

HOUSE BILL NO. 1000

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

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

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Anthony)

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

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. There is hereby established the Environmental Justice Task Force (the Task Force) for the purpose of furthering environmental justice in the Commonwealth. The Task Force shall consist of the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, or his designee, who shall serve as the chairman of the Task Force; the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, or his designee; the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, or his designee; the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, or his designee; the Secretary of Transportation, or his designee; the Secretary of Education, or his designee; the Secretary of Labor, or his designee; the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, or his designee; and a member of the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice.

The Task Force shall (i) advise the Governor on environmental justice issues, (ii) advise the state agencies of the Commonwealth on environmental justice issues, (iii) identify minority and low-income communities that may be affected by environmental decisions made by the state agencies of the Commonwealth, (iv) work toward maximizing state resources, research, and other technical assistance to carry out the purposes of § 2.2-235 and to further environmental justice in the Commonwealth; (v) coordinate with any other governmental body that is working on environmental justice policy issues; (vi) meet with residents of the Commonwealth to learn their concerns and receive recommendations on environmental justice issues, and (vii) make recommendations to the Governor to address concerns raised by such residents in relation to environmental justice.

The Task Force shall meet quarterly and shall establish a meeting schedule on an annual basis and post the schedule on the publicly available electronic calendar maintained by the Commonwealth. When

27 possible, the location of the meetings shall rotate among different geographic regions. When possible,
28 meetings shall be broadcast on the Internet or via teleconference. Each meeting shall include an in-person
29 public comment component.

30 All agencies of the Commonwealth and the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources shall
31 provide assistance to the Task Force upon request.

32 The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
33 Assembly no later than November 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, regarding its activities. Such report
34 shall be submitted as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative
35 Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the
36 General Assembly's website. Prior to submitting the annual report to the Governor and General Assembly,
37 the chairman shall transmit a final draft of the report to the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice and
38 request the Council to provide written comments.

39 #