

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2223.6, relating to comprehensive*  
 3 *plan; environmental justice strategy.*

4 [S 1254]

5 Approved

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

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-2223.6 as follows:**

8 **§ 15.2-2223.6. *Comprehensive plan shall consider adopting an environmental justice strategy.***

9 *A. For purposes of this section:*

10 *"Environmental justice community" means the same as that term is defined in § 2.2-234, as determined by*  
 11 *the most currently available demographic information compiled for census tracts or census blocks within the*  
 12 *local planning commission's jurisdiction, provided that any discrete geographic area smaller than a census*  
 13 *tract or census block within the local planning commission's jurisdiction may be designated as an*  
 14 *environmental justice community in accordance with the definition set forth in § 2.2-234.*

15 *"Fenceline community" means the same as that term is defined in § 2.2-234.*

16 *B. Beginning July 1, 2025, each city with a population greater than 20,000 and each county with a*  
 17 *population greater than 100,000 shall, during the next scheduled and all subsequent reviews of its*  
 18 *comprehensive plan, as required in § 15.2-2230, consider adopting an environmental justice strategy that*  
 19 *meets the requirements of this section.*

20 *C. The environmental justice strategy shall:*

21 *1. Identify each environmental justice community and fenceline community within the local planning*  
 22 *commission's jurisdiction;*

23 *2. Identify major sources of pollution or hazardous waste sites within the locality's jurisdiction, on the*  
 24 *basis of data from any federal, state, or local environmental agency or health department;*

25 *3. Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in environmental*  
 26 *justice communities and fenceline communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of*  
 27 *pollution exposure, the improvement of air and water quality, emergency management, resilience to*  
 28 *increased flooding, excessive heat and other impacts of a changing climate, and the promotion of public*  
 29 *facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity;*

30 *4. Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in public decision-making processes by*  
 31 *members of environmental justice communities and fenceline communities;*

32 *5. Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of*  
 33 *environmental justice communities and fenceline communities, such as low-cost broadband Internet*  
 34 *programs and Internet adoption initiatives encompassing digital literacy and device access, job training,*  
 35 *access to healthy foods, access to aging in place assistance, equitable access to public parks and greenways,*  
 36 *increased tree canopy, public transit services, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, electric vehicle charging, and*  
 37 *other clean transportation options; and*

38 *6. Identify objectives and policies that encourage linking public transit with community and health*  
 39 *services and siting or co-locating health services in unconventional settings to ensure convenient access for*  
 40 *all community members.*