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**HOUSE BILL NO. 184****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources  
on January 26, 2022)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Marshall)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 62.1-44.15:27, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to administration of Virginia Stormwater Management Programs; regional industrial facility authorities.*

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

**1. That § 62.1-44.15:27, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 62.1-44.15:27. (For expiration date, see Acts 2016, cc. 68 and 758, as amended by Acts 2017, c. 345) Establishment of Virginia Stormwater Management Programs.**

A. Any locality that operates a regulated MS4 or that notifies the Department of its decision to participate in the establishment of a VSMP shall be required to adopt a VSMP for land-disturbing activities consistent with the provisions of this article according to a schedule set by the Department. Such schedule shall require implementation no later than July 1, 2014. Thereafter, the Department shall provide an annual schedule by which localities can submit applications to implement a VSMP. Localities subject to this subsection are authorized to coordinate plan review and inspections with other entities in accordance with subsection H.

The Department shall operate a VSMP on behalf of any locality that does not operate a regulated MS4 and that does not notify the Department, according to a schedule set by the Department, of its decision to participate in the establishment of a VSMP. A locality that decides not to establish a VSMP shall still comply with the requirements set forth in this article and attendant regulations as required to satisfy the stormwater flow rate capacity and velocity requirements set forth in the Erosion and Sediment Control Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.). A locality that is subject to the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et seq.) also shall adopt requirements set forth in this article and attendant regulations as required to regulate Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act land-disturbing activities in accordance with § 62.1-44.15:28. To comply with the water quantity technical criteria set forth in this article and attendant regulations, a rural Tidewater locality may adopt a tiered approach to water quantity management for Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act land-disturbing activities pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:27.2.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, any county that operates an MS4 that became a regulated MS4 on or after January 1, 2014 may elect, on a schedule set by the Department, to defer the implementation of the county's VSMP until no later than January 1, 2015. During this deferral period, when such county thus lacks the legal authority to operate a VSMP, the Department shall operate a VSMP on behalf of the county and address post-construction stormwater runoff and the required design criteria for stormwater runoff controls. Any such county electing to defer the establishment of its VSMP shall still comply with the requirements set forth in this article and attendant regulations as required to satisfy the stormwater flow rate capacity and velocity requirements set forth in the Erosion and Sediment Control Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.).

B. Any town, including a town that operates a regulated MS4, lying within a county that has adopted a VSMP in accordance with subsection A may decide, but shall not be required, to become subject to the county's VSMP. Any town lying within a county that operates an MS4 that became a regulated MS4 on or after January 1, 2014 may elect to become subject to the county's VSMP according to the deferred schedule established in subsection A. During the county's deferral period, the Department shall operate a VSMP on behalf of the town and address post-construction stormwater runoff and the required design criteria for stormwater runoff controls for the town as provided in subsection A. If a town lies within the boundaries of more than one county, the town shall be considered to be wholly within the county in which the larger portion of the town lies. Towns shall inform the Department of their decision according to a schedule established by the Department. Thereafter, the Department shall provide an annual schedule by which towns can submit applications to adopt a VSMP.

C. In support of VSMP authorities, the Department shall:

1. Provide assistance grants to localities not currently operating a local stormwater management program to help the localities to establish their VSMP.

2. Provide technical assistance and training.

3. Provide qualified services in specified geographic areas to a VSMP to assist localities in the administration of components of their programs. The Department shall actively assist localities in the establishment of their programs and in the selection of a contractor or other entity that may provide

60 support to the locality or regional support to several localities.

61 D. The Department shall develop a model ordinance for establishing a VSMP consistent with this  
62 article and its associated regulations, including the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP)  
63 General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities.

64 E. Each locality that administers an approved VSMP shall, by ordinance, establish a VSMP that shall  
65 be administered in conjunction with a local MS4 program and a local erosion and sediment control  
66 program if required pursuant to the Erosion and Sediment Control Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.), and  
67 which shall include the following:

68 1. Consistency with regulations adopted in accordance with provisions of this article;

69 2. Provisions for long-term responsibility for and maintenance of stormwater management control  
70 devices and other techniques specified to manage the quality and quantity of runoff; and

71 3. Provisions for the integration of the VSMP with local erosion and sediment control, flood  
72 insurance, flood plain management, and other programs requiring compliance prior to authorizing  
73 construction in order to make the submission and approval of plans, issuance of permits, payment of  
74 fees, and coordination of inspection and enforcement activities more convenient and efficient both for  
75 the local governments and those responsible for compliance with the programs.

76 F. The Board may approve a state entity, including the Department, federal entity, or, for linear  
77 projects subject to annual standards and specifications, electric, natural gas, and telephone utility  
78 companies, interstate and intrastate natural gas pipeline companies, railroad companies, or authorities  
79 created pursuant to § 15.2-5102 to operate a Virginia Stormwater Management Program consistent with  
80 the requirements of this article and its associated regulations and the VSMP authority's  
81 Department-approved annual standards and specifications. For these programs, enforcement shall be  
82 administered by the Department and the Board where applicable in accordance with the provisions of  
83 this article.

84 G. The Board shall approve a VSMP when it deems a program consistent with this article and  
85 associated regulations, including the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) General Permit  
86 for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities.

87 H. A VSMP authority may enter into agreements or contracts with soil and water conservation  
88 districts, adjacent localities, or other public or private entities to carry out or assist with the  
89 responsibilities of this article. A VSMP authority may enter into contracts with third-party professionals  
90 who hold certificates of competence in the appropriate subject areas, as provided in subsection A of  
91 § 62.1-44.15:30, to carry out any or all of the responsibilities that this article requires of a VSMP  
92 authority, including plan review and inspection but not including enforcement.

93 I. If a locality establishes a VSMP, it shall issue a consolidated stormwater management and erosion  
94 and sediment control permit that is consistent with the provisions of the Erosion and Sediment Control  
95 Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.). When available in accordance with subsection J, such permit, where  
96 applicable, shall also include a copy of or reference to state VSMP permit coverage authorization to  
97 discharge.

98 J. Upon the development of an online reporting system by the Department, but no later than July 1,  
99 2014, a VSMP authority shall then be required to obtain evidence of state VSMP permit coverage where  
100 it is required prior to providing approval to begin land disturbance.

101 K. Any VSMP adopted pursuant to and consistent with this article shall be considered to meet the  
102 stormwater management requirements under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et  
103 seq.) and attendant regulations, and effective July 1, 2014, shall not be subject to local program review  
104 under the stormwater management provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

105 L. All VSMP authorities shall comply with the provisions of this article and the stormwater  
106 management provisions of the Erosion and Sediment Control Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.) and related  
107 regulations. The VSMP authority responsible for regulating the land-disturbing activity shall require  
108 compliance with the issued permit, permit conditions, and plan specifications. The state shall enforce  
109 state permits.

110 M. *In the case of a land-disturbing activity located on property controlled by a regional industrial*  
111 *facility authority established pursuant to Chapter 64 (§ 15.2-6400 et seq.) of Title 15.2, if a*  
112 *participating local member of such an authority also administers a VSMP, such locality shall be*  
113 *authorized to administer the VSMP on authority property, in accordance with an agreement entered into*  
114 *with all relevant localities and the existing VSMP for the property.*

115 **§ 62.1-44.15:27. (For effective date, see Acts 2016, cc. 68 and 758, as amended by Acts 2017, c.**  
116 **345) Virginia Programs for Erosion Control and Stormwater Management.**

117 A. Any locality that operates a regulated MS4 or that administers a Virginia Stormwater Management  
118 Program (VSMP) as of July 1, 2017, shall be required to adopt and administer a VSMP consistent  
119 with the provisions of this article that regulates any land-disturbing activity that (i) disturbs 10,000  
120 square feet or more or (ii) disturbs 2,500 square feet or more in an area of a locality designated as a  
121 Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et

seq.). The VESMP shall be adopted according to a process established by the Department.

B. Any locality that does not operate a regulated MS4 and for which the Department administers a VSMP as of July 1, 2017, shall choose one of the following options and shall notify the Department of its choice according to a process established by the Department:

1. Adopt and administer a VESMP consistent with the provisions of this article that regulates any land-disturbing activity that (i) disturbs 10,000 square feet or more or (ii) disturbs 2,500 square feet or more in an area of a locality designated as a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et seq.);

2. Adopt and administer a VESMP consistent with the provisions of this article that regulates any land-disturbing activity that (i) disturbs 10,000 square feet or more or (ii) disturbs 2,500 square feet or more in an area of a locality designated as a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et seq.), except that the Department shall provide the locality with review of the plan required by § 62.1-44.15:34 and provide a recommendation to the locality on the plan's compliance with the water quality and water quantity technical criteria; or

3. Adopt and administer a VESCP pursuant to Article 2.4 (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.) that regulates any land-disturbing activity that (i) disturbs 10,000 square feet or more or (ii) disturbs 2,500 square feet or more in an area of a locality designated as a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et seq.). For such a land-disturbing activity in a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area, the VESCP authority also shall adopt requirements set forth in this article and attendant regulations as required to regulate those activities in accordance with §§ 62.1-44.15:28 and 62.1-44.15:34.

The Board shall administer a VSMP on behalf of each VESCP authority for any land-disturbing activity that (a) disturbs one acre or more of land or (b) disturbs less than one acre of land and is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that results in one acre or greater of land disturbance.

C. Any town that is required to or elects to adopt and administer a VESMP or VESCP, as applicable, may choose one of the following options and shall notify the Department of its choice according to a process established by the Department:

1. Any town, including a town that operates a regulated MS4, lying within a county may enter into an agreement with the county to become subject to the county's VESMP. If a town lies within the boundaries of more than one county, it may enter into an agreement with any of those counties that operates a VESMP.

2. Any town that chooses not to adopt and administer a VESMP pursuant to subdivision B 3 and that lies within a county may enter into an agreement with the county to become subject to the county's VESMP or VESCP, as applicable. If a town lies within the boundaries of more than one county, it may enter into an agreement with any of those counties.

3. Any town that is subject to the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et seq.) may enter into an agreement with a county pursuant to subdivision C 1 or 2 only if the county administers a VESMP for land-disturbing activities that disturb 2,500 square feet or more.

D. Any locality that chooses not to implement a VESMP pursuant to subdivision B 3 may notify the Department at any time that it has chosen to implement a VESMP pursuant to subdivision B 1 or 2. Any locality that chooses to implement a VESMP pursuant to subdivision B 2 may notify the Department at any time that it has chosen to implement a VESMP pursuant to subdivision B 1. A locality may petition the Board at any time for approval to change from fully administering a VESMP pursuant to subdivision B 1 to administering a VESMP in coordination with the Department pursuant to subdivision B 2 due to a significant change in economic conditions or other fiscal emergency in the locality. The provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) shall govern any appeal of the Board's decision.

E. To comply with the water quantity technical criteria set forth in this article and attendant regulations for land-disturbing activities that disturb an area of 2,500 square feet or more but less than one acre, any rural Tidewater locality may adopt a tiered approach to water quantity management pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:27.2.

F. In support of VESMP authorities, the Department shall provide technical assistance and training and general assistance to localities in the establishment and administration of their individual or regional programs.

G. The Department shall develop a model ordinance for establishing a VESMP consistent with this article.

H. Each locality that operates a regulated MS4 or that chooses to administer a VESMP shall, by ordinance, establish a VESMP that shall be administered in conjunction with a local MS4 management program, if applicable, and which shall include the following:

1. Ordinances, policies, and technical materials consistent with regulations adopted in accordance

183 with this article;

184 2. Requirements for land-disturbance approvals;

185 3. Requirements for plan review, inspection, and enforcement consistent with the requirements of this  
186 article, including provisions requiring periodic inspections of the installation of stormwater management  
187 measures. A VESMP authority may require monitoring and reports from the person responsible for  
188 meeting the permit conditions to ensure compliance with the permit and to determine whether the  
189 measures required in the permit provide effective stormwater management;

190 4. Provisions charging each applicant a reasonable fee to defray the cost of program administration  
191 for a regulated land-disturbing activity that does not require permit coverage. Such fee may be in  
192 addition to any fee charged pursuant to the statewide fee schedule established in accordance with  
193 subdivision 9 of § 62.1-44.15:28, although payment of fees may be consolidated in order to provide  
194 greater convenience and efficiency for those responsible for compliance with the program. A VESMP  
195 authority shall hold a public hearing prior to establishing such fees. The fee shall not exceed an amount  
196 commensurate with the services rendered, taking into consideration the time, skill, and the VESMP  
197 authority's expense involved;

198 5. Provisions for long-term responsibility for and maintenance of stormwater management control  
199 devices and other techniques specified to manage the quality and quantity of runoff; and

200 6. Provisions for the coordination of the VESMP with flood insurance, flood plain management, and  
201 other programs requiring compliance prior to authorizing land disturbance in order to make the  
202 submission and approval of plans, issuance of land-disturbance approvals, payment of fees, and  
203 coordination of inspection and enforcement activities more convenient and efficient both for the local  
204 governments and those responsible for compliance with the programs.

205 I. The Board shall approve a VESMP when it deems a program consistent with this article and  
206 associated regulations.

207 J. A VESMP authority may enter into agreements or contracts with the Department, soil and water  
208 conservation districts, adjacent localities, planning district commissions, or other public or private  
209 entities to carry out or assist with plan review and inspections. A VESMP authority may enter into  
210 contracts with third-party professionals who hold certifications in the appropriate subject areas, as  
211 provided in subsection A of § 62.1-44.15:30, to carry out any or all of the responsibilities that this  
212 article requires of a VESMP authority, including plan review and inspection but not including  
213 enforcement.

214 K. A VESMP authority shall be required to obtain evidence of permit coverage from the  
215 Department's online reporting system, where such coverage is required, prior to providing  
216 land-disturbance approval.

217 L. The VESMP authority responsible for regulating the land-disturbing activity shall require  
218 compliance with its applicable ordinances and the conditions of its land-disturbance approval and plan  
219 specifications. The Board shall enforce permits and require compliance with its applicable regulations,  
220 including when serving as a VSMP authority in a locality that chose not to adopt a VESMP in  
221 accordance with subdivision B 3.

222 M. *In the case of a land-disturbing activity located on property controlled by a regional industrial*  
223 *facility authority established pursuant to Chapter 64 (§ 15.2-6400 et seq.) of Title 15.2, if a*  
224 *participating local member of such an authority also administers a VESMP, such locality shall be*  
225 *authorized to administer the VESMP on authority property, in accordance with an agreement entered*  
226 *into with all relevant localities and the existing VSMP or VESMP for the property.*