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HOUSE BILL NO. 1066

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 14, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-6606 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority; powers; commercial fishing pier.

Patron—Hodges

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 15.2-6606 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 15.2-6606. Powers.**

The Authority is hereby granted all powers necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this act, including the following, to:

1. Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;
2. Sue and be sued in its own name;
3. Have perpetual succession;
4. Adopt a corporate seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
5. Maintain offices at such places as it may designate;
6. Acquire, establish, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate and regulate public access sites that are owned or managed by the authority within the territorial limits of the participating political subdivisions;

7. Construct, install, maintain, and operate facilities for managing access sites;

8. Determine fees, rates, and charges for the use of its facilities;

9. Apply for and accept gifts, or grants of money or gifts, grants or loans of other property or other financial assistance from the United States of America and agencies and instrumentalities thereof, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or any other person or entity, for or in aid of the construction, acquisition, ownership, operation, maintenance or repair of the public access sites or for the payment of principal of any indebtedness of the Authority, interest thereon or other cost incident thereto, and to this end the Authority shall have the power to render such services, comply with such conditions and execute such agreements, and legal instruments, as may be necessary, convenient or desirable or imposed as a condition to such financial aid;

10. Receive and expend public funds and private donations for dredging or construction; apply for permits in order to perform dredging projects on waterways or to construct facilities and infrastructure within the region for which the Authority exists, provided that such projects enhance recreational and commercial public access; and perform such dredging projects or construct such facilities and infrastructure;

11. In conjunction with one or both of the Eastern Shore Water Access Authority (the ESWAA), created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74 (§ 15.2-7400 et seq.), and the Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (the NNCBPAA), created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 66.1 (§ 15.2-6626 et seq.), receive and expend public funds and private donations for dredging, apply for permits in order to perform dredging projects, and perform such dredging projects on waterways within the region for which any or all of the Authority, the ESWAA, or the NNCBPAA exists;

12. *Construct, maintain, and operate a commercial fishing pier, as that term is defined in § 28.2-302, whose primary purpose is to allow fishing by the public. Such pier shall be exempt from the provisions of § 28.2-302.9.*

13. Appoint, employ or engage such officers, employees, architects, engineers, attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, investment bankers, and other advisors, consultants, and agents as may be necessary or appropriate, and to fix their duties and compensation;

~~13.~~ 14. Contract with any participating political subdivision for such subdivision to provide legal services, engineering services, depository and investment services contemplated by § 15.2-6612 hereof, accounting services, including the annual independent audit required by § 15.2-6609 hereof, procurement of goods and services, and to act as fiscal agent for the Authority;

~~14.~~ 15. Establish personnel rules;

~~15.~~ 16. Own, purchase, lease, obtain options upon, acquire by gift, grant, or bequest or otherwise acquire any property, real or personal, or any interest therein, and in connection therewith to assume or take subject to any indebtedness secured by such property;

~~16.~~ 17. Make, assume, and enter into all contracts, leases, and arrangements necessary or incidental to the exercise of its powers, including contracts for the management or operation of all or any part of its facilities;

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59 ~~17.~~ 18. Borrow money, as hereinafter provided, and to borrow money for the purpose of meeting casual
60 deficits in its revenues;

61 ~~18.~~ 19. Adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the use, maintenance, and operation of its
62 facilities and governing the conduct of persons and organizations using its facilities and to enforce such rules
63 and regulations and all other rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes relating to its facilities, all as
64 hereinafter provided;

65 ~~19.~~ 20. Purchase and maintain insurance or provide indemnification on behalf of any person who is or was
66 a director, officer, employee or agent of the Authority against any liability asserted against him or incurred by
67 him in any such capacity or arising out of his status as such;

68 ~~20.~~ 21. Request and accept legal advice and assistance from the Office of the Attorney General;

69 ~~21.~~ 22. Do all things necessary or convenient to the purposes of this act. To that end, the Authority may
70 acquire, own, or convey property; enter into contracts; seek financial assistance and incur debt; and adopt
71 rules and regulations; and

72 ~~22.~~ 23. Whenever it shall appear to the Authority, or to a simple majority of participating political
73 subdivisions, that the need for the Authority no longer exists, the Authority, or in the proper case, any such
74 subdivision, may petition the circuit court of a participating political subdivision for the dissolution of the
75 Authority. If the court shall determine that the need for the Authority as set forth in this act no longer exists
76 and that all debts and pecuniary obligations of the Authority have been fully paid or provided for, it may
77 enter an order dissolving the Authority.

78 Upon dissolution, the court shall order any real or tangible personal property contributed to the Authority
79 by a participating political subdivision, together with any improvements thereon, returned to such
80 participating political subdivisions. The remaining assets of the Authority shall be distributed to the
81 participating political subdivisions in proportion to their respective contributions theretofore made to the
82 Authority.

83 Each participating political subdivision and all holders of the Authority's bonds shall be made parties to
84 any such proceeding and shall be given notice as provided by law. Any party defendant may reply to such
85 petition at any time within six months after the filing of the petition. From the final judgment of the court, an
86 appeal shall lie to the Court of Appeals.