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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1038**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 10.1 a section numbered*
5 *10.1-104.6:3, relating to Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund and Program*
6 *established.*

7 Patron—Carr

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 10.1 a section**
11 **numbered 10.1-104.6:3 as follows:**12 **§ 10.1-104.6:3. Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund and Program.**13 *A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia*
14 *Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall*
15 *be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts,*
16 *donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and*
17 *credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it.*
18 *Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert*
19 *to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose of*
20 *awarding grants on a competitive basis pursuant to the Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant*
21 *Program established in subsection B. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the*
22 *State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director.*23 *B. There is hereby established the Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Program (the*
24 *Program) for the purpose of awarding grants from the Fund on a competitive basis to any school division*
25 *that seeks assistance to develop a local environmental literacy plan. The Office of Environmental Education*
26 *shall, in consultation with the Department of Education and any other stakeholder that it deems appropriate,*
27 *administer the Fund and Program and shall establish such rules and procedures for the Program that it*
28 *deems necessary and appropriate.*29 *C. Any school division may apply for Program grants to develop a local student environmental literacy*
30 *plan that aligns with the Standards of Learning and emphasizes environmental literacy as an essential skill*
31 *and concept of citizenship that is necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the*
32 *international community, as set forth in subsection C of § 22.1-253.13:1. Such a local student environmental*
33 *literacy plan may also prepare students to understand, analyze, and address the major environmental*
34 *challenges facing the Commonwealth and the United States.*

INTRODUCED

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