

SUPPORT HB52

Topic: Virginia Marine Resources – Defining Beneficial Use of Dredged Material and Codify Preference for Ecosystem Enhancement

Bill Patron: Del. Bloxom

OVERVIEW: Transforming dredging from a disposal challenge into an opportunity for coastal restoration, resilience, and sustainable economic growth.

HB 52 adds a definition of “dredged material” and the “beneficial reuse of dredged material” to State Code and makes it the policy of the Commonwealth to promote beneficial reuse of dredged material. The bill also directs the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to develop criteria for when the beneficial use of dredged material is not suitable.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- By codifying key definitions and making it the policy of the Commonwealth to promote beneficial reuse of dredged material, this bill will help turn a valuable material that is often considered a disposal challenge into an opportunity to support coastal habitat restoration projects and that increase community and ecosystem resilience.
- Important step to connect dredging projects with beneficial use opportunities.
- Encourages nature-based, cost-effective solutions to climate and sea level rise challenges.
- Increasing the beneficial reuse of dredged material can help support a variety of resilience efforts including beach nourishment, island buffering and restoration, coastal wetlands creation and enhancement, and submerged aquatic vegetation restoration.
- Virginia’s Bay Enhancement Working Group has identified sites throughout our tidal waterways that are suitable for consideration as beneficial use sites
- Brings Virginia closer into alignment with neighboring states that prioritize beneficial reuse of dredged material.
- Aligns with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ goal to reuse 70% of dredge material by 2030.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

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**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.