

HOUSE BILL NO. 1157

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources
on February 27, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Krizek)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-401.01, 10.1-1003, 10.1-1188, 10.1-2206.1, 10.1-2214, 10.1-2305, 56-46.1, and 62.1-266 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 10.1-104.02, 10.1-1186.3:1, 10.1-2205.1, and 28.2-104.01, relating to consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth; permits and reviews with potential impacts on environmental, cultural, and historic resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-401.01, 10.1-1003, 10.1-1188, 10.1-2206.1, 10.1-2214, 10.1-2305, 56-46.1, and 62.1-266 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 10.1-104.02, 10.1-1186.3:1, 10.1-2205.1, and 28.2-104.01 as follows:

§ 2.2-401.01. Liaison to Virginia Indian tribes; Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation; Virginia Indigenous People's Trust Fund.

A. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall:

- 1. Serve as the Governor's liaison to the Virginia Indian tribes;~~and~~
- 2. Designate an Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant to subsection B; and
- 3. Report annually on the status of Indian tribes in Virginia.

B. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall designate, in consultation with and upon the advice of federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth, an Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation (the Ombudsman). The Ombudsman shall:

- 1. Facilitate communication between federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth and relevant state agencies and local governments for consultation on environmental, cultural, and historical permits and reviews;

27 2. Develop a list of localities in ongoing consultation with the federally recognized Tribal Nations
28 in which federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth shall be consulted regarding actions
29 and projects pursuant to §§ 10.1-104.02, 10.1-1186.3:1, 10.1-2205.1, and 28.2-104.01;

30 3. Assist the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Conservation and
31 Recreation, the Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission in
32 developing policies and procedures to ensure meaningful and appropriate consultation with federally
33 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth regarding permits and reviews; and

34 4. Make recommendations to the Governor about additional permits and reviews that, in the
35 opinion of the Ombudsman, should require consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the
36 Commonwealth.

37 C. The Secretary of the Commonwealth may establish a Virginia Indian advisory board to assist
38 the Secretary in reviewing applications seeking recognition as a Virginia Indian tribe and to make
39 recommendations to the Secretary, the Governor, and the General Assembly on such applications and
40 other matters relating to recognition as follows:

41 1. The members of any such board shall be composed of no more than seven members to be
42 appointed by the Secretary as follows: at least three of the members shall be members of Virginia
43 recognized tribes to represent the Virginia Indian community, and one nonlegislative citizen member shall
44 represent the Commonwealth's scholarly community. The Librarian of Virginia, the Director of the
45 Department of Historic Resources, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or their designees, shall
46 serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of any such board shall be citizens
47 of the Commonwealth. Ex officio members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.
48 Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of two years. Appointments to fill vacancies,
49 other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. All members may be reappointed. The
50 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall appoint a chairperson from among the members for a two-year term.
51 Members shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their
52 duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.

53 2. Any such board shall have the following powers and duties:

- 54 a. Establish guidance for documentation required to meet the criteria for full recognition of the
 - 55 Virginia Indian tribes that is consistent with the principles and requirements of federal tribal recognition;
 - 56 b. Establish a process for accepting and reviewing all applications for full tribal recognition;
 - 57 c. Appoint and establish a workgroup on tribal recognition composed of nonlegislative citizens at
 - 58 large who have knowledge of Virginia Indian history and current status. Such workgroup (i) may be
 - 59 activated in any year in which an application for full tribal recognition has been submitted and in other
 - 60 years as deemed appropriate by any such board and (ii) shall include at a minimum a genealogist and at
 - 61 least two scholars with recognized familiarity with Virginia Indian tribes. No member of the workgroup
 - 62 shall be associated in any way with the applicant. Members of the workgroup shall be reimbursed for
 - 63 reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813
 - 64 and 2.2-2825;
 - 65 d. Solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds or real or
 - 66 personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the board;
 - 67 e. Make recommendations to the Secretary for full tribal recognition based on the findings of the
 - 68 workgroup and the board; and
 - 69 f. Perform such other duties, functions, and activities as may be necessary to facilitate and
 - 70 implement the objectives of this subsection.
- 71 ~~C-D.~~ There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the
- 72 Virginia Indigenous People's Trust Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be
- 73 established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose, any tax revenue
- 74 accruing to the Fund pursuant to § 58.1-4125, and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds
- 75 received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on
- 76 moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund,
- 77 including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain
- 78 in the Fund. After payment of the costs of administration of the Fund, moneys in the Fund shall be used
- 79 to make disbursements on a quarterly basis in equal amounts to each of the six Virginia Indian tribes
- 80 federally recognized under P.L. 115-121 of 2018. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be

81 made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the
82 Secretary of the Commonwealth.

83 **§ 10.1-104.02. Policies for consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the**
84 **Commonwealth.**

85 A. The Department, with assistance from the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation designated
86 pursuant to § 2.2-401.01, shall develop policies and procedures, to the extent permitted by law, to ensure
87 an opportunity for meaningful and appropriate written consultation with potentially impacted federally
88 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth regarding certain major actions or permits issued by the
89 Department. The Department shall designate an agency official to evaluate the adequacy of consultation
90 and ensure that agency consultation practices are consistent. Actions and permits appropriate for
91 consultation shall include the projects and actions set forth in subsection B. The policies shall define an
92 appropriate means of notifying federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth based on tribal
93 preferences, ensure that sufficient information and time is provided for the federally recognized Tribal
94 Nations in the Commonwealth to fully engage in consultation regarding the proposed action, and establish
95 procedures for the Department to provide feedback to the federally recognized Tribal Nations in the
96 Commonwealth to explain how their input was considered. Should feedback from the federally recognized
97 Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth not be received by the deadline established in the Department's
98 policies and procedures, the consultation provisions of this section shall be deemed fulfilled.

99 B. The following actions and projects are subject to consultation as set forth in subsection A: (i)
100 cave collection permits, issued pursuant to the Cave Protection Act (§ 10.1-1000 et seq.), for permit
101 applications pertaining to the study, extraction, or removal of any archaeological or historic feature in a
102 cave in a locality identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant to subdivision B 2 of §
103 2.2-401.01 and (ii) Virginia-regulated impounding structures permits issued pursuant to 4VAC50-20-70
104 and 4VAC50-20-80 in a locality identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant to
105 subdivision B 2 of § 2.2-401.01.

106 **§ 10.1-1003. Permits for excavation and scientific investigation; how obtained; penalties.**

107 A. In addition to the written permission of the owner required by § 10.1-1004₂, a permit shall be
108 obtained from the Department ~~of Conservation and Recreation~~ prior to excavating or removing any
109 archaeological, paleontological, prehistoric, or historic feature of any cave. Prior to issuing any permit in
110 a locality identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant to subdivision B 2 of § 2.2-
111 401.01, the Department shall consult with any federally recognized Tribal Nation in the Commonwealth
112 pursuant to § 10.1-104.02. The Department shall issue a permit to excavate or remove such a feature if it
113 finds₂ with the concurrence of the Director of the Department of Historic Resources₂ that it is in the best
114 interest of the Commonwealth and that the applicant meets the criteria of this section. The permit shall be
115 issued for a period of two years and may be renewed upon expiration. Such permit shall not be
116 transferable; however, the provisions of this section shall not preclude any person from working under the
117 direct supervision of the permittee.

118 B. All field investigations, explorations, or recovery operations undertaken under this section shall
119 be carried out under the general supervision of the Department and in a manner to ensure that the
120 maximum amount of historic, scientific, archaeological, and educational information may be recovered and
121 preserved in addition to the physical recovery of objects.

122 C. A person applying for a permit pursuant to this section shall:

123 1. Be a historic, scientific, or educational institution, or a professional or amateur historian,
124 biologist, archaeologist₂ or paleontologist, who is qualified and recognized in these areas of field
125 investigations.

126 2. Provide a detailed statement to the Department giving the reasons and objectives for excavation
127 or removal and the benefits expected to be obtained from the contemplated work.

128 3. Provide data and results of any completed excavation, study, or collection at the first of each
129 calendar year.

130 4. Obtain the prior written permission of the owner if the site of the proposed excavation is on
131 privately owned land.

132 5. Carry the permit while exercising the privileges granted.

133 D. Any person who fails to obtain a permit required by subsection A ~~hereof shall be~~ is guilty of a
134 Class 1 misdemeanor. Any violation of subsection C ~~hereof shall be punished~~ is punishable as a Class 3
135 misdemeanor, and the permit shall be revoked.

136 E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person in any cave located on his own
137 property.

138 **§ 10.1-1186.3:1. Policies for consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the**
139 **Commonwealth.**

140 A. The Department, with assistance from the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation designated
141 pursuant to § 2.2-401.01, shall develop policies and procedures, to the extent permitted by law, to ensure
142 an opportunity for meaningful and appropriate written consultation with potentially impacted federally
143 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth regarding certain major actions or permits issued by the
144 Department. The Department shall designate an agency official to evaluate the adequacy of consultation
145 and ensure that agency consultation practices are consistent. Actions and permits appropriate for
146 consultation shall include the projects and actions set forth in subsection B. The policies shall define an
147 appropriate means of notifying federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth based on tribal
148 preferences, ensure that sufficient information and time is provided for the federally recognized Tribal
149 Nations in the Commonwealth to fully engage in consultation regarding the proposed action, and establish
150 procedures for the Department to provide feedback to the federally recognized Tribal Nations in the
151 Commonwealth to explain how their input was considered. Should feedback from the federally recognized
152 Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth not be received by the deadline established in the Department's
153 policies and procedures, the consultation provisions of this section shall be deemed fulfilled. For
154 environmental impact reports for major state projects prepared pursuant to § 10.1-1188, the policies and
155 procedures shall require the state project proponent to perform the required consultation.

156 B. The following actions and projects in a locality identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal
157 Consultation pursuant to subdivision B 2 of § 2.2-401.01 are subject to consultation as set forth in
158 subsection A: (i) environmental impact reports for major state projects prepared pursuant to § 10.1-1188,
159 (ii) State Corporation Commission project reports prepared pursuant to § 56-46.1 and 20VAC5-302-25,

160 (iii) environmental impact assessments for oil or gas well drilling operations in Tidewater Virginia
161 prepared pursuant to 9VAC15-20, (iv) federal consistency determinations prepared pursuant to § 307 of
162 the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.), and (v) ground water
163 withdrawal permits for ground water withdrawals greater than 365 million gallons per year issued pursuant
164 to § 62.1-266.

165 **§ 10.1-1188. State agencies to submit environmental impact reports on major projects.**

166 A. All state agencies, boards, authorities, and commissions or any branch of the state government
167 shall prepare and submit an environmental impact report to the Department on each major state project.

168 ~~Major~~ For the purposes of this section, "major state project" means the acquisition of an interest
169 in land for any state facility construction, or the construction of any facility or expansion of an existing
170 facility~~which~~ that is hereafter undertaken by any state agency, board, commission, or authority or any
171 branch of state government, including public institutions of higher education,~~which~~ that costs \$500,000
172 or more. For the purposes of this chapter, authority shall not include any industrial development authority
173 created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 49 (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.) of Title 15.2 or Chapter 643, as
174 amended, of the~~1964~~ Acts of Assembly of 1964. Nor shall it include the Virginia Port Authority created
175 pursuant to the provisions of § 62.1-128, unless such project is a capital project that costs in excess of \$5
176 million. Nor shall authority include any housing development or redevelopment authority established
177 pursuant to state law. For the purposes of this chapter, branch of state government shall include any county,
178 city, or town of the Commonwealth only in connection with highway construction, reconstruction, or
179 improvement projects affecting highways or roads undertaken by the county, city, or town on projects
180 estimated to cost more than \$2 million. For projects undertaken by any locality costing more than \$500,000
181 and less than \$2 million, the locality shall consult with the Department of Historic Resources to consider
182 and make reasonable efforts to avoid or minimize impacts to historic resources if the project involves a
183 new location or a new disturbance that extends outside the area or depth of a prior disturbance, or otherwise
184 has the potential to affect such resources adversely.

185 Such environmental impact report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 186 1. The environmental impact of the major state project, including the impact on wildlife habitat;

187 2. Any adverse environmental effects~~which~~ that cannot be avoided if the major state project is
188 undertaken;

189 3. Measures proposed to minimize the impact of the major state project;

190 4. Any alternatives to the proposed construction;~~and~~

191 5. Any irreversible environmental changes~~which~~ that would be involved in the major state project;
192 and

193 6. If required, a record of consultation with any federally recognized Tribal Nation in the
194 Commonwealth that may be impacted by the major state project in a locality identified by the Ombudsman
195 for Tribal Consultation pursuant to subdivision B 2 of § 2.2-401.01 pursuant to § 10.1-1186.3:1. The
196 record of consultation shall include the information provided to the federally recognized Tribal Nation in
197 the Commonwealth, any feedback or response received by the federally recognized Tribal Nation in the
198 Commonwealth, and a description of how the impact was considered or incorporated into the major state
199 project.

200 For the purposes of subdivision 4, the report shall contain all alternatives considered and the
201 reasons why the alternatives were rejected. If a report does not set forth alternatives, it shall state why
202 alternatives were not considered.

203 B. For purposes of this chapter, this subsection shall only apply to the review of highway and road
204 construction projects or any part thereof. The Secretaries of Transportation and Natural and Historic
205 Resources shall jointly establish procedures for review and comment by state natural and historic resource
206 agencies of highway and road construction projects. Such procedures shall provide for review and
207 comment on appropriate projects and categories of projects to address the environmental impact of the
208 project, any adverse environmental effects~~which~~ that cannot be avoided if the project is undertaken, the
209 measures proposed to minimize the impact of the project, any alternatives to the proposed construction,
210 and any irreversible environmental changes~~which~~ that would be involved in the project.

211 **§ 10.1-2205.1. Policies for consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the**
212 **Commonwealth.**

213 A. The Department, with assistance from the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation designated
214 pursuant to § 2.2-401.01, shall develop policies and procedures, to the extent permitted by law, to ensure
215 an opportunity for meaningful and appropriate written consultation with federally recognized Tribal
216 Nations in the Commonwealth regarding certain major actions or permits issued by the Department. The
217 Department shall designate an agency official to evaluate the adequacy of consultation and ensure that
218 agency consultation practices are consistent. Actions and permits appropriate for consultation shall include
219 the projects and actions set forth in subsection B. The policies shall define an appropriate means of
220 notifying federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth based on tribal preferences, ensure
221 that sufficient information and time is provided for the federally recognized Tribal Nations in the
222 Commonwealth to fully engage in consultation regarding developing informed opinions about the
223 proposed action, and establish procedures for the Department to provide feedback to the federally
224 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth to explain how their input was considered. Should
225 feedback from the federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth not be received by the
226 deadline established in the Department's policies and procedures, the consultation provisions of this
227 section shall be deemed fulfilled.

228 B. The following actions and projects are subject to consultation as set forth in subsection A: (i)
229 the designation of historic districts, buildings, structures, or sites as historic landmarks pursuant to § 10.1-
230 2206.1; (ii) permits to conduct field investigations pursuant to § 10.1-2302; and (iii) burial permits for
231 relocation of human remains issued pursuant to § 10.1-2305.

232 **§ 10.1-2206.1. Procedure for designating a historic district, building, structure, or site as a**
233 **historic landmark; National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks; historic**
234 **district defined.**

235 A. In any county, city, or town where the Board proposes to designate a historic district, building,
236 structure, object, or site as a historic landmark, or where the Director proposes to nominate property to the
237 National Park Service for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or for designation as a
238 National Historic Landmark, the Department shall give written notice of the proposal to the governing
239 body and to the owner, owners, or the owner's agent, of property proposed to be so designated or

240 nominated, and to the owners, or their agents, of all abutting property and property immediately across
241 the street or road from the property. The Department shall also consult with any federally recognized
242 Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth pursuant to § 10.1-2205.1 if the designation or nomination is in a
243 locality identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant to subdivision B 2 of § 2.2-401.01.

244 B. Prior to the designation or nomination of a historic district, the Department shall hold a public
245 hearing at the seat of government of the county, city, or town in which the proposed historic district is
246 located or within the proposed historic district. The public hearing shall be for the purpose of supplying
247 additional information to the Board and to the Director. The time and place of such hearing shall be
248 determined in consultation with a duly authorized representative of the local governing body, and shall be
249 scheduled at a time and place that will reasonably allow for the attendance of the affected property owners.
250 The Department shall publish notice of the public hearing once a week for two successive weeks in a
251 newspaper published or having general circulation in the county, city, or town. Such notice shall specify
252 the time and place of the public hearing at which persons affected may appear and present their views, not
253 less than six days nor more than ~~twenty-one~~ 21 days after the second publication of the notice in such
254 newspaper. In addition to publishing the notice, the Department shall give written notice of the public
255 hearing at least five days before such hearing to the owner, owners, or the owner's agent, of each parcel
256 of real property to be included in the proposed historic district, and to the owners, or their agents, of all
257 abutting property and property immediately across the street or road from the included property. Notice
258 required to be given to owners by this subsection may be given concurrently with the notice required to
259 be given to the owners by subsection A. The Department shall make and maintain an appropriate record
260 of all public hearings held pursuant to this section.

261 C. Any written notice required to be given by the Department to any person shall be deemed to
262 comply with the requirements of this section if sent by first class mail to the last known address of such
263 person as shown on the current real estate tax assessment books, provided that a representative of the
264 Department shall make an affidavit that such mailings have been made.

265 D. The local governing body and property owners shall have ~~thirty~~ 30 days from the date of the
266 notice required by subsection A, or, in the case of a historic district, ~~thirty~~ 30 days from the date of the

267 public hearing required by subsection B to provide comments and recommendations, if any, to the Board
268 and to the Director.

269 E. For the purposes of this chapter, a historic district means a geographically definable area ~~which~~
270 that contains a significant concentration of historic buildings, structures, or sites having a common
271 historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural heritage, and which may contain local tax parcels
272 having separate owners. Contributing properties within a registered district are historic landmarks by
273 definition.

274 F. All regulations promulgated by the Director pursuant to § 10.1-2202 and all regulations
275 promulgated by the Board pursuant to § 10.1-2205 shall be consistent with the provisions of this section.

276 **§ 10.1-2214. Underwater historic property; penalty.**

277 A. ~~"Underwater~~ For purposes of this section, "underwater historic property" means any submerged
278 shipwreck, vessel, cargo, tackle, or underwater archaeological specimen, including any object found at
279 underwater refuse sites or submerged sites of former habitation, that has remained unclaimed on the state-
280 owned subaqueous bottom and has historic value as determined by the Department.

281 B. Underwater historic property shall be preserved and protected and shall be the exclusive
282 property of the Commonwealth. Preservation and protection of such property shall be the responsibility
283 of all state agencies, including but not limited to the Department, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science,
284 and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Insofar as may be practicable, such property shall be
285 preserved, protected, and displayed for the public benefit within the county or city within which it is found,
286 or within a museum operated by a state agency.

287 C. ~~It shall be~~ is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to conduct any type of recovery
288 operations involving the removal, destruction, or disturbance of any underwater historic property without
289 first applying for and receiving a permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to conduct such
290 operations pursuant to § 28.2-1203. If the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, after consultation with
291 any federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth pursuant to § 28.2-104.01, and with the
292 concurrence of the Department and in consultation with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and other
293 concerned state agencies, finds that granting the permit is in the best interest of the Commonwealth, it

294 shall grant the applicant a permit. The permit shall provide that all objects recovered shall be the exclusive
295 property of the Commonwealth. The permit shall provide the applicant with a fair share of the objects
296 recovered, or in the discretion of the Department, a reasonable percentage of the cash value of the objects
297 recovered to be paid by the Department. Title to all objects recovered shall be retained by the
298 Commonwealth unless or until they are released to the applicant by the Department. All recovery
299 operations undertaken pursuant to a permit issued under this section shall be carried out under the general
300 supervision of the Department and in accordance with § 28.2-1203 and in such a manner that the maximum
301 amount of historical, scientific, archaeological, and educational information may be recovered and
302 preserved in addition to the physical recovery of items. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission shall
303 not grant a permit to conduct operations at substantially the same location described and covered by a
304 permit previously granted if recovery operations are being actively pursued, unless the holder of the
305 previously granted permit concurs in the grant of another permit.

306 D. The Department may seek a permit pursuant to this section and § 28.2-1203 to preserve and
307 protect or recover any underwater historic property.

308 E. Any person violating the provisions of this section ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor
309 and, in addition, shall forfeit to the Commonwealth any objects recovered.

310 **§ 10.1-2305. Permit required for the archaeological excavation of human remains.**

311 A. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person to conduct any type of archaeological field investigation
312 involving the removal of human skeletal remains or associated artifacts from any unmarked human burial
313 regardless of age of an archaeological site and regardless of ownership without first receiving a permit
314 from the Director.

315 B. Where unmarked burials are not part of a legally chartered cemetery, archaeological excavation
316 of such burials pursuant to a permit from the Director shall be exempt from the requirements of §§ 57-
317 38.1 and 57-39. However, such exemption shall not apply in the case of human burials within formally
318 chartered cemeteries that have been abandoned.

319 C. The Department shall be considered an interested party in court proceedings considering the
320 abandonment of legally constituted cemeteries or family graveyards with historic significance. A permit

321 from the Director is required if archaeological investigations are undertaken as a part of a court-approved
322 removal of a cemetery.

323 D. The Board shall promulgate regulations implementing this section that provide for appropriate
324 public notice prior to issuance of a permit, provide for appropriate treatment of excavated remains, the
325 scientific quality of the research conducted on the remains, and the appropriate disposition of the remains
326 upon completion of the research. Such regulations shall also require consultation with any federally
327 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth pursuant to § 10.1-2205.1. When a burial permit would
328 result in the disturbance of a burial site of an individual that has a cultural affiliation with a particular
329 federally recognized Tribal Nation in the Commonwealth, the consent of the Tribal Nation is required
330 before the permit may be issued. The Department may carry out such excavations and research without a
331 permit, provided that it has complied with the substantive requirements of the regulations promulgated
332 pursuant to this section.

333 E. Any interested party may appeal the Director's decision to issue a permit or to act directly to
334 excavate human remains to the local circuit court. Such appeal must be filed within ~~fourteen~~ 14 days of
335 the Director's decision.

336 F. For the purposes of this section, "cultural affiliation" has the same definition as provided in §
337 25 U.S.C. § 3001(2) of the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. §
338 3001 et seq.) and its regulations. If doubt exists as to cultural affiliation, the federally recognized Tribal
339 Nations in the Commonwealth with potential cultural affiliation shall make the determination.

340 **§ 28.2-104.01. Policies for consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the**
341 **Commonwealth.**

342 The Commission, with assistance from the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation designated
343 pursuant to § 2.2-401.01, shall develop policies and procedures to ensure an opportunity for meaningful
344 and appropriate written consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth
345 regarding certain major actions or permits issued by the Commission. The Commission shall designate an
346 agency official to evaluate the adequacy of consultation and ensure that agency consultation practices are
347 consistent. Actions and permits appropriate for consultation shall include underwater recovery permits

348 issued pursuant to § 10.1-2214 in a locality identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant
349 to subdivision B 2 of § 2.2-401.01. The policies shall define an appropriate means of notifying federally
350 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth based on tribal preferences, ensure that sufficient
351 information and time is provided for the federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth to
352 fully engage in consultation regarding the proposed action, and establish procedures for the Commission
353 to provide feedback to the federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth to explain how their
354 input was considered. Should feedback from the federally recognized Tribal Nations in the
355 Commonwealth not be received by the deadline established in the Commission's policies and procedures,
356 the consultation provisions of this section shall be deemed fulfilled.

357 **§ 56-46.1. Commission to consider environmental, economic, and improvements in service**
358 **reliability factors in approving construction of electrical utility facilities; approval required for**
359 **construction of certain electrical transmission lines; notice and hearings.**

360 A. Whenever the Commission is required to approve the construction of any electrical utility
361 facility, it shall give consideration to the effect of that facility on the environment and establish such
362 conditions as may be desirable or necessary to minimize adverse environmental impact. In order to avoid
363 duplication of governmental activities, any valid permit or approval required for an electric generating
364 plant and associated facilities issued or granted by a federal, state, or local governmental entity charged
365 by law with responsibility for issuing permits or approvals regulating environmental impact and mitigation
366 of adverse environmental impact or for other specific public interest issues such as building codes,
367 transportation plans, and public safety, whether such permit or approval is granted prior to or after the
368 Commission's decision, shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this section with respect to all
369 matters that (i) are governed by the permit or approval or (ii) are within the authority of, and were
370 considered by, the governmental entity in issuing such permit or approval, and the Commission shall
371 impose no additional conditions with respect to such matters. Nothing in this section shall affect the ability
372 of the Commission to keep the record of a case open. Nothing in this section shall affect any right to appeal
373 such permits or approvals in accordance with applicable law. In the case of a proposed facility located in
374 a region that was designated as of July 1, 2001, as serious nonattainment for the one-hour ozone standard

375 as set forth in the federal Clean Air Act, the Commission shall not issue a decision approving such
376 proposed facility that is conditioned upon issuance of any environmental permit or approval. In every
377 proceeding under this subsection, the Commission shall receive and give consideration to all reports that
378 relate to the proposed facility by state agencies concerned with environmental protection; and if requested
379 by any county or municipality in which the facility is proposed to be built, to local comprehensive plans
380 that have been adopted pursuant to Article 3 (§ 15.2-2223 et seq.) of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2. Additionally,
381 the Commission (a) shall consider the effect of the proposed facility on economic development within the
382 Commonwealth, including but not limited to furtherance of the economic and job creation objectives of
383 the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy set forth in § 45.2-1706.1, and (b) shall consider any
384 improvements in service reliability that may result from the construction of such facility.

385 B. Subject to the provisions of subsection J, no electrical transmission line of 138 kilovolts or more
386 shall be constructed unless the State Corporation Commission shall, after at least 30 days' advance notice
387 by (i) publication in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the counties and municipalities
388 through which the line is proposed to be built, (ii) written notice to the governing body of each such county
389 and municipality, and (iii) causing to be sent a copy of the notice by first class mail to all owners of
390 property within the route of the proposed line, as indicated on the map or sketch of the route filed with the
391 Commission, which requirement shall be satisfied by mailing the notice to such persons at such addresses
392 as are indicated in the land books maintained by the commissioner of revenue, director of finance or
393 treasurer of the county or municipality, approve such line. Such notices shall include a written description
394 of the proposed route the line is to follow, as well as a map or sketch of the route including a digital
395 geographic information system (GIS) map provided by the public utility showing the location of the
396 proposed route. The Commission shall make GIS maps provided under this subsection available to the
397 public on the Commission's website. Such notices shall be in addition to the advance notice to the chief
398 administrative officer of the county or municipality required pursuant to § 15.2-2202.

399 As a condition to approval the Commission shall determine that the line is needed and that the
400 corridor or route chosen for the line will avoid or reasonably minimize adverse impact to the greatest
401 extent reasonably practicable on the scenic assets, historic and cultural resources recorded with the

402 Department of Historic Resources, cultural resources identified by federally recognized Tribal Nations in
403 the Commonwealth, and environment of the area concerned. To assist the Commission in this
404 determination, as part of the application for Commission approval of the line, the applicant shall
405 summarize its efforts to avoid or reasonably minimize adverse impact to the greatest extent reasonably
406 practicable on the scenic assets, historic resources recorded with the Department of Historic Resources,
407 and environment of the area concerned. In making the determinations about need, corridor or route, and
408 method of installation, the Commission shall verify the applicant's load flow modeling, contingency
409 analyses, and reliability needs presented to justify the new line and its proposed method of installation. If
410 the local comprehensive plan of an affected county or municipality designates corridors or routes for
411 electric transmission lines and the line is proposed to be constructed outside such corridors or routes, in
412 any hearing the county or municipality may provide adequate evidence that the existing planned corridors
413 or routes designated in the plan can adequately serve the needs of the company. Additionally, the
414 Commission shall consider, upon the request of the governing body of any county or municipality in which
415 the line is proposed to be constructed, (a) the costs and economic benefits likely to result from requiring
416 the underground placement of the line and (b) any potential impediments to timely construction of the
417 line.

418 C. If, prior to such approval, any interested party shall request a public hearing, the Commission
419 shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after such request, hold such hearing or hearings at such place as
420 may be designated by the Commission. In any hearing, the public service company shall provide adequate
421 evidence that existing rights-of-way cannot adequately serve the needs of the company.

422 If, prior to such approval, written requests therefor are received from the governing body of any
423 county or municipality through which the line is proposed to be built or from 20 or more interested parties,
424 the Commission shall hold at least one hearing in the area that would be affected by construction of the
425 line, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposal. If any hearing is to be held in the area
426 affected, the Commission shall direct that a copy of the transcripts of any previous hearings held in the
427 case be made available for public inspection at a convenient location in the area for a reasonable time
428 before such local hearing.

429 D. As used in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:

430 "Environment" or "environmental" shall be deemed to include in meaning "historic," as well as a
431 consideration of the probable effects of the line on the health and safety of the persons in the area
432 concerned.

433 "Interested parties" ~~shall include~~ includes the governing bodies of any counties or municipalities
434 through which the line is proposed to be built, and persons residing or owning property in each such county
435 or municipality.

436 "Public utility" means a public utility as defined in § 56-265.1.

437 "Qualifying facilities" means a cogeneration or small power production facility ~~which~~ that meets
438 the criteria of 18 C.F.R. Part 292.

439 "Reasonably accommodate requests to wheel or transmit power" means:

440 1. That the applicant will make available to new electric generation facilities constructed after
441 January 9, 1991, qualifying facilities and other nonutilities, a minimum of one-fourth of the total
442 megawatts of the additional transmission capacity created by the proposed line, for the purpose of
443 wheeling to public utility purchasers the power generated by such qualifying facilities and other nonutility
444 facilities which are awarded a power purchase contract by a public utility purchaser in compliance with
445 applicable state law or regulations governing bidding or capacity acquisition programs for the purchase of
446 electric capacity from nonutility sources, provided that the obligation of the applicant will extend only to
447 those requests for wheeling service made within the 12 months following certification by the State
448 Corporation Commission of the transmission line and with effective dates for commencement of such
449 service within the 12 months following completion of the transmission line; and

450 2. That the wheeling service offered by the applicant, pursuant to subdivision ~~D~~ 1, will reasonably
451 further the purposes of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (P. L. 95-617), as demonstrated
452 by submitting to the Commission, with its application for approval of the line, the cost methodologies,
453 terms, conditions, and dispatch and interconnection requirements the applicant intends, subject to any
454 applicable requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to include in its agreements for
455 such wheeling service.

456 E. In the event that, at any time after the giving of the notice required in subsection B, it appears
457 to the Commission that consideration of a route or routes significantly different from the route described
458 in the notice is desirable, the Commission shall cause notice of the new route or routes to be published
459 and mailed in accordance with subsection B. The Commission shall thereafter comply with the provisions
460 of this section with respect to the new route or routes to the full extent necessary to give affected localities,
461 federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth, and interested parties in the newly affected
462 areas the same protection afforded to affected localities and interested parties affected by the route
463 described in the original notice.

464 F. Approval of a transmission line pursuant to this section shall be deemed to satisfy the
465 requirements of § 15.2-2232 and local zoning ordinances with respect to such transmission line.

466 G. The Commission shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of
467 Environmental Quality regarding the coordination of their reviews of the environmental impact of electric
468 generating plants and associated facilities. If the proposed plants or associated facilities are in a locality
469 identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant to subdivision B 2 of § 2.2-401.01, such
470 consultation information shall be included in the memorandum of agreement.

471 H. An applicant that is required to obtain (i) a certificate of public convenience and necessity from
472 the Commission for any electric generating facility, electric transmission line, natural or manufactured
473 gas transmission line as defined in ~~49 Code of Federal Regulations~~ C.F.R. § 192.3, or natural or
474 manufactured gas storage facility (hereafter, an energy facility) and (ii) an environmental permit for the
475 energy facility that is subject to issuance by any agency or board within the Secretariat of Natural and
476 Historic Resources, may request a pre-application planning and review process. In any such request to the
477 Commission or the Secretariat of Natural and Historic Resources, the applicant shall identify the proposed
478 energy facility for which it requests the pre-application planning and review process. The Commission,
479 the Department of Environmental Quality, the Marine Resources Commission, the Department of Wildlife
480 Resources, the Department of Historic Resources, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and
481 other appropriate agencies of the Commonwealth shall participate in the pre-application planning and
482 review process. Participation in such process shall not limit the authority otherwise provided by law to the

483 Commission or other agencies or boards of the Commonwealth. The Commission and other participating
484 agencies and boards of the Commonwealth may invite federal and local governmental entities charged by
485 law with responsibility for issuing permits or approvals and potentially impacted federally recognized
486 Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth to participate in the pre-application planning and review process.
487 Through the pre-application planning and review process, the applicant, the Commission, ~~and other~~
488 participating agencies and boards of the Commonwealth, and potentially impacted federally recognized
489 Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth shall identify the potential impacts and approvals that may be
490 required and shall develop a plan that will provide for an efficient and coordinated review of the proposed
491 energy facility. The plan shall include (a) a list of the permits or other approvals likely to be required
492 based on the information available, (b) a specific plan and preliminary schedule for the different reviews,
493 (c) a plan for coordinating those reviews and the related public comment process, and (d) designation of
494 points of contact, either within each agency or for the Commonwealth as a whole, to facilitate this
495 coordination. The plan shall be made readily available to the public and shall be maintained on a dedicated
496 website to provide current information on the status of each component of the plan and each approval
497 process including opportunities for public comment.

498 I. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the construction and operation of a small
499 renewable energy project, as defined in § 10.1-1197.5, by a utility regulated pursuant to this title for which
500 the Department of Environmental Quality has issued a permit by rule pursuant to Article 5 (§ 10.1-1197.5
501 et seq.) of Chapter 11.1 of Title 10.1.

502 J. Approval under this section shall not be required for any transmission line for which a certificate
503 of public convenience and necessity is not required pursuant to subdivision A of § 56-265.2.

504 **§ 62.1-266. Ground water withdrawal permits.**

505 A. The Board may issue any ground water withdrawal permit upon terms, conditions, and
506 limitations necessary for the protection of the public welfare, safety, and health.

507 B. Applications for ground water withdrawal permits shall be in a form prescribed by the Board
508 and shall contain such information, consistent with this chapter, as the Board deems necessary.

509 C. All ground water withdrawal permits issued by the Board under this chapter shall have a fixed
510 term not to exceed 15 years. The term of a ground water withdrawal permit issued by the Board shall not
511 be extended by modification beyond the maximum duration, and the permit shall expire at the end of the
512 term unless a complete application for a new permit has been filed in a timely manner as required by the
513 regulations of the Board, and the Board is unable, through no fault of the permittee, to issue a new permit
514 before the expiration date of the previous permit.

515 D. Renewed ground water withdrawal permits shall be for a withdrawal amount that includes such
516 savings as can be demonstrated to have been achieved through water conservation, provided that a
517 beneficial use of the permitted ground water can be demonstrated for the following permit term.

518 E. Any permit issued by the Board under this chapter may, after notice and opportunity for a
519 hearing, be amended or revoked on any of the following grounds or for good cause as may be provided
520 by the regulations of the Board:

521 1. The permittee has violated any regulation or order of the Board pertaining to ground water, any
522 condition of a ground water withdrawal permit, any provision of this chapter, or any order of a court,
523 where such violation presents a hazard or potential hazard to human health or the environment or is
524 representative of a pattern of serious or repeated violations that, in the opinion of the Board, demonstrates
525 the permittee's disregard for or inability to comply with applicable laws, regulations, or requirements;

526 2. The permittee has failed to disclose fully all relevant material facts or has misrepresented a
527 material fact in applying for a permit, or in any other report or document required under this chapter or
528 under the ground water withdrawal regulations of the Board;

529 3. The activity for which the permit was issued endangers human health or the environment and
530 can be regulated to acceptable levels by amendment or revocation of the permit; or

531 4. There exists a material change in the basis on which the permit was issued that requires either a
532 temporary or a permanent reduction or elimination of the withdrawal controlled by the permit necessary
533 to protect human health or the environment.

534 F. No application for a ground water withdrawal permit shall be considered complete unless the
535 applicant has provided the Executive Director of the Board with notification from the governing body of

536 the locality in which the withdrawal is to occur that the location and operation of the withdrawing facility
537 is in compliance with all ordinances adopted pursuant to Chapter 22 (§ 15.2-2200 et seq.) of Title 15.2.
538 The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any applicant exempt from compliance under Chapter
539 22 (§ 15.2-2200 et seq.) of Title 15.2.

540 G. A ground water withdrawal permit shall authorize withdrawal of a specific amount of ground
541 water through a single well or system of wells, including a backup well or wells, or such other means as
542 the withdrawer specifies.

543 H. The Board may adopt regulations to develop a general permit for the regulation of irrigation
544 withdrawals from the surficial aquifer greater than 300,000 gallons in any one month. Regulations adopted
545 pursuant to this subsection shall provide that withdrawals from the surficial aquifer may be permitted
546 under either a general permit developed pursuant to this subsection or another ground water withdrawal
547 permit.

548 I. The Board shall promulgate regulations establishing criteria for determining whether the
549 quantity or quality of the ground water in a surficial aquifer is adequate to meet a proposed beneficial use.
550 Such regulations shall specify the information required to be submitted to the Department by a golf course
551 or any other person seeking a determination from the Department that either the quantity or quality of the
552 ground water in a surficial aquifer is not adequate to meet a proposed beneficial use. Such regulations
553 shall require the Department, within 30 days of receipt of a complete request, to make a determination as
554 to the adequacy of the quantity or quality of the ground water in a surficial aquifer.

555 J. If the proposed permit will allow for ground water withdrawals greater than 365 million gallons
556 per year in a locality identified by the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation pursuant to subdivision B 2 of
557 § 2.2-401.01, the Board shall ensure that the Department consults with any potentially impacted federally
558 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth pursuant to the policies and procedures adopted by the
559 Department pursuant to § 10.1-1186.3:1. Should feedback from potentially impacted federally recognized
560 Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth not be received by the deadline established in the Department's
561 policies and procedures, the consultation provisions of this section shall be deemed fulfilled.

562 2. That by January 1, 2025, and in consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the
563 Commonwealth, the Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation designated pursuant to § 2.2-401.01 of
564 the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall develop a list of localities in which federally
565 recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth shall be consulted to effectuate the provisions of
566 this act.

567 3. That the Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Environmental Quality, and Historic
568 Resources and the Marine Resources Commission shall adopt regulations as necessary to carry out
569 the provisions of this act. If a particular activity requires permits from both the federal government
570 and the Commonwealth, and consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the
571 Commonwealth has been or is being conducted by the Commonwealth pursuant to federal law, such
572 actions shall suffice to meet the requirements of this act.

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