

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 5 of Chapter 9 of Title 15.2 a section*
3 *numbered 15.2-977.1, relating to local incentives for urban green space.*

4 [H 1510]

5 Approved

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

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 5 of Chapter 9 of Title 15.2 a**
8 **section numbered 15.2-977.1, as follows:**

9 **§ 15.2-977.1. Local incentives for urban green space.**

10 *A. For purposes of this section, "urban green space" means urban land, partly or completely covered*
11 *with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation, that is located in a densely populated area that has a high*
12 *concentration of residential or commercial structures. "Urban green space" includes street trees, city*
13 *parks, sports fields, gardens, and greenways. To qualify as urban green space, the use of such land*
14 *must make a substantive impact on the reduction of the urban heat effect, the offsetting of greenhouse*
15 *gas emissions, or the mitigation of stormwater. Rural areas and areas of low population density or*
16 *development shall not be considered urban green space.*

17 *B. Any county, city, or town may, by ordinance, establish a program to provide regulatory flexibility*
18 *to encourage the preservation, restoration, or development of urban green space in the locality. Any*
19 *such regulatory flexibility provided shall be proportionate to the amount of urban green space that a*
20 *business or development contains.*

21 *C. The regulatory flexibility may include (i) a reduction in permit fees or (ii) a streamlined process*
22 *for the approval of permits.*

ENROLLED

HB1510ER