



# 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 7, 2021

# Schedule

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- Convenes Jan. 13
- Pre-filing ends Jan. 13
- Cross-over deadline Feb. 9
- Adjourns Feb. 27

# Resiliency

- Create the Virginia Commonwealth Flood Board (CFB)
  - Direct & prioritize funding for flood mitigation, align State agencies, coordinate planning & adaptation efforts
  - Similar to Commonwealth Transportation Board, citizen members, regular meetings to address statewide flooding issues
- Incorporating resilience into SMART SCALE
  - Amend the method used to prioritize transportation projects for state funding to incorporate resiliency features into the scoring system

# Resiliency

- Real Estate Disclosures for Flooding
  - Amend Virginia's residential property disclosure requirements to require the seller to disclose information on a property's vulnerability to flooding & history of flood damage or flood insurance claims
- Prepare for future precipitation
  - Virginia should invest in research to analyze recent rainfall patterns statewide to determine future rainfall predictions, consider policy development like adding in a safety factor, and commit to re-evaluate the data at least every 5 years

# Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF)

- Request DEQ to revise the priority ranking criteria for SLAF to include Nitrogen
  - ▣ Use a simple method, converting nitrogen to phosphorus or something similar, no need for a study
- Request fiscally stressed communities receive higher funding proportions (>50%) of SLAF dollars
  - ▣ Similar to how wastewater funding is allocated through WQIF which prioritizes low income communities

# Watch list

- Pre-application Community and Environmental Justice Outreach (DEQ)
  - ▣ Require permit applicants to engage in community outreach before their application for certain individual air, water and land permits will be deemed complete by DEQ
- Increased funding for SLAF (~\$80M) (VCN)
- Increased, consistent, and stable funding for VCAP (VCN)
- Develop new regulations for preventing discharges from aboveground storage tanks with hazardous substances (VCN)