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HOUSE BILL NO. 1038

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 14, 2026

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-104.6:3, relating to Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund and Program established.

Patron—Carr

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-104.6:3 as follows:

§ 10.1-104.6:3. Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund and Program.

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis pursuant to the Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Program established in subsection B. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director.

B. There is hereby established the Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Program (the Program) for the purpose of awarding grants from the Fund on a competitive basis to any school division that seeks assistance to develop a local environmental literacy plan. The Office of Environmental Education shall, in consultation with the Department of Education and any other stakeholder that it deems appropriate, administer the Fund and Program and shall establish such rules and procedures for the Program that it deems necessary and appropriate.

C. Any school division may apply for Program grants to develop a local student environmental literacy plan that aligns with the Standards of Learning and emphasizes environmental literacy as an essential skill and concept of citizenship that is necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community, as set forth in subsection C of § 22.1-253.13:1. Such a local student environmental literacy plan may also prepare students to understand, analyze, and address the major environmental challenges facing the Commonwealth and the United States.