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HOUSE BILL NO.1950

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Bloxom)

A BILL to direct the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to review and update certain guidelines to provide for the generation of vegetated and unvegetated wetland credits from wetland creation, restoration, conversion, and enhancement activities, invasive species control, and the establishment of open water channels.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (the Commission) shall review and update the Commission's "Guidelines for Establishment, Use and Operation of Tidal Wetland Mitigation Banks in Virginia" (January 1, 1998) and its regulations, Wetlands Mitigation-Compensation Policy and Supplemental Guidelines (4VAC20-390) (the Guidelines). Such review and update shall consider provisions relating to the generation of vegetated and unvegetated wetland credits from wetland creation, restoration, conversion, and enhancement activities, invasive species control, and the establishment of open water channels. Such update shall also include making the Guidelines consistent with the Commission's "Tidal Wetlands Guidelines" (May 2021 Update), including updating the wetlands types and properties. The Commission shall form a stakeholder group including representatives from the mitigation banking industry, conservation organizations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for the purpose of reviewing and updating the Guidelines. The Commission shall complete the review and update by July 1, 2024.

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