

SUPPORT HB 516 and SB 551

Flood resiliency and protection
Delegate Bulova and Senator Marsden

Reasons to support HB 516 and SB 551

These bills establish the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as the responsible agency for integrating and implementing the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

The bills specify that the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan shall be developed no later than December 31, 2026 and updated every five years, and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan will be updated no later than December 31, 2024 and at least every five years.

The legislation directs the Chief Resilience Officer to establish the Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee and include individuals with a variety of backgrounds in coastal resilience and adaptation from state agencies, localities, planning district and regional commissions, the federal government and academia.

The legislation requires DCR to prepare a Community Outreach and Engagement Plan to ensure meaningful engagement of, and input from, affected and vulnerable communities for updates and development of the Master Plans.

The legislation requires the Chief Resilience Officer to report to the Governor and General Assembly every two years on the status of flood resilience in the Commonwealth.

Overview:

These bills are part of a comprehensive suite of bills proposed by the Chesapeake Bay Commission intended to integrate statewide flooding and resilience planning and implementation across the Commonwealth. This legislation updates the minimum criteria for development of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan as well as aligning and updating standards with the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan and establishes a Virginia Coastal Resilience technical advisory committee.



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure

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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.