

SUPPORT HB237

Topic: Mapping Wetlands Migration Corridors

Bill Patron: Delegate Alfonso Lopez

OVERVIEW:

HB237 updates the resilience categories within the ConserveVirginia program to better protect Virginia's wetlands in the face of climate change. ConserveVirginia is a statewide, data-driven land conservation strategy that prioritizes lands for protection based on key conservation values.

This bill expands the program to include lands adjacent to existing wetlands and lands suitable for future wetland migration, ensuring that conservation planning reflects the realities of sea level rise, flooding, and changing environmental conditions. By improving how Virginia identifies and prioritizes these critical lands, HB237 strengthens long-term wetlands protection and climate resilience efforts across the Commonwealth.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- HB237 strengthens Virginia's ability to protect wetlands by ensuring ConserveVirginia accounts for lands that wetlands will need to migrate into as sea levels rise and climate conditions change.
- The bill helps safeguard water quality by prioritizing lands that support wetlands, which naturally filter pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment before they reach downstream waters.
- By improving conservation planning tools, HB237 supports smarter siting of projects that reduce flooding, erosion, and storm damage in vulnerable communities.
- HB237 is a cost-effective, forward-looking approach that uses existing conservation programs to maximize the impact of limited state and local resources.



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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.