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1 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 *Continuing the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding. Report.*

5 Patron—Convirs-Fowler

6 Committee Referral Pending

7 WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 50 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 76 (2012) directed the
8 Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to study strategies for adaptation to prevent recurrent flooding in
9 Virginia's Tidewater and Eastern Shore localities; and10 WHEREAS, the resulting VIMS report, titled "Recurrent Flooding Study for Tidewater Virginia,"
11 published as Senate Document 3 (2013), stated that recurrent flooding impacts all localities in Virginia's
12 coastal zone and is predicted to become worse over reasonable planning horizons (20 to 50 years); and13 WHEREAS, VIMS offered several recommendations, including that the Commonwealth, working with its
14 coastal localities, (i) begin comprehensive and coordinated planning efforts; (ii) initiate identification,
15 collection, and analysis of data needed to support effective planning for response efforts; and (iii) take a lead
16 role in addressing recurrent flooding in Virginia for the following reasons: (a) accessing relevant federal
17 resources for planning and mitigation may be enhanced through state mediation, (b) flooding problems are
18 linked to water bodies and therefore often transcend locality boundaries, and (c) prioritizing flood
19 management actions must be based in part on risk, and therefore the Commonwealth must oversee the
20 necessary studies to determine adaptation strategies, as well as implementation of the agreed-upon strategies;
21 and22 WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 16 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 (2014) established the
23 Joint Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations to Address Recurrent Flooding as recommended by the
24 VIMS report; and25 WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding met four times during the 2014 interim
26 to collect information from federal and state agencies, localities, and stakeholders and to carry out its work;
27 and28 WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding filed an executive summary with the
29 General Assembly prior to the 2015 Session, which included five initial recommendations to increase public
30 awareness, improve local and state government agency resiliency coordination, and address floodplain
31 management; and32 WHEREAS, recommendations made by the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding during the
33 2014 interim resulted in six bills passing the General Assembly with bipartisan support during the 2015
34 Session; and35 WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding met four times during the 2015 interim
36 to collect information from federal and state agencies, localities, and stakeholders and to carry out its work;
37 and38 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 84 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 58 (2016), the
39 Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding was renamed as the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal
40 Flooding and continued its work during the 2016 and 2017 interims and brought forth additional
41 recommendations for the 2018 Session; and42 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 26 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 19 (2018), the
43 Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding continued its work during the 2018 and 2019 interims and brought
44 forth additional recommendations for the 2020 Session; and45 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 102 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 27 (2020), the
46 Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding continued its work during the 2020 and 2021 interims and brought
47 forth additional recommendations for the 2022 Session; and48 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 16 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 35 (2022), the
49 Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding was renamed as the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding and
50 continued its work during the 2022 and 2023 interims; and51 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 437 (2025), the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent
52 Flooding was reestablished and continued its work during the 2025 interim; and53 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 437 (2025), the Joint Subcommittee will complete its
54 meetings by November 30, 2026, and submit an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no
55 later than the first day of the 2027 Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

56 WHEREAS, riverine flooding and flooding from stormwater are major concerns for the Commonwealth

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59 and deserve further study and action from the joint subcommittee; and
60 WHEREAS, members of the joint subcommittee concur that the joint subcommittee be continued for one
61 additional year beyond the 2026 interim; now, therefore, be it

62 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee on
63 Recurrent Flooding be continued for an additional year. The joint subcommittee shall have a total
64 membership of 13 members as follows: (i) one shall be a business leader appointed by the Speaker of the
65 House of Delegates, (ii) one shall be a representative of the environmental community appointed by the
66 Speaker of the House of Delegates, (iii) one shall be from an urban area impacted by stormwater flooding
67 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, (iv) one shall be from a rural area impacted by riverine
68 flooding appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and (v) one shall be a local official representing an
69 area impacted by coastal flooding appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Nonlegislative citizen
70 members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The current members
71 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be subject to reappointment. The current members
72 appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules shall continue to serve until replaced. Vacancies shall be filled
73 by the original appointing authority. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint
74 subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel
75 originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a
76 companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be
77 required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who
78 shall be members of the General Assembly.

79 In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall recommend short-term and long-term strategies for
80 minimizing the impact of flooding.

81 Administrative staff support shall continue to be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of
82 Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall
83 continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall continue to be
84 provided by faculty at Virginia institutions of higher education who have expertise in the subject matter. All
85 agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon
86 request.

87 The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2027 interim, and the direct costs of this
88 study shall not exceed \$17,440 for the 2027 interim without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval
89 for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the
90 joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed
91 to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

92 No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a
93 majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the recommendation and
94 (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

95 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2027, and the chairman shall submit
96 to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and
97 recommendations no later than the first day of the 2028 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The
98 executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and
99 the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document.
100 The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of
101 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on
102 the General Assembly's website.

103 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules
104 Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the
105 period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2027 interim.