

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a work group*
3 *relating to blue catfish; report.*

4
5 Approved

[S 402]

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

7 **1.** § 1. *That the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (the Department) shall, in order to*
8 *support and encourage coordination regarding efforts to create a robust and resilient market for blue*
9 *catfish, convene a work group of stakeholders that have a vested interest in reducing the negative*
10 *ecological effects of blue catfish and increasing the marketing, processing, and sale of blue catfish in*
11 *the Commonwealth. The work group shall include representatives of the following: the Marine*
12 *Resources Commission, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the James River*
13 *Association, the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center, the Marine Products*
14 *Board, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Virginia Waterman's Association, the Virginia*
15 *Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, current and prospective blue catfish processors, Friends of*
16 *the Rappahannock, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other state agencies or stakeholders deemed*
17 *necessary by the Department. The work group shall (i) review past and ongoing efforts to promote the*
18 *creation of a market for blue catfish, (ii) identify and explore potential sectors for the blue catfish*
19 *market, and (iii) identify any actions that the Commonwealth can take to promote and expand the*
20 *market for blue catfish. The Department shall submit a report of the findings and recommendations of*
21 *the work group to the Governor, the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, the Secretary of Natural and*
22 *Historic Resources, and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural*
23 *Resources, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, the House Committee on Agriculture,*
24 *Chesapeake and Natural Resources, and the House Committee on Appropriations no later than*
25 *September 1, 2025.*

ENROLLED

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