

SUPPORT HB 1949 & SB 1337

HB 1949 & SB1337: Coastal Storm Risk Management; Office of the Commonwealth Resilience to study costs of feasibility

Bill Patrons: Hernandez & Marsden

Related Bill: HJ434: Study; JLARC; non-federal Sponsor contributions by localities to conduct coastal storm risk management studies; report

Bill Patron: Feggans

OVERVIEW:

A bill requiring the Office of Commonwealth Resilience, in consultation with House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee staff to study the costs of and a methodology for determining strategies to fulfill nonfederal sponsor cost match obligations to U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Coastal Storm Risk Management Studies in Virginia.

REASONS TO SUPPORT

- There are currently four Coastal Storm Risk Management studies led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and non-federal sponsors of various scales and at different stages ongoing in Virginia – In Norfolk, Virginia Beach, the Virginia Peninsula (Hampton, Newport News, James City County, Poquoson, and Williamsburg) and Metropolitan Washington (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments). Projects implemented as a result of these studies typically require a 35% match from the non-federal sponsor; and in Norfolk alone the total project cost is estimated to be \$2.6billion.
- Existing funding sources and localities alone cannot meet these match requirements, and given the timelines of the Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Virginia Peninsula studies, now is the time to consider the state’s resilience priorities and a strategic approach to funding large scale flood resilience in Virginia.



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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.