

25105996D

**SENATE BILL NO. 1190**

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor  
on January 24, 2025)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Senators Deeds, VanValkenburg [SB 1114], and McPike [SB 1434])

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-2232, 15.2-2288.8, 45.2-1701, and 45.2-1710 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 15.2-2223.6 and 15.2-4209.1, by adding in Chapter 17 of Title 45.2 an article numbered 10, consisting of sections numbered 45.2-1735 and 45.2-1736, and by adding in Chapter 19 of Title 45.2 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered 45.2-1918, 45.2-1919, and 45.2-1920, relating to the siting of solar photovoltaic projects; decisions of localities; regional energy plans; Department of Energy; Virginia Energy Plan; Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center and Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee established; reports.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 15.2-2232, 15.2-2288.8, 45.2-1701, and 45.2-1710 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 15.2-2223.6 and 15.2-4209.1, by adding in Chapter 17 of Title 45.2 an article numbered 10, consisting of sections numbered 45.2-1735 and 45.2-1736, and by adding in Chapter 19 of Title 45.2 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered 45.2-1918, 45.2-1919, and 45.2-1920, as follows:**

**§ 15.2-2223.6. Comprehensive plan; energy production and energy efficiency.**

*During a locality's first comprehensive plan amendment after July 1, 2027, and no later than July 1, 2029, each locality shall incorporate into its comprehensive plan targets for energy production and energy efficiency based on its regional strategic plan as amended by its planning district commission pursuant to § 15.2-4209.1. Each locality shall reevaluate its energy production and energy efficiency targets during subsequent comprehensive plan amendments to ensure it is consistent with subsequent regional strategic plan amendments by its planning district commission pursuant to § 15.2-4209.1.*

**§ 15.2-2232. Legal status of plan.**

A. Whenever a local planning commission recommends a comprehensive plan or part thereof for the locality and such plan has been approved and adopted by the governing body, it shall control the general or approximate location, character and extent of each feature shown on the plan. Thereafter, unless a feature is already shown on the adopted master plan or part thereof or is deemed so under subsection D, no street or connection to an existing street, park or other public area, public building or public structure, public utility facility or public service corporation facility other than a railroad facility or an underground natural gas or underground electric distribution facility of a public utility as defined in subdivision (b) of § 56-265.1 within its certificated service territory, whether publicly or privately owned, shall be constructed, established or authorized, unless and until the general location or approximate location, character, and extent thereof has been submitted to and approved by the commission as being substantially in accord with the adopted comprehensive plan or part thereof. In connection with any such determination, the commission may, and at the direction of the governing body shall, hold a public hearing, after notice as required by § 15.2-2204. Following the adoption of the Statewide Transportation Plan by the Commonwealth Transportation Board pursuant to § 33.2-353 and written notification to the affected local governments, each local government through which one or more of the designated corridors of statewide significance traverses, shall, at a minimum, note such corridor or corridors on the transportation plan map included in its comprehensive plan for information purposes at the next regular update of the transportation plan map. Prior to the next regular update of the transportation plan map, the local government shall acknowledge the existence of corridors of statewide significance within its boundaries.

B. The commission shall communicate its findings to the governing body, indicating its approval or disapproval with written reasons therefor. The governing body may overrule the action of the commission by a vote of a majority of its membership. Failure of the commission to act within 60 days of a submission, unless the time is extended by the governing body, shall be deemed approval. The owner or owners or their agents may appeal the decision of the commission to the governing body within 10 days after the decision of the commission. The appeal shall be by written petition to the governing body setting forth the reasons for the appeal. The appeal shall be heard and determined within 60 days from its filing. A majority vote of the governing body shall overrule the commission.

C. Widening, narrowing, extension, enlargement, vacation or change of use of streets or public areas shall likewise be submitted for approval, but paving, repair, reconstruction, improvement, drainage or similar work and normal service extensions of public utilities or public service corporations shall not require approval unless such work involves a change in location or extent of a street or public area.

D. Any public area, facility, park or use as set forth in subsection A which is identified within, but not the

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

SB1190S1

60 entire subject of, a submission under either § 15.2-2258 for subdivision or subdivision A 8 of § 15.2-2286 for  
61 development or both may be deemed a feature already shown on the adopted master plan, and, therefore,  
62 excepted from the requirement for submittal to and approval by the commission or the governing body,  
63 provided that the governing body has by ordinance or resolution defined standards governing the  
64 construction, establishment or authorization of such public area, facility, park or use or has approved it  
65 through acceptance of a proffer made pursuant to § 15.2-2303.

66 E. Approval and funding of a public telecommunications facility on or before July 1, 2012, by the  
67 Virginia Public Broadcasting Board pursuant to Article 12 (§ 2.2-2426 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 or  
68 after July 1, 2012, by the Board of Education pursuant to § 22.1-20.1 shall be deemed to satisfy the  
69 requirements of this section and local zoning ordinances with respect to such facility with the exception of  
70 television and radio towers and structures not necessary to house electronic apparatus. The exemption  
71 provided for in this subsection shall not apply to facilities existing or approved by the Virginia Public  
72 Telecommunications Board prior to July 1, 1990. The Board of Education shall notify the governing body of  
73 the locality in advance of any meeting where approval of any such facility shall be acted upon.

74 F. On any application for a telecommunications facility, the commission's decision shall comply with the  
75 requirements of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Failure of the commission to act on any such  
76 application for a telecommunications facility under subsection A submitted on or after July 1, 1998, within 90  
77 days of such submission shall be deemed approval of the application by the commission unless the governing  
78 body has authorized an extension of time for consideration or the applicant has agreed to an extension of  
79 time. The governing body may extend the time required for action by the local commission by no more than  
80 60 additional days. If the commission has not acted on the application by the end of the extension, or by the  
81 end of such longer period as may be agreed to by the applicant, the application is deemed approved by the  
82 commission.

83 G. A proposed telecommunications tower or a facility constructed by an entity organized pursuant to  
84 Chapter 9.1 (§ 56-231.15 et seq.) of Title 56 shall be deemed to be substantially in accord with the  
85 comprehensive plan and commission approval shall not be required if the proposed telecommunications  
86 tower or facility is located in a zoning district that allows such telecommunications towers or facilities by  
87 right.

88 H. A solar facility subject to subsection A shall be deemed to be substantially in accord with the  
89 comprehensive plan if (i) such proposed solar facility is located in a zoning district that allows such solar  
90 facilities by right; (ii) such proposed solar facility is designed to serve the electricity or thermal needs of the  
91 property upon which such facility is located, or will be owned or operated by an eligible customer-generator  
92 or eligible agricultural customer-generator under § 56-594 or 56-594.01 or by a small agricultural generator  
93 under § 56-594.2; or (iii) the locality waives the requirement that solar facilities be reviewed for substantial  
94 accord with the comprehensive plan. All other solar facilities shall be reviewed for substantial accord with the  
95 comprehensive plan in accordance with this section. However, a locality may allow for a substantial accord  
96 review for such solar facilities to be advertised and approved concurrently in a public hearing process with a  
97 rezoning, special exception, or other approval process. *Any locality determining whether a solar facility or*  
98 *energy storage facility is substantially in accord with the comprehensive plan shall review and consider any*  
99 *advisory opinion issued by the Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 4 (§*  
100 *45.2-1918 et seq.) of Chapter 19 of Title 45.2 for such facility prior to making such a determination.*

101 **§ 15.2-2288.8. Special exceptions for solar photovoltaic projects.**

102 A. Any locality may grant a special exception pursuant to § 15.2-2286, and include in its zoning ordinance  
103 reasonable regulations and provisions for a special exception as defined in § 15.2-2201, for any solar  
104 photovoltaic (electric energy) project or energy storage project. For the purposes of this section, "energy  
105 storage project" means energy storage equipment and technology within an energy storage project that is  
106 capable of absorbing energy, storing such energy for a period of time, and redelivering such energy after it  
107 has been stored.

108 B. The governing body of such locality may grant a condition that includes (i) dedication of real property  
109 of substantial value or (ii) substantial cash payments for or construction of substantial public improvements,  
110 the need for which is not generated solely by the granting of a conditional use permit, so long as such  
111 conditions are reasonably related to the project.

112 C. Once a condition is granted pursuant to subsection B, such condition shall continue in effect until a  
113 subsequent amendment changes the zoning on the property for which the conditions were granted. However,  
114 such conditions shall continue if the subsequent amendment is part of a comprehensive implementation of a  
115 new or substantially revised zoning ordinance.

116 D. *Prior to making a decision to grant or deny a special exception for a solar photovoltaic project or*  
117 *energy storage project pursuant to this section, the locality shall review and consider any advisory opinion*  
118 *issued by the Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 4 (§ 45.2-1918 et seq.)*  
119 *of Chapter 19 of Title 45.2 for the project.*

120 E. *No locality shall adopt a comprehensive plan or ordinance that unreasonably restricts or prohibits the*

121 development of any renewable energy facility, and no locality shall deny any permit or special exception  
122 application for a renewable energy facility without a reasonable basis. For the purposes of this section, an  
123 incomplete Virginia Energy Plan pursuant to § 45.2-1710, regional energy plan pursuant to § 15.2-4209.1,  
124 or local comprehensive plan pursuant to § 15.2232 shall be considered an unreasonable basis for project  
125 denial.

126 **§ 15.2-4209.1. Regional energy plan.**

127 By January 1, 2027, and after each subsequent reevaluation of regional energy planning targets, each  
128 planning district commission shall ensure the development of a regional energy plan that meets the regional  
129 energy production and energy efficiency targets established for such planning district pursuant to subdivision  
130 D 5 of § 45.2-1701.

131 **§ 45.2-1701. Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; powers and duties.**

132 A. The Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency is established in the Department. The  
133 Director has the immediate authority to coordinate the development and implementation of energy policy in  
134 the Commonwealth.

135 B. The Division shall coordinate the energy-related activities of the various state agencies and advise the  
136 Governor on energy issues that arise at the local, state, and national levels. All state agencies and institutions  
137 shall cooperate fully with the Division to assist in the proper execution of the duties assigned by this section.

138 C. In addition, the Division is authorized to make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or  
139 incidental to the performance of its duties or the execution of its powers, including the implementation of  
140 energy information and conservation plans and programs.

141 D. The Division shall:

142 1. Consult with state agencies and institutions concerning energy-related activities or policies as needed  
143 for the proper execution of the duties assigned to the Division by this section;

144 2. Serve as the Commonwealth's liaison with appropriate agencies of the federal government concerning  
145 the activities of the federal government related to energy production, consumption, and transportation and  
146 energy resource management in general and identify and monitor any federal grant programs, loan programs,  
147 or other opportunities for federal funding to further the Commonwealth's energy efficiency goals;

148 3. Provide services to encourage efforts by and among businesses in the Commonwealth, industries,  
149 utilities, academic institutions, state and local governments, and private institutions to develop energy  
150 resources and energy conservation programs;

151 4. In consultation with the State Corporation Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality, and  
152 the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research, prepare the Virginia Energy Plan pursuant to § 45.2-1710;  
153 and

154 5. By July 1, 2026, establish regional planning targets for each planning district for energy production  
155 and energy efficiency to meet the renewable energy and energy efficiency goals of the Commonwealth,  
156 including the development of energy efficiency, distributed generation solar energy, shared solar,  
157 utility-scale solar, onshore and offshore wind, and battery energy storage. In establishing such targets, the  
158 Division shall consider land availability and cost, the region's proximity to energy infrastructure, approved  
159 renewable energy projects in the region, locations of historical or cultural significance, and the impact on  
160 agriculture, forestry, and natural resources. The Division shall periodically reevaluate regional energy  
161 planning targets until the objectives of the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy set forth in § 45.2-1706.1 are  
162 met; and

163 6. Observe the energy-related activities of state agencies and advise such agencies in order to encourage  
164 conformity with established energy policy.

165 **§ 45.2-1710. Development of the Virginia Energy Plan.**

166 A. The Division, in consultation with the State Corporation Commission, the Department of  
167 Environmental Quality, the Clean Energy Advisory Board, the solar, wind, energy efficiency, and  
168 transportation electrification sectors, and a stakeholder group that includes representatives of consumer,  
169 environmental, manufacturing, forestry, and agricultural organizations and natural gas and electric utilities,  
170 shall prepare a comprehensive Virginia Energy Plan (the Plan) that identifies actions over a 10-year period  
171 consistent with the goal of the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy set forth in § 45.2-1706.1 to achieve, no  
172 later than 2045, a net-zero carbon energy economy for all sectors, including the electricity, transportation,  
173 building, agricultural, and industrial sectors. The Plan shall propose actions, consistent with the objectives  
174 enumerated in § 45.2-1706.1, that will implement the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy set forth in §  
175 45.2-1706.1.

176 B. In addition, the Plan shall include:

177 1. Projections of energy consumption in the Commonwealth, including the use of fuel sources and costs of  
178 electricity, natural gas, gasoline, coal, renewable resources, and other forms of non-greenhouse-gas-  
179 generating energy resources, such as nuclear power, used in the Commonwealth;

180 2. An analysis of the adequacy of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution resources in the  
181 Commonwealth for the natural gas and electric industries, and how distributed energy resources and regional

182 generation, transmission, and distribution resources affect the Commonwealth;

183 3. An analysis of siting requirements for electric generation resources and natural gas and electric  
184 transmission and distribution resources, including an assessment of state and local impediments to expanded  
185 use of distributed resources and recommendations to reduce or eliminate such impediments;

186 4. An analysis of fuel diversity for electricity generation, recognizing the importance of flexibility in  
187 meeting future capacity needs;

188 5. An analysis of the efficient use of energy resources and conservation initiatives;

189 6. An analysis of how such Virginia-specific issues relate to regional initiatives to ensure the adequacy of  
190 fuel production, generation, transmission, and distribution assets;

191 7. An analysis of the siting of energy resource development, refining, and transmission facilities to  
192 identify any disproportionate adverse impact of such activities on economically disadvantaged or minority  
193 communities;

194 8. With regard to any regulations proposed or adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to  
195 reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under § 111(d) of the federal  
196 Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411(d), an analysis of (i) the costs to and benefits for energy producers and  
197 electric utility customers, (ii) the effect on energy markets and reliability, and (iii) the commercial availability  
198 of technology required to comply with such regulations;

199 9. An inventory of greenhouse gas emissions compiled using a method determined by the Department of  
200 Environmental Quality for the four years prior to the issuance of the Plan;

201 10. Data regarding the number and type of electric and hybrid electric vehicles currently registered in the  
202 Commonwealth; projections of future electric vehicle sales across all vehicle classes, taking into  
203 consideration the impact of current and potential statewide policies; and analysis of the impact that the  
204 growth of electrified transit on the Commonwealth's electric system;

205 11. An analysis of the Commonwealth's current electric vehicle charging infrastructure and all future  
206 infrastructure needed to support the 2045 net-zero carbon target in the transportation sector, including  
207 chargers, make-ready electrical equipment, and supporting hardware and software needed to support the  
208 electrification of all vehicle categories used on and off roads and highways, including light-duty,  
209 medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and electric bicycles, as well as that needed to electrify ground  
210 transportation at all ports and airports, with particular attention to the needs of historically economically  
211 disadvantaged communities as defined in § 56-576 and any state or local impediments to deployment; ~~and~~

212 12. *Regional planning targets developed by the Division pursuant to § 45.2-1701 by planning district for*  
213 *energy production and energy efficiency that in total will meet the requirements of §§ 56-585.5 and 56-596.2;*  
214 *and*

215 13. Recommendations, based on the analyses completed under subdivisions 1 through ~~11~~ 12, for  
216 legislative, regulatory, and other public and private actions to implement the elements of the Commonwealth  
217 Clean Energy Policy.

218 C. In preparing the Plan, the Division and other agencies involved in the planning process shall utilize  
219 state geographic information systems, to the extent deemed practicable, to assess how recommendations in  
220 the Plan may affect pristine natural areas and other significant onshore natural resources. Effective October 1,  
221 2024, interim updates on the Plan shall also contain projections for greenhouse gas emissions that would  
222 result from implementation of the Plan's recommendations.

223 D. In preparing the Plan, the Division and other agencies involved in the planning process shall develop a  
224 system for assigning numerical scores to any parcel of real property based on the extent to which such parcel  
225 is suitable for the siting of a wind energy facility or solar energy facility. For a wind energy facility, the  
226 scoring system shall address the wind velocity, sustained velocity, and turbulence. For either a wind energy  
227 facility or a solar energy facility, the scoring system shall address the parcel's proximity to electric power  
228 transmission lines or systems, potential impacts of such a facility to natural and historic resources and to  
229 economically disadvantaged or minority communities, and compatibility with the local land use plan. The  
230 system developed pursuant to this section shall allow the suitability of the parcel for the siting of a wind  
231 energy or solar energy facility to be compared to the suitability of other parcels so scored, and shall be based  
232 on a scale that allows the suitability of the parcel for the siting of such a facility to be measured against the  
233 hypothetical score of an ideal location for such a facility.

234 E. Upon receipt by the Division of a recommendation from the Department of General Services, a local  
235 governing body, or the parcel's owner stating that a parcel of real property is a potentially suitable location for  
236 a wind energy facility or solar energy facility, the Division shall analyze the suitability of the parcel for the  
237 location of such a facility. In conducting its analysis, the Division shall ascribe a numerical score to the parcel  
238 using the scoring system developed pursuant to subsection D.

239 *Article 10.*

240 *Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center.*

241 **§ 45.2-1735. Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center; board of directors.**

242 A. *The Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center (the Center) is hereby established to include*

243 Christopher Newport University, George Mason University, James Madison University, Longwood  
 244 University, the University of Mary Washington, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Radford  
 245 University, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Military Institute,  
 246 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and The College of William  
 247 and Mary in Virginia, and is to be located at the University of Virginia.

248 B. The Center shall be governed by a board of directors (the board), which shall consist of 15 voting  
 249 members as follows: the executive director of the board or his designee, the president of Christopher  
 250 Newport University or his designee, the president of George Mason University or his designee, the president  
 251 of James Madison University or his designee, the president of Longwood University or his designee, the  
 252 president of the University of Mary Washington or his designee, the president of Norfolk State University or  
 253 his designee, the president of Old Dominion University or his designee, the president of Radford University  
 254 or his designee, the president of the University of Virginia or his designee, the president of Virginia  
 255 Commonwealth University or his designee, the Superintendent of Virginia Military Institute or his designee,  
 256 the president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University or his designee, the president of Virginia  
 257 State University or his designee, and the president of The College of William and Mary in Virginia or his  
 258 designee.

259 C. The board shall appoint an executive director to serve as the principal administrative officer of the  
 260 Center. The executive director shall report to the board and be under its supervision. The executive director  
 261 shall employ such personnel and secure such services as may be required to carry out the purposes of the  
 262 Center, expend appropriated funds, and accept moneys from federal or private sources for carrying out the  
 263 purposes of the Center.

264 **§ 45.2-1736. Functions, powers, and duties of the Center; report.**

265 A. The Center shall serve as an interdisciplinary study, research, and information resource and shall  
 266 provide technical assistance to state agencies, planning district commissions, localities, the Interagency  
 267 Renewable Energy Advisory Committee, other public bodies, and private entities in matters related to solar  
 268 facility siting. The Center shall conduct research and analysis relating to critical interconnection projects,  
 269 including issues regarding siting, permitting, development, financing, energy efficiency, economic  
 270 development impact analysis, supply chain and manufacturing, and innovation, and any other topics deemed  
 271 necessary to advance the clean energy goals of the Commonwealth.

272 B. The Center shall collaborate with the Department of Energy's Division of Renewable Energy and  
 273 Energy Efficiency and any planning district commission to provide technical assistance regarding forecasted  
 274 energy load growth modeling and the development of the Virginia Energy Plan pursuant to § 45.2-1710 and  
 275 of regional planning targets for each planning district for energy production and energy efficiency pursuant  
 276 to subdivision D 5 of § 45.2-1701.

277 C. The Center shall collaborate with the Department, the Department of Environmental Quality, or other  
 278 state agencies or public institutions of higher education to provide technical assistance or engagement and  
 279 planning for renewable energy facility siting, permitting, or project development through state or federally  
 280 funded programs established at any such agency or institution.

281 D. The Center shall provide an annual report summarizing research activities and detailing each source  
 282 and specific amounts of funding to the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation on or before November 1 of  
 283 each year.

284 Article 4.

285 Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee.

286 **§ 45.2-1918. Definitions.**

287 As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

288 "Advisory Committee" means the Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee established  
 289 pursuant to this article.

290 "Energy storage facility" means battery energy storage equipment or technology that is capable of storing  
 291 energy or electricity for a period of time and redelivering such energy or electricity after its storage.

292 "Energy storage project" means an energy storage facility located within the Commonwealth and includes  
 293 interest in land, improvements, and ancillary facilities.

294 "Solar energy facility" means a commercial solar photovoltaic generation facility.

295 "Solar photovoltaic project" means a solar energy facility located within the Commonwealth and includes  
 296 interests in land, improvements, and ancillary facilities.

297 **§ 45.2-1919. Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee.**

298 A. By January 1, 2026, the Director shall convene an Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee  
 299 for the purposes of reviewing solar photovoltaic project or battery energy storage project proposals and  
 300 issuing advisory opinions on such proposals. The Advisory Committee may consult with state agencies,  
 301 localities, planning district commissions, research institutions, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and  
 302 stakeholders as the Advisory Committee deems appropriate. The Advisory Committee shall have only those  
 303 powers enumerated in this article.

304 B. The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following seven ex officio members:

305 1. *The Director or his designee. Any such designee shall be employed within the Department's Division of*  
306 *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency;*  
307 2. *The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee. Any such designee shall be*  
308 *employed within the Department of Environmental Quality's Air Division or Land and Waste Division;*  
309 3. *The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services or his designee;*  
310 4. *The Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation or his designee;*  
311 5. *The Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority or his*  
312 *designee;*  
313 6. *The Executive Director of the Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center or his designee; and*  
314 7. *The State Forester or his designee.*  
315 C. *The Director or his designee shall serve as the chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Department*  
316 *shall provide staff support to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall convene at least once*  
317 *per quarter to conduct renewable energy project reviews as described in § 45.2-1920.*  
318 **§ 45.2-1920. Renewable energy project review.**  
319 A. *Any person planning to construct a solar photovoltaic project or energy storage project or any locality*  
320 *considering an application for such a project may request an advisory opinion on the proposal from the*  
321 *Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall review each proposal and shall issue an advisory opinion*  
322 *within 90 days and shall provide such opinion to the relevant locality and other requestor, if applicable.*  
323 B. *In reviewing a proposal, the Advisory Committee shall consider (i) regional planning targets for the*  
324 *relevant planning district established pursuant to § 45.2-1701; (ii) the goals of the Commonwealth Clean*  
325 *Energy Policy set forth in § 45.2-1706.1; (iii) the requirements of § 56-585.5; (iv) cost effectiveness; (v) the*  
326 *project's proximity to existing energy infrastructure and approved renewable energy projects; (vi) any*  
327 *impacts to agricultural, forest, natural, historical, or cultural resources; and (vii) any other factor the*  
328 *Advisory Committee deems relevant.*  
329 **2. That prior to the effective date of the initial comprehensive plan amendments for energy production**  
330 **and energy efficiency targets based on regional strategic plans required by § 15.2-4209.1 of the Code of**  
331 **Virginia, as created by this act, no locality shall unduly delay or prohibit the consideration of any**  
332 **application for a solar facility pursuant to subsection H of § 15.2-2232 or § 15.2-2288.8 of the Code of**  
333 **Virginia, as amended by this act, or for an energy storage facility. Nothing in this act shall be construed**  
334 **to require a locality to approve an application for a solar facility or energy storage facility or limit a**  
335 **locality's authority to establish criteria and requirements for solar siting, including those related to tree**  
336 **canopy and stormwater management, that are otherwise in compliance with the laws of the**  
337 **Commonwealth and existing local zoning authority.**  
338 **3. That the Department of Energy's Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency shall report**  
339 **annually to the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor and Local Government; the**  
340 **Chairs of the House Committees on Counties, Cities, and Towns and Labor and Commerce; and the**  
341 **Chair of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation on (i) the implementation of regional energy**  
342 **planning required pursuant to §§ 15.2-2223.6 and 15.2-4209.1 of the Code of Virginia, as created by**  
343 **this act, and subdivision D 5 of § 45.2-1701 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act; (ii) the**  
344 **solar facility and energy storage facility applications considered by localities pursuant to subsection H**  
345 **of § 15.2-2232 or § 15.2-2288.8 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act; and (iii) any advisory**  
346 **opinions issued by the Interagency Renewable Energy Advisory Committee pursuant to § 45.2-1920 of**  
347 **the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.**