

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 479

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the House Committee on

4 on \_\_\_\_\_)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Bulova)

6 A BILL to establish a work group to review wetland and stream mitigation credits; dam removal credits.

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

8 1. § 1. The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Wildlife Resources shall  
9 establish a work group to determine ways to promote the removal by the private sector of obsolete dams  
10 and significant river obstructions that inhibit fish passage in the Commonwealth. The work group shall  
11 include representatives of the mitigation banking industry, the Department of Conservation and  
12 Recreation, the Department of Wildlife Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, regional  
13 and national academies who have expertise in the environmental benefits resulting from the removal of  
14 obsolete dams and significant river obstructions, environmental nongovernmental organizations, and other  
15 stakeholder groups deemed necessary by the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality. The  
16 work group shall (i) devise methods for promoting the removal by the private sector of obsolete dams and  
17 significant river obstructions by the private sector that maximize the input of private capital and minimize  
18 the need for public funding to facilitate the removal; (ii) examine and make recommendations regarding  
19 the extent to which there is a scientific basis from a water quality and fish benefit perspective to expand  
20 existing service area limitations for mitigation credits generated by the removal of obsolete dams and  
21 significant river obstruction; (iii) examine and make recommendations regarding the potential impacts for  
22 local and Chesapeake Bay water quality, ecological services, and fisheries as a result of the removal of  
23 such obsolete dams and significant river obstructions; (iv) investigate innovative dam removal  
24 partnerships and incentives used in other states; and (v) report its findings to the Chairmen of the House

**DRAFT**  
**OFFERED FOR**  
**CONSIDERATION**  
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**~~Wallmeyer, Lisa~~**

- 25 Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture,
- 26 Conservation and Natural Resources no later than November 1, 2022.
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