

SUPPORT HB 517

Chief Resilience Officer – Clarification of Duties
Delegate Bulova

Reasons to support HB 517

Virginia's Chief Resilience Officer is the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, but the responsibilities reside in the Public Safety section of the Code of Virginia. This proposal simply moves the position to the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat within the Code of Virginia and clarifies the duties.

Provides that the Chief Resilience Officer shall oversee development and implementation of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and the Virginia Coastal Protection Master Plan.

Clarifies the scope of responsibilities from sea level rise to resilience and adaptation.

Requires reporting to the Governor and the General Assembly on the status of flood resilience in the Commonwealth every two years. The 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.

Overview:

HB 517 is included in 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 clarifies the duties of Virginia's Chief Resilience Officer.



**Chesapeake Bay
Foundation**
Jay Ford
(757) 971-2600
jford@cbf.org



**Virginia Conservation
Network**
vcn@vcnva.org
(804) 644-0283
www.VCNVA.org

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.