

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Fire Programs to convene a work group to identify and analyze*
3 *options to provide preemptive and ongoing health care to local government employees exposed to*
4 *toxic materials.*

5 [H 133]

6 Approved

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

8 **1. § 1.** *That the Department of Fire Programs shall convene a work group to identify and analyze*
9 *options to help ensure that local government employees who respond to emergencies that expose them to*
10 *toxic materials have appropriate preemptive and ongoing health care and are able to pay any health*
11 *expenses related to such emergency and its aftereffects that are not covered by relevant health insurance*
12 *plans. The work group shall consist of representatives from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs,*
13 *the Department of Planning and Budget, the Virginia Retirement System, and the Department of the*
14 *Treasury; a designee from each of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, the Virginia State Firefighters*
15 *Association, and the Virginia State Police Association; and staff of the House Committee on*
16 *Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, and may include any other*
17 *relevant stakeholders.*

18 *The work group shall consider: (i) options for creating and determining eligibility for a grant*
19 *program to assist local government employee responders, factors that would qualify an event as an*
20 *emergency for which such grants may be awarded, and what other emergencies in the past 15 years*
21 *could or should qualify; (ii) a detailed plan for administering grants and moneys to support such grant*
22 *program; (iii) a review of relevant approaches used in other states and at the federal level for assisting*
23 *such responders; (iv) identification of the appropriate body to invest and manage the funds; (v) a*
24 *detailed plan for providing annual cancer screenings for eligible local government employee responders;*
25 *and (vi) what types of out-of-pocket expenses should be addressed by grant funding. The work group*
26 *shall report its findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2024.*

ENROLLED

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