

## 2023 SESSION

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### HOUSE BILL NO. 2310

Offered January 11, 2023

*Requesting the Department of Housing and Community Development to study opportunities for rural areas of the Commonwealth to upgrade their public water and sewer systems. Report.*

Patron—Williams

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, a lack of adequate public water and sewer systems in the Commonwealth's rural areas are an existing threat to local health and safety; and

WHEREAS, improvements in public water and sewer systems can promote economic development in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, a variety of programs currently exist that provide technical and financial assistance to rural areas for the purpose of expanding, repairing, or replacing public water and sewer systems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Housing and Community Development be requested to study opportunities for rural areas of the Commonwealth to upgrade their public water and sewer systems.

In conducting its study, the Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department) shall focus on how to better direct existing programs, or develop new programs, to help the Commonwealth's rural areas expand, repair, or replace their public water and sewer systems. An emphasis shall be placed on opportunities for localities to receive matching grants for such purposes from the Commonwealth and the federal government.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Department by the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department for this study, upon request.

The Department shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2023, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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