

26104845D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 937**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 a section numbered 44-146.29:5,*  
5 *relating to Virginia Resiliency Grant Program and Fund; established.*

6 Patron—Franklin

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 a section numbered**  
10 **44-146.29:5 as follows:**11 **§ 44-146.29:5. Virginia Resiliency Grant Program and Fund.**12 **A. For purposes of this section:**13 "Eligible costs" means costs incurred implementing (i) disaster and emergency recovery, mitigation, and  
14 planning; (ii) any training and equipment used for such recovery, mitigation, and planning; and (iii)  
15 emergency management operational costs, including staffing and administrative support.16 "Local governing body" means the governing body of a locality in which there occurred a disaster or  
17 emergency, as those terms are defined by § 44-146.16.18 **B. The Department of Emergency Management (the Department) shall establish the Virginia Resiliency**  
19 **Grant Program (the Program) to assist localities with eligible costs resulting from those emergencies for**  
20 **which federal assistance under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121**  
21 **et seq.) is unavailable.**22 **C. Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, the Department shall award local governing bodies**  
23 **a grant of up to \$100,000 on a first-come, first-served basis to assist localities with eligible costs resulting**  
24 **from those emergencies for which federal assistance under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency**  
25 **Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.) is unavailable. The Department shall prioritize awarding grants to**  
26 **local governing bodies that did not receive an award pursuant to the Program in the previous fiscal year.**27 **D. The Department shall establish and administer the Program for the purposes of assisting localities in**  
28 **alleviating the effects of a disaster or emergency. The Department shall establish guidelines and procedures**  
29 **for determining whether and to what extent grants will be made available to localities. Such guidelines and**  
30 **procedures shall require a local governing body to submit an application to the Department, which shall**  
31 **include a summary of the requested funds and their proposed purpose. Such guidelines may establish a tiered**  
32 **grant system to award higher amounts to local governing bodies experiencing substantial infrastructure**  
33 **damage, housing loss, or repeated disasters or emergencies. In determining grant eligibility and award**  
34 **amounts, the Department shall consider localized and regional damage assessments, including the economic**  
35 **conditions of affected communities, rather than relying solely on statewide indicators or aggregate damage**  
36 **thresholds.**37 **E. The Department may establish a Virginia Disaster Individual Assistance Program to support**  
38 **households impacted by disasters or emergencies for which federal individual assistance is unavailable or**  
39 **insufficient. Such assistance may include aid for housing stabilization, repair, temporary relocation, or other**  
40 **essential recovery needs.**41 **F. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia**  
42 **Resiliency Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books**  
43 **of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and**  
44 **other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest**  
45 **earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the**  
46 **Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall**  
47 **remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of (i) awarding grants pursuant**  
48 **to subsection C and (ii) administering a Virginia Disaster Individual Assistance Program, if applicable.**  
49 **Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by**  
50 **the Comptroller upon written request signed by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management.**

INTRODUCED

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