of reserves, and make expenditures and allocations from a special, nonreverting fund in the state treasury to be known as the Virginia Land Conservation and Recreation Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund. The Foundation shall establish and administer the Fund solely for the ~~purpose of purchasing~~ *purposes of*:

1. *Purchasing* fee simple title to or other rights, interests or privileges in property for the protection or preservation of ecological, cultural or historical resources, lands for recreational purposes, state forest lands, and lands for threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, *agricultural and forestal lands* and open space; and

2. *Providing matching grants to localities, holders as defined in § 10.1-1009 and public bodies as defined in § 10.1-1700, for purchasing fee simple title to or other rights, interests or privileges in property for the protection or preservation of ecological, cultural or historical resources, lands for recreational purposes, and lands for threatened or endangered species, fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, agricultural and forestal lands and open space.*

B. The Fund shall consist of general fund moneys and gifts, endowments or grants from the United

183 States government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and funds from any other available sources, public
184 or private. Such moneys, gifts, endowments, grants or funds from other sources may be either restricted
185 or unrestricted. For the purposes of this chapter, "restricted funds" shall mean those funds received by
186 the Board to which specific conditions apply; "restricted funds" shall include, but not be limited to,
187 general obligation bond moneys and conditional gifts. "Unrestricted funds" shall mean those received by
188 the Foundation to which no specific conditions apply; "unrestricted funds" shall include, but not be
189 limited to, moneys appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly to which no specific conditions
190 are attached and unconditional gifts.

191 *C. All unrestricted funds in the Fund shall be allocated as follows: (i) twenty-five percent to natural*
192 *areas protection; (ii) twenty-five percent to open spaces and parks; (iii) twenty-five percent to farmlands*
193 *and forest preservation; and (iv) twenty-five percent to historic areas preservation.*

194 *ED.* Any moneys remaining in the Fund at the end of a biennium shall remain in the Fund, and shall
195 not revert to the general fund. Interest earned on moneys received by the Fund other than bond proceeds
196 shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it.

197 *DE.* A portion of the Fund, not to exceed twenty percent of the annual balance of unrestricted funds,
198 may be used to develop properties purchased in fee simple with the assets of the Fund for public use
199 including, but not limited to, development of trails, parking areas, infrastructure, and interpretive projects
200 or to conduct environmental assessments or other preliminary evaluations of properties prior to the
201 acquisition of any property interest.

202 *EF.* The State Treasurer shall maintain the restricted funds and the unrestricted funds in separate
203 accounts.

204 § 10.1-1021. Powers of the Foundation.

205 In order to carry out its purposes, the Foundation shall have the following powers and duties:

206 1. To prepare a comprehensive plan that recognizes and seeks to implement all of the purposes for
207 which the Foundation is created. In preparing this plan, the Foundation shall:

208 a. Develop a strategic plan for the expenditure of unrestricted moneys received by the Fund. In
209 developing a strategic plan for expending unrestricted moneys from the Fund, the Board of Trustees
210 shall establish criteria for the expenditure of such moneys. The plan shall take into account the purposes
211 for which restricted funds have been expended or earmarked. Such criteria may include:

212 (i) The ecological, outdoor recreational, ~~and~~ historic, *agricultural and forestal* value of the property;

213 (ii) An assessment of market values;

214 (iii) Consistency with local comprehensive plans;

215 (iv) Geographical balance of properties and interests in properties to be purchased;

216 (v) Availability of public and private matching funds to assist in the purchase;

217 (vi) Imminent danger of loss of natural, outdoor, recreational or historic attributes of a significant
218 portion of the land;

219 (vii) Economic value to the locality and region attributable to the purchase; and

220 (viii) Advisory opinions from local governments, state agencies or others;

221 b. Develop an inventory of those properties in which the Commonwealth holds a legal interest for
222 the purpose set forth in subsection A of § 10.1-1020;

223 c. Develop a needs assessment for future expenditures from the Fund. In developing the needs
224 assessment, the Board of Trustees shall consider among others the properties identified in the following:

225 (i) ~~1989~~ Virginia Outdoors Plan, (ii) Virginia Natural Heritage Plan, (iii) Virginia Institute of Marine
226 Science Inventory, (iv) Virginia Joint Venture Board of the North American Waterfowl Management
227 Plan, and (v) Virginia Board of Historic Resources Inventory; and

228 d. Maintain the inventory and needs assessment on an annual basis.

229 2. To expend directly or allocate the funds received by the Foundation to the appropriate state
230 agencies for the purpose of acquiring those properties or property interests selected by the Board of
231 Trustees. In the case of restricted funds the Board's powers shall be limited by the provisions of
232 § 10.1-1022.

233 3. To submit a report biennially on the status of the Fund to the Governor and the General Assembly
234 including, but not limited to, (i) implementation of its strategic plan, (ii) projects under consideration for
235 acquisition with Fund moneys and (iii) expenditures from the Fund.

236 4. To enter into contracts and agreements, as approved by the Attorney General, to accomplish the
237 purposes of the Foundation.

238 5. To receive and expend gifts, grants and donations from whatever source to further the purposes set
239 forth in subsection B of § 10.1-1020.

240 6. To do any and all lawful acts necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes for which the
241 Foundation and Fund are established.

242 § 10.1-2213. Procedure for appropriation of state funds for historic preservation.

243 A. No state funds, other than for the maintenance and operation of those facilities specified in
244 § 10.1-2211 or § 10.1-2212 and for the purchase of property for preservation of historical resources by

the Virginia *Land Conservation and Recreation* Foundation as provided in Chapter 10.2 (§ 10.1-1017 et seq.) of this title, shall be appropriated or expended for or to historical societies, museums, foundations, associations or local governments as set forth in the general appropriations act for the maintenance of collections and exhibits or for the maintenance and operation of sites and facilities owned by historical organizations unless:

1. A request for state aid is filed by the organization with the Department, on forms prescribed by the Department, on or before the opening day of each regular session of the General Assembly in an even-numbered year. Requests shall be considered by the Governor and the General Assembly only in even-numbered years. The Department shall review each application made by an organization for state aid prior to consideration by the General Assembly. The Department shall provide a timely review of any amendments proposed by members of the General Assembly to the chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. The review shall examine the merits of each request, including data showing the percentage of nonstate funds raised by the organization for the proposed project. The review and analysis provided by the Department shall be strictly advisory. The Department shall forward to the Department of Planning and Budget any application which is not for the maintenance of collections and exhibits or for the maintenance and operation of sites and facilities owned by historical organizations. Such applications shall be governed by the procedures identified in § 2.1-394.1.

2. Such organization shall certify to the satisfaction of the Department that matching funds from local or private sources are available in an amount at least equal to the amount of the request in cash or in kind contributions which are deemed acceptable to the Department. These matching funds must be concurrent with the project for which the state grant is requested. Contributions received and spent prior to the state grant shall not be considered in satisfying the requirements of this subdivision.

3. Such organization shall provide documentation of its tax exempt status under § 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

For the purposes of this section, no grant shall be approved for private institutions of higher education or religious organizations.

B. In addition to the requirements of subsection A of this section, no state funds other than for those facilities specified in § 10.1-2211 or § 10.1-2212 shall be appropriated or expended for the renovation or reconstruction of any historic site as set forth in § 2.1-394.1 unless:

1. The property is designated as a historic landmark by the Board and is located on the register prepared by the Department pursuant to § 10.1-2202 or has been declared eligible by the Board for such designation but has not actually been placed on the register of buildings and sites provided for in § 10.1-2202;

2. The society, museum, foundation or association owning such property enters into an agreement with the Department that the property will be open to the public for at least 100 days per year for no less than five years following completion, renovation, or reconstruction;

3. The organization submits the plans and specifications of the project to the Department for review and approval to ensure that the project meets generally accepted standards for historic preservation; and

4. The organization owning the property grants to the Commonwealth a perpetual easement placing restrictions on the use or development of the property satisfactory to the Board, if the organization has received \$50,000 or more within a four-year period pursuant to this section. The easement shall be for the purpose of preserving those features of the property which led to its designation as a historic landmark.

Nothing contained in this subsection shall prohibit any organization from charging a reasonable admission fee during the five-year period required in subdivision 2 herein if the fee is comparable to fees charged at similar facilities in the area.

C. The Department shall be responsible for the administration of this section and §§ 10.1-2211 and 10.1-2212 and the disbursement of all funds appropriated thereto.

State funds appropriated for the operation of historical societies, museums, foundations and associations shall be expended for historical facilities, reenactments, meetings, conferences, tours, seminars or other general operating expenses as may be specified in the general appropriations act. Funds appropriated for these purposes shall be distributed annually to the treasurers of any such organizations. The appropriations act shall clearly designate that all such funds are to be used for the operating expenses of such organization.