

# Coastal Resilience Recommended Legislative Priorities

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HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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# Background

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HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee created in March 2014 with three missions:

- Develop specific recommendations related to recurrent flooding and sea level rise adaptation and mitigation for local governments
- Advocate for support and action by the state government and federal government
- Serve as the primary regional contact to coordinate efforts with federal agencies and academic institutions

HRPDC requested recommendations on legislative priorities at November 2016 meeting

Coastal Resiliency Committee met in December 2016 and recommended that the Commission support three items for the current session.

# Recommended Legislative Priorities

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1. Support the appropriation of funds for the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund
2. Support the appropriation of funds to match federal funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 3x3x3 studies
3. Support the creation of a standalone Virginia Chief Resiliency Officer

# Recommendation #1

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## **Support the appropriation of funds for the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund**

- Fund created during 2016 General Assembly session
- Not currently funded
- Intended to help local governments establish low-interest loan programs for private individuals and businesses for flood mitigation

# Recommendation #2

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## **Support the appropriation of funds to match federal funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 3x3x3 studies**

- \$3 million/study (half Corps, half non-federal)
- 3 years
- 3 levels of Corps integration (district, division, HQ)
- First step in getting authorization and appropriation for Corps-funded projects
- HRPDC has submitted application for multi-jurisdictional studies for coastal resiliency – currently under review at Corps HQ

# Recommendation #3

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## **Support the creation of a standalone Virginia Chief Resiliency Officer**

- Current Chief Resiliency Officer is the Secretary of Public Safety
- Separate position would provide greater focus on issue and cross-departmental perspective

# Joint Subcommittee Recommendations

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The Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding met on January 10 and adopted six recommendations to submit to the full General Assembly

- 1. Create a cabinet level position for coastal flooding adaptation (HB 1964 (Stolle)/SB 1349 (Lewis))**
2. Request JLARC to conduct an audit of state agencies to study ongoing efforts in Virginia with regard to coastal flooding and resiliency (HJ 672 (Stolle)/SJ 297 (Wagner))
3. Continue support for the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency
4. Enable localities to provide real estate tax credits to homeowners and businesses that make improvements to structures or land to increase flood resiliency
- 5. Provide funding for the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund**
- 6. Provide funding for 3x3x3 studies**

# Recommended Action

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The Coastal Resiliency Committee voted on December 9, 2016 to recommend that the Commission add the following legislative priorities to the regional legislative agenda:

1. Support the appropriation of funds for the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund
2. Support the appropriation of funds to match federal funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 3x3x3 studies
3. Support the creation of a standalone Virginia Chief Resiliency Officer