

EQUITABLE & INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT

2022 Bill Priorities - Virginia Conservation Network

DEFENDING OUR CITIZEN BOARDS

Virginia's regulatory citizen boards give the people of the Commonwealth a meaningful voice in protecting our natural resources. These volunteers devote time and effort to uphold Virginia's environmental statutes and engage the public in decision-making as independent authorities. Virginia policymakers must defend the boards' independence and scope of authority, while they help improve public participation and give the boards better access to information.

OPPOSE:

HB1204 Renewable energy certificates; certain requirements prohibited.

HB1261 State environmental boards; appointment of members to various Boards.

SB81 Air Pollution Control Board; consideration of certain facts and circumstances.

SB657 Air Pollution Control Board and State Water Control Board; transfer of authority.

BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Creating an environmentally literate populace in the Commonwealth requires coordinated leadership, systemic requirements for public schools' graduating seniors, and equitable, substantial investment in programs across Virginia. With the current challenges of climate change and environmental injustice, Virginia has an opportunity now to prioritize the tools needed to develop environmentally literate citizens who understand issues and the systems that influence the environment, and make responsible decisions regarding their impact.

SUPPORT:

HB636 Virginia student environmental literacy; grant fund and program.

WORKING TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

At its core, environmental justice is about equity. Historically, the burdens of pollution have disproportionately affected communities who are predominantly people of color and low-income and the impacts of climate change add new challenges for geographically and economically vulnerable populations. The General Assembly must continue to develop the Commonwealth's environmental justice framework by ensuring that environmental regulations are equity-based.

SUPPORT:

HB1276 Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy.

OTHER BILLS TO WATCH

OPPOSE:

HB208 & SB712 Regulatory Innovation, Department of and Virginia Regulatory Sandbox Program; created, report.

HB329 Administrative Process Act; public notice and economic impact, prohibition on certain regulations.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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top priorities:
vcnva.org/our-common-agenda