

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to require the Department of Health to take steps to begin eliminating site evaluation and design*
3 *services for onsite sewage systems and private wells provided by the Department.*

4 [H 2477]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. § 1.** *That the Department of Health shall take steps to begin eliminating site evaluation and design*
8 *services for onsite sewage systems and private wells provided by the Department. In doing so, the*
9 *Department shall:*

10 *1. Require, in cases in which site evaluations and design services for onsite sewage systems and*
11 *private wells are provided by private sector service providers, that such site evaluation and design*
12 *service providers disclose to the property owner when a conventional onsite sewage system is an option;*

13 *2. Revise agency regulations and policies to require Department staff to inspect all onsite sewage*
14 *systems and private wells designed by private sector service providers;*

15 *3. Expand efforts to educate the public concerning the design, operation, and maintenance of onsite*
16 *sewage systems and private wells;*

17 *4. Expand efforts to incorporate onsite sewage systems and private well data into community health*
18 *assessments;*

19 *5. Enhance quality assurance checks and inspection procedures for the review of evaluations,*
20 *designs, and installations by private sector service providers and update its quality assurance manual to*
21 *reflect this change in the agency's business model;*

22 *6. Consider separating work unit functions regarding permitting and enforcement for onsite sewage*
23 *systems and private wells to ensure that staff reviewing evaluations and designs for permitting purposes*
24 *are separate and independent from staff performing enforcement functions;*

25 *7. Improve the collection and management of data about onsite sewage systems and private wells,*
26 *including (i) creating a web-based reporting system for conventional onsite sewage system operation*
27 *and maintenance, (ii) accepting applications and payments online, (iii) making onsite sewage system and*
28 *private well records available online, (iv) creating a complete electronic record of all permitted onsite*
29 *sewage systems and private wells in the Commonwealth, and (v) creating procedures for tracking*
30 *Notices of Alleged Violations and corrective actions; and*

31 *8. Revise agency policies to allow the transfer of valid construction permits for onsite sewage*
32 *systems and private wells to new property owners.*

33 **2. That the Department of Health shall report on its progress in implementing the provisions of**
34 **this act and any recommendations for statutory, regulatory, policy or budgetary changes that may**
35 **be necessary to implement the provisions of this act to the Secretary of Health and Human**
36 **Resources and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and**
37 **Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2017.**

ENROLLED

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