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1 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 11, 2026

4 *Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the methodology for determining*  
5 *non-federal sponsor contributions to conduct legacy property managed retreat studies in the*  
6 *Commonwealth. Report.*

7 Patron—Glass

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 WHEREAS, storm events and rising tidal waters cause recurrent flooding of the Commonwealth's land  
10 resources, result in the loss of life, damage to property, and unsafe and unsanitary living conditions, disrupt  
11 commerce and government services, and place the health, safety, and welfare of citizens living in flood-prone  
12 areas at risk; and13 WHEREAS, it is critical to ensure that moving communities away from dangerous flood zones is done  
14 with justice, dignity, and care for the people who make up those communities; and15 WHEREAS, managed retreat is the process of relocating people and infrastructure from areas vulnerable  
16 to rising water and reducing a community's risk by converting these areas to green spaces or allowing the  
17 water to inundate them; and18 WHEREAS, a legacy property is a residential property owned by an individual who is at least 55 years of  
19 age and whose household income does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income (AMI), located  
20 within a city or town with a population of 35,000 or fewer, and situated in a community that meets the  
21 definition of an environmental justice community under § 2.2-234 of the Code of Virginia; now, therefore, be  
22 it23 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and  
24 Review Commission be directed to study the methodology for determining non-federal sponsor contributions  
25 to conduct legacy property managed retreat studies in the Commonwealth.26 In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall (i) examine the  
27 methodologies and criteria used by other states, if any, to apportion monetary responsibility between the state  
28 and the participating localities for the implementation costs of a legacy property managed retreat study and  
29 determine the portion of costs for which the non-federal sponsor is responsible; (ii) develop a recommended  
30 methodology and any additional criteria for determining the division of costs for legacy property managed  
31 retreat studies and the implementation of such studies in the Commonwealth, which shall include  
32 prioritization to implement risk-reduction projects in the Commonwealth that (a) reflect community and  
33 regional scale planning; (b) protect and enhance nature-based approaches; (c) address socioeconomic  
34 inequities; and (d) enhance equity through flood resilience and preparedness, consistent with measures  
35 outlined in subsection B of § 10.1-658 of the Code of Virginia; and (iii) consider whether a stand-alone fund  
36 shall be established to support and manage cost-share requests from non-federal sponsors to provide relief to  
37 legacy property owners threatened by sea level rise.38 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review  
39 Commission for this study, upon request.40 The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings for the first year by  
41 November 30, 2027, and for the second year by November 30, 2028, and the chair shall submit to the  
42 Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no  
43 later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive  
44 summary shall state that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission intends to submit to the General  
45 Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or  
46 Senate document. The executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of  
47 the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and  
48 shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.49  
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INTRODUCED

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