

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2024 SESSION

CHAPTER 753

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-220.5, 10.1-104.6:1, 10.1-603.25, 10.1-603.29, and 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 2.2-435.11 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth; Interagency Resilience Management Team; Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund; Advisory Review Committee.

[H 1458]

Approved April 8, 2024

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-220.5, 10.1-104.6:1, 10.1-603.25, 10.1-603.29, and 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-220.5. Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth; Interagency Resilience Management Team.

A. The Governor shall designate a Chief Resilience Officer. The Chief Resilience Officer shall serve as the primary coordinator of resilience and adaptation initiatives in Virginia and as the primary point of contact regarding issues related to resilience, ~~recurrent flooding, all flooding-related pre-disaster hazard mitigation, and adaptation as that term is defined in § 10.1-603.28.~~ The Chief Resilience Officer shall be equally responsible for all urban, suburban, and rural areas of the Commonwealth. *All agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Chief Resilience Officer in the discharge of his duties upon request.*

B. ~~The Chief Resilience Officer's duties, in consultation with the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, shall include but not be limited to the following~~ Officer shall (i) promote communication, coordination, and cooperation between state agencies, the federal government, local governments, other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, and other interested parties regarding resilience; (ii) lead in developing and in providing direction and ensuring accountability for a statewide resilience and adaptation strategy; (iii) seek to ensure that resilience and adaptation strategies prioritize the protection of Virginia's natural resources and maximize the implementation of nature-based design while supporting Virginia's statutory obligations to clean water; and (iv) initiate and assist with economic development opportunities associated with adaptation. *The Chief Resilience Officer, in his role, shall also:*

1. ~~Identify and monitor those areas of the Commonwealth that are at greatest risk from recurrent flooding and increased future flooding significant multi-hazard threats and recommend actions that both the private and public sectors should consider in order to increase the resilience of such areas.;~~

2. ~~Upon the request of any locality in the Commonwealth in which is located a substantial flood defense or catchment area, including a levee, reservoir, dam, catch basin, or wetland or lake improved or constructed for the purpose of flood control, review and comment on plans for the construction or substantial reinforcement of such flood defense or catchment area. Provide support to local governments, as that term is defined in § 10.1-603.28, that are seeking to promote resilience within their communities by providing technical assistance and capacity building support regarding best practices for resilience planning, data collection, and project design and implementation;~~

3. ~~Serve as the primary point of contact on all issues relating to pre-disaster hazard mitigation and coordinate the planning of resilience initiatives across state government. Coordinate with the Department of Emergency Management on all issues related to pre-disaster hazard mitigation and post-disaster recovery;~~

4. ~~Create and oversee Assist the Department of Conservation and Recreation with the development and implementation of a Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and a Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan in accordance with § 10.1-602 to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, health, the economy, and the environment.;~~

5. ~~Initiate and assist with the pursuit of~~ *Seek to maximize the coordination, availability, and use of federal, state, and private funding to address resilience challenges, including initiating and assisting with the pursuit of funding opportunities for resilience initiatives at both the state and local levels and help to oversee and coordinate funding initiatives of all agencies of the Commonwealth. In order to maximize federal funding, the Chief Resilience Officer is authorized to:*

a. *Serve as a non-federal sponsor, as that term is described in 33 C.F.R. § 203.15, and enter into a legal agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the purpose of mitigating flooding and integrating resilience, at the request of and in coordination with an eligible funding recipient;*

b. *Enter into and execute agreements with the federal government, including the U.S. Department of Defense, for support for flood control initiatives to increase resilience related to U.S. Department of Defense installations; and*

c. *Make applications on behalf of the Commonwealth for other federal funding as directed by the Governor;*

6. *Coordinate the collection and dissemination of the best available resilience science, legal guidance, and planning strategies, best practices, and needs assessments to the public. Such needs assessments shall include any local government needs assessments that have been submitted to the Chief Resilience Officer. Such information shall be made available on a publicly accessible website; and*

7. *Beginning July 1, 2023 2025, and every two years thereafter, report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the status of flood resilience in the Commonwealth. The Such report shall serve as an evaluation of flood protection for critical infrastructure, including human and natural infrastructure. The report shall identify risks to critical transportation, energy, communication, water and food supply, waste management, health, and emergency services infrastructure. The report shall also include the status of flood resilience planning include the status of actions undertaken by the Chief Resilience Officer and state agencies regarding resilience coordination and planning and all resilience funding received and distributed by the Commonwealth during the prior two years. In preparing the report, the Chief Resilience Officer shall also coordinate with the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and shall be assisted by all relevant Secretariats and agencies.*

C. *The Chief Resilience Officer shall convene an Interagency Resilience Management Team (the Team) to support the coordination of planning and implementation of resilience efforts, and he shall serve as chairman of the Team. The Team shall meet on the call of the chairman but not less than once every three months. Membership of the Team shall include representatives from the Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Conservation and Recreation, Emergency Management, Energy, Environmental Quality, Forestry, General Services, Health, Historic Resources, Housing and Community Development, Transportation, and Wildlife Resources; the Marine Resources Commission; the Virginia Resources Authority; the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and others as appointed by the Governor. Each agency participating in the Team shall designate a resilience coordinator to represent such agency in the Team. The responsibilities of the Team shall include:*

1. *Exchanging information and best practices related to resilience, including means of integrating common language and practices for resilience work across agencies;*

2. *Advising the Chief Resilience Officer on strategies for enhancing resilience planning and funding coordination across agencies under a unified statewide approach to resilience; and*

3. *Recommending metrics for measuring the progress of resilience efforts in the Commonwealth.*

§ 10.1-104.6:1. ConserveVirginia program established.

A. *The Department shall develop a program for the creation, maintenance, operation, and regular updating of a data-driven Geographical Information Systems model to prioritize potential conservation areas across the Commonwealth that would provide quantifiable benefits to the citizens of Virginia. Such program shall be known as ConserveVirginia. The model shall synthesize multiple mapped data inputs, divided into categories, each representing a different overarching conservation value, including (i) agriculture and forestry, (ii) natural habitat and ecosystem diversity, (iii) floodplains and flooding resilience, (iv) cultural and historic preservation, (v) scenic preservation, (vi) protected landscapes resilience, and (vii) water quality improvement.*

B. *The Department shall consult regularly with the Chief Resilience Officer, the Special Assistant for Coastal Adaptation and Protection of the Commonwealth, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Historic Resources, the Department of Wildlife Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Marine Resources Commission, and any other state or federal agency or private organization deemed appropriate to provide data or information to update methodologies, map layers, and emerging conservation priorities.*

C. *The Department shall review and revise the methodology used to develop and prioritize each conservation value identified in subsection A. The Department shall conduct such review and revision process no less than once every two years, and such process shall include public hearings and solicitation of public comment. The Department shall continue to develop ways to incorporate and encourage environmental justice, as defined in § 2.2-234, into all existing and future conservation values. The Department shall not utilize any methodology or conservation value to limit a landowner's decision on implementing any aspect of an approved forest management plan or any appropriate best management practice to achieve water quality improvements.*

D. *The Department shall provide access to the ConserveVirginia model to the public and all state and federal agencies that benefit by using ConserveVirginia to determine conservation priorities.*

E. *The Department shall incorporate ConserveVirginia into acquisition or grant decisions when appropriate.*

F. *The Department shall utilize information provided by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Forestry when creating the Agriculture and Forestry map layers of ConserveVirginia. Such information shall include, as appropriate, new data sources that better reflect the economic viability of working farms and forests. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Forestry shall engage agriculture and forestry stakeholders to improve and refine the ConserveVirginia model to accurately reflect the conservation value of*

agricultural and forestal land in the Commonwealth. Such information shall inform whether the ConserveVirginia conservation values related to agriculture and forestry have been achieved.

§ 10.1-603.25. Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; loan and grant program.

A. The Virginia ~~Shoreline Resiliency~~ *Community Flood Preparedness Fund* is hereby ~~continued established~~ as a permanent and perpetual fund ~~to be known as the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund~~. All sums that are designated for deposit in the Fund from revenue generated by the sale of emissions allowances pursuant to subdivision C 1 of § 10.1-1330, all sums that may be appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly, all receipts by the Fund from the repayment of loans made by it to local governments, all income from the investment of moneys held in the Fund, and any other sums designated for deposit to the Fund from any source, public or private, including any federal grants and awards or other forms of assistance received by the Commonwealth that are eligible for deposit in the Fund under federal law, shall be designated for deposit to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including any appropriated funds and all principal, interest accrued, and payments, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. All loans and grants provided under this article shall be deemed to promote the public purposes of enhancing flood prevention or protection and coastal resilience.

B. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of enhancing flood prevention or protection and coastal resilience as required by this article. The Authority shall manage the Fund and shall establish interest rates and repayment terms of such loans as provided in this article in accordance with a memorandum of agreement with the Department. The Authority may disburse from the Fund its reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the management of the Fund. The Department shall direct distribution of loans and grants from the Fund in accordance with the provisions of subsection D.

C. The Authority is authorized at any time and from time to time to pledge, assign, or transfer from the Fund or any bank or trust company designated by the Authority any or all of the assets of the Fund to be held in trust as security for the payment of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on any and all bonds, as defined in § 62.1-199, issued to finance any flood prevention or protection project undertaken pursuant to the provisions of this article. In addition, the Authority is authorized at any time and from time to time to sell upon such terms and conditions as the Authority deems appropriate any loan or interest thereon made pursuant to this article. The net proceeds of the sale remaining after payment of costs and expenses shall be designated for deposit to, and become part of, the Fund.

D. 1. The Fund shall be administered by the Department as prescribed in this article. The Department, in consultation with the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and the ~~Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection~~ *Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth*, shall establish guidelines regarding the distribution and prioritization of loans and grants, including loans and grants that support flood prevention or protection studies of statewide or regional significance. *The Department shall develop and provide an opportunity for a 30-day public comment period prior to each new grant or loan offering to solicit feedback on proposed revisions to the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Manual. A record of each application for a grant or loan and the action taken thereon shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Department and on a publicly accessible website.*

2. *The Director shall convene an Advisory Review Committee (the Committee) to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Fund. The Committee shall review applications to the Fund and make recommendations on the disbursement of moneys from the Fund and any other appropriate issues to the Department, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, and the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth. The Committee shall include representatives from the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Housing and Community Development, a nonprofit group engaged in resilience efforts, the agriculture industry, the manufacturing industry, and the business community, the Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and others as the Director deems appropriate. Appointed members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.*

E. Localities shall use moneys from the Fund primarily for the purpose of implementing flood prevention and protection projects and studies in areas that are subject to recurrent flooding as confirmed by a locality-certified floodplain manager. Moneys in the Fund may be used to mitigate future flood damage and to assist inland and coastal communities across the Commonwealth that are subject to recurrent or repetitive flooding. No less than 25 percent of the moneys disbursed from the Fund each year shall be used for projects in low-income geographic areas. Priority shall be given to projects that implement community-scale hazard mitigation activities that use nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk.

F. Any locality is authorized to secure a loan made pursuant to this section by placing a lien up to the value of the loan against any property that benefits from the loan. Such a lien shall be subordinate to each prior lien on such property, except prior liens for which the prior lienholder executes a written subordination agreement, in a form and substance acceptable to the prior lienholder in its sole and exclusive discretion, that is recorded in the land records where the property is located.

G. Any locality using moneys in the Fund to provide a loan for a project in a low-income geographic area is authorized to forgive the principal of such loan. If a locality forgives the principal of any such loan, any obligation of the locality to repay that principal to the Commonwealth shall not be forgiven and such obligation shall remain in full force and effect. The total amount of loans forgiven by all localities in a fiscal year shall not exceed 30 percent of the amount appropriated in such fiscal year to the Fund by the General Assembly.

§ 10.1-603.29. Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund.

~~There shall be set apart~~ A. *The Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund is established as a permanent and perpetual fund, to be known as the "Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund,". All sums appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly, all sums allocated to the Commonwealth for resilience purposes through the federal government, all receipts by the Fund from loans made by it to local governments, all income from the investment of moneys held in the Fund, and any other sums designated for deposit to the Fund from any source public or private shall be designated for deposit to the Fund.* The Fund shall be administered and managed by the Authority as prescribed in this article, subject to the right of the Department, following consultation with the Authority, *the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, and the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth*, to direct the distribution of loans or grants from the Fund to particular local governments and to establish the interest rates and repayment terms of such loans as provided in this article. A portion of the Fund shall be reserved to hold money that is allocated only for the hazard mitigation of buildings and that shall not be available for other uses. In order to carry out the administration and management of the Fund, the Authority is granted the power to employ officers, employees, agents, advisers, and consultants, including, without limitation, attorneys, financial advisers, engineers, and other technical advisers and public accountants and, the provisions of any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, to determine their duties and compensation without the approval of any other agency or instrumentality. The Authority may disburse from the Fund its reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the administration and management of the Fund and a reasonable fee to be approved by the Department for its management services. The Authority may provide a portion of that fee to the Department to cover the Department's costs and expenses in administering the Fund.

B. 1. *The Department shall develop and provide an opportunity for a 30-day public comment period prior to each new loan or grant offering to solicit feedback on proposed revisions to the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund Manual. A record of each application for a grant or loan from the Fund and the action taken thereon shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Department and on a publicly accessible website.*

2. *The Director shall convene an Advisory Review Committee (the Committee) to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Fund. The Committee shall review applications to the Fund and make recommendations on the disbursement of moneys from the Fund and any other appropriate issues to the Department, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, and the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth. The Committee shall include representatives from the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Housing and Community Development, a nonprofit group engaged in resilience efforts, the agriculture industry, the manufacturing industry, and the business community, the Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and others as the Director deems appropriate. Appointed members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.*

§ 10.1-659. Flood protection programs; coordination.

A. The provisions of this chapter shall be coordinated with the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, and federal, state, and local flood prevention and water quality programs to minimize loss of life, property damage, and negative impacts on the environment. This program coordination shall include but not be limited to the following: flood prevention, flood plain management, small watershed protection, dam safety, shoreline erosion and public beach preservation, and soil conservation programs of the Department of Conservation and Recreation; the construction activities of the Department of Transportation, including projects that result in hydrologic modification of rivers, streams, and flood plains; the nontidal wetlands, water quality, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area criteria, stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and other water management programs of the State Water Control Board; the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality; forested watershed management programs of the Department of Forestry; the agricultural stewardship, farmland preservation, and disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the statewide building code and other land use control programs of the Department of Housing and Community Development; the habitat management programs of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission; the hazard mitigation planning and disaster response programs of the Department of Emergency Management; the fish and wildlife habitat protection programs of the Department of Wildlife Resources; the mineral extraction regulatory program of the Department of Energy; the flood plain restrictions of the Virginia Waste Management Board; flooding-related research programs of the state universities; local government assistance programs of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board; the Virginia Antiquities Act program of the Department of Historic Resources; the public health and preparedness programs of the Virginia

Department of Health; the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; the State Corporation Commission; and any other state agency programs deemed necessary by the Director, *and the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth, and the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection*. The Department shall also coordinate with soil and water conservation districts, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents, and planning district commissions, and shall coordinate and cooperate with localities in rendering assistance to such localities in their efforts to comply with the planning, subdivision of land, and zoning provisions of Chapter 22 (§ 15.2-2200 et seq.) of Title 15.2.

B. The Director, in coordination with ~~the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection~~ and the Chief Resilience Officer *of the Commonwealth*, shall hold meetings of representatives of the programs, entities, and localities described in subsection A at least annually in order to determine, coordinate, and prioritize the Commonwealth's efforts and expenditures to increase flooding resilience and flood preparedness and to implement the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan and the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan. The Department shall review any revisions to the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and provide an update on the progress of the implementation of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan at any such meetings. The Department shall cooperate with other public and private agencies having flood plain management programs and shall coordinate its responsibilities under this article and any other law. These activities shall constitute the Commonwealth's flood resilience, preparedness, prevention, and protection program.

C. 1. The *Director, in coordination with the Chief Resilience Officer, in coordination with the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection and the Director of the Commonwealth*, shall establish the Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee (the Committee) to assist with developing, updating, and implementing the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

2. The Committee shall be ~~comprised~~ *composed* of representatives of state agencies, coastal planning district commissions, regional commissions, academic advisors, and any other representatives as needed. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall include the following individuals or their designees: the executive directors of coastal planning district commissions and regional commissions; ~~the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection; the Director; the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth; the Director of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management; the Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; the Executive Director of the Virginia Resources Authority; the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality; the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation; the Director of the Virginia Transportation Research Council; the Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission; the Director of the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience; the Associate Dean for Research and Advisory Services at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; the Director of the William and Mary School of Law Coastal Policy Center~~ *Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative at the College of William and Mary in Virginia; the Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Coastal Studies; the Director of the Environmental Resilience Institute at the University of Virginia; the Director of Virginia Sea Grant; the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and the Chief Data Officer of the Commonwealth. The Chief Resilience Officer* ~~Director~~ shall serve as chairman of the Committee *and the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth shall serve as vice-chairman of the Committee*.

3. The ~~Chief Resilience Officer~~ *Director* shall invite participation by the Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District; ~~the Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District~~; the Commander of the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic; and representatives of the seven federally recognized Tribal Nations indigenous to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4. Appointed members shall serve in an advisory role without compensation.

5. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

6. The Department, ~~the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection~~, and the Coastal Zone Management Program shall provide staff support to the Committee.

7. The Committee shall ensure that (i) risk evaluations and project prioritization protocols are regularly updated and are informed by the best applicable scientific and technical data; (ii) statewide and regional needs are addressed using the best applicable science and long-term resilience approaches; and (iii) the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework is adhered to in the development and updating of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan. The Committee shall also review updates to the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan and receive updates about the progress of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan at each meeting. Additionally, the Committee may be called upon to assist the Department with the development and updating of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan.

D. 1. The *Director, in coordination with the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth, shall establish the Virginia Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (the Committee) to assist with developing, updating, and implementing the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan pursuant to § 10.1-602 and implementing the Commonwealth's flood resilience, preparedness, prevention, and protection programs.*

2. *The Committee shall be composed of the following individuals representing state agencies, or their designees: the Director, the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth, the Director of the Department of Emergency Management, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community*

Development, the Executive Director of the Virginia Resources Authority, the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, the Director of the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, the Commissioner of Marine Resources, the Director of the Department of General Services, the Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Committee membership shall also include one representative from each of the following: the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, the Virginia Municipal League, and the Virginia Association of Counties. The Director may invite participation by other representatives as deemed appropriate. The Director shall serve as chairman of the Committee. The Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth shall serve as vice-chairman of the Committee.

3. Members appointed to the Committee shall serve in an advisory role without compensation.

4. The Committee shall meet at least two times per calendar year.

5. The Department shall provide staff support to the Committee.

6. The Committee shall receive updates to the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, and other regional flood resilience plans. The Committee shall advise the Department on (i) assessing the impacts of flooding on people, the economy, and the environment; (ii) establishing and measuring flood resilience goals and metrics for the Commonwealth; (iii) prioritizing state policies, programs, funding, and other strategies to mitigate the impacts of severe and repetitive flooding; (iv) enhancing intergovernmental and interagency coordination for flood resilience planning and strategy implementation; (v) conducting stakeholder outreach and engagement in support of flood resilience planning and implementation; (vi) assisting local governments to minimize loss of life, property damage, and negative impacts on the environment resulting from flooding; and (vii) issues relating to the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan in accordance with the requirements established in § 10.1-602.

7. The Director may establish subcommittees or other bodies to advise on the development and implementation of the Coastal Resilience Master Plan and other regional flood resilience plans.

8. The Department shall engage with the following entities in the development of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan: the federally recognized Tribal Nations indigenous to the Commonwealth, the flooding-related research programs of institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, the agricultural community, the economic development community, environmental nonprofit organizations, local governments, planning district commissions, regional commissions, the Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for each district that includes a portion of the Commonwealth, the Commander of the U.S. Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, and other federal facilities located within the Commonwealth.

2. That § 2.2-435.11 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.

3. That the provisions of subsection C of § 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall expire on February 1, 2025.

4. That the provisions of subsection D of § 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall become effective on February 1, 2025.

5. The Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth shall submit a report on funding and staffing needs to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than December 31, 2025.