

CLEAN WATER & FLOOD RESILIENCE

Conservation Lobby Day 2025



FLOOD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Climate-driven and extreme weather disasters are increasing in frequency and severity across the Commonwealth. Flooding is the costliest natural hazard in the Commonwealth and country. Virginia must defend and build flood residency funding and projects to protect Virginians from recurrent and intensified flooding.

SUPPORT:

HB1949 (Hernandez) & HJ434 (Feggans) Requires the Office of Commonwealth Resilience to conduct coastal storm risk management studies

HB1950 (Hernandez) & HB2453 (Hodges) Establishes the Living Shoreline Grant Fund

HB2034 (Simonds) Establishes a task force to develop strategies for wetland protection and restoration

HB2077 (Krizek) Allows tribes to apply for the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund

HB2348 (Hernandez) Requires flood risk disclosures for homebuyers and renters

HJ437 (Convirs-Fowler) Reestablishes the Joint Committee on Recurrent Flooding

SB857 (French) Increases accessibility to dam safety improvement funds





POINT OF CONTACT

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See all conservation
budget positions at
vcnva.org/bill-tracker

KEEPING OUR WATER FREE OF TOXIC & PLASTIC POLLUTION

Toxins and plastics threaten human and ecological health — these substances pollute the air we breathe, leach pollutants into our soils, and contaminate our drinking water. Many of these toxins have been linked to cancer, infertility, and other serious health impacts, yet they remain largely unregulated in the Commonwealth. Virginia should take action to identify and stem the sources of toxic pollutants, such as “forever chemicals” (aka PFAS) and microplastics, so that all communities benefit from clean water and healthy soils.

SUPPORT:

SB1319 (McPike) Requires quarterly monitoring for PFAS of industrial wastewater sources that discharge pollutants into publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants

HB1618 (Clark) Establishes a workgroup to study the amount of microplastics in Virginia drinking water

HB2178 (Clark) Establishes a program to reduce the industrial spillage and waste of plastic

HJ448 (Krizek) Creates a study of tax policy options to improve Virginia’s litter tax

PROTECTING HEALTHY FISHERIES & HABITATS

Our fisheries are important both ecologically and economically to the Commonwealth. Significant reductions in keystone species have harmed the health of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Targeted investments and policies pertaining to population restoration and science-driven fisheries management ensure the sustainability of our marine, estuarine, and aquatic systems.

SUPPORT:

HB1908 (Pugh Kent) & SB930 (Stuart) Directs VIMS to study the impacts of withdrawing water from our rivers on aquatic fauna and water quality

HB1907 (Pugh Kent) Allows for more recreational fishing for the invasive blue catfish

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