

# 2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENGROSSED

21102038D

## SENATE BILL NO. 1374

Senate Amendments in [ ] - February 5, 2021

*A BILL to establish the Carbon Sequestration Task Force; report.*

Patrons Prior to Engrossment—Senators Lewis and McClellan; Delegate: Willett

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

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

1. § 1 A. *The Secretary of Natural Resources shall, jointly with the Secretary of Agriculture and Consumer Services, convene a task force for the purpose of studying carbon sequestration in the Commonwealth.*

*B. The task force shall be composed of the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee; the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation or his designee; the Director of the Department of Wildlife Resources or his designee; the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services or his designee; the Virginia State Forester or his designee; the Marine Resources Commissioner or his designee; technical experts from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, and Virginia State University; a representative from each of the Virginia Farm Bureau, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, [ the Virginia Forestry Association, ] the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations; and other technical experts, as needed. The Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall serve as co-chairs of the task force.*

*C. The task force shall (i) consider possible methods of increasing carbon sequestration within the natural environment through state land and marine resources use policies; agricultural, aquacultural, and silvicultural practices; and other practices to achieve natural resources restoration and long-term conservation; (ii) recommend short-term and long-term benchmarks for increasing carbon sequestration; (iii) develop a standardized methodology to establish baseline carbon levels and account for increases in carbon sequestration over time; (iv) identify existing carbon markets and considerations relevant to potential participation by the Commonwealth; and (v) identify other potential funding mechanisms to encourage carbon sequestration practices in the Commonwealth.*

*D. The task force shall, before the first day of the 2022 Session of the General Assembly, submit a report of its findings to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.*

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