

HOUSE BILL NO. 166

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Keys-Gamarra)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-2610 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and Program; certain resources for school boards.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23.1-2610 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23.1-2610. Duties of the Service, the Program, and the Station.

A. The Service shall provide the people of the Commonwealth with useful and practical information and knowledge on agriculture, including horticulture and silviculture, agribusiness, home economics, community resource development, 4-H Clubs, and related subjects through instruction and the dissemination of useful and practical information through demonstrations, conferences, courses, workshops, publications, meetings, mass media, and other educational programs. The necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with work of the Service shall be performed in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the University, Virginia State University, the Governor or his designee, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and other participating bodies.

B. The Program shall also conduct educational programs and disseminate useful and practical information to the people of the Commonwealth.

C. In furtherance of fulfilling the duties set forth in subsections A and B, the Service and the Program shall make available electronically to any school board, upon request, guidance and resources relating to the establishment of local experiential learning programs on the composting of organic material, including food waste, for sustainable purposes such as horticulture or micro-farming, including guidance and resources on available grants and other sources of funding for such programs.

27 D. Personnel of the Service shall inform local governing bodies of the Commonwealth whenever
28 agricultural conditions are present in such localities that would warrant the declaration of a disaster
29 pursuant to Section 301 of P.L. 93-288, 42 U.S.C. § 5141.

30 ~~D.~~E. Personnel of the Service shall provide farmers and local governing bodies with such
31 assistance and information as is available concerning federal and state disaster relief programs.

32 ~~E.~~F. The Station shall conduct research and investigations and establish, publish, and distribute
33 results in such forms as will tend to increase the economy, efficiency, and safety of the various enterprises
34 and activities of interest to the Commonwealth and the nation and promote the conservation and economic
35 utilization of its natural and human resources.

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