

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 1000

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources
4 on February 7, 2024)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Anthony)

6 A BILL to establish the Environmental Justice Task Force; report.

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 1. § 1. There is hereby established the Environmental Justice Task Force (the Task Force) for the purpose
9 of furthering environmental justice in the Commonwealth. The Task Force shall consist of appointees
10 from each of the following agencies: the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of
11 Emergency Management, Department of Energy, Department of Housing and Community Development,
12 Department of Health, Department of Transportation, the State Corporation Commission, and the Virginia
13 Economic Development Partnership. The Task Force shall require agencies within the Task Force to work
14 with an independent consultant to analyze and report the environmental justice practices and policies of
15 such agencies. The Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Environmental Justice shall oversee
16 the development of such independent environmental justice reports.

17 The Task Force shall (i) advise the Governor on environmental justice issues; (ii) advise the state
18 agencies of the Commonwealth on environmental justice issues; (iii) meet with residents of the
19 Commonwealth, representatives from impacted communities, social justice organizations, consumer
20 protection organizations, and representatives from local governments; (iv) make recommendations to the
21 Governor to address concerns raised by such residents and organizations in relation to environmental
22 justice; and (v) make recommendations to the Governor to address concerns raised by the independent
23 environmental justice reports completed by the agencies of the Task Force.

24 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Task Force upon request. The
25 Task Force shall report its findings and conclusions to the Governor and the General Assembly no later
26 than November 1, 2024, and annually thereafter. Such report shall be submitted as a report document as

27 provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of
28 legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website. Prior to
29 submitting the annual report to the Governor and General Assembly, the Task Force shall transmit a final
30 draft of the report to the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice and request the Council to provide
31 written comments.

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