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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1134**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to establish a Potomac River Ferry Restoration of Service Working Group; report.*

5 Patron—Reid

6 Referred to Committee on Rules

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. § 1. The Commissioner of Highways shall convene a work group to identify and implement a solution to**
9 **resume ferry service for any ferry service that ceased operations on or after December 1, 2020, between**
10 **Point of Rocks and the American Legion Bridge along the Potomac River. Such work group shall be**
11 **established as the Potomac River Ferry Restoration of Service Working Group (the Working Group). The**
12 **Commissioner of Highways or his designee shall serve as the chair of the Working Group. The Working**
13 **Group shall also include representatives from the Office of the Attorney General; the Virginia Department**
14 **of Transportation; any Virginia county where ferry service previously existed and ceased operations on or**
15 **after December 1, 2020, and the landowners, ferry owner, and ferry operator involved with any such**
16 **discontinued service; the Maryland Department of Transportation; the U.S. Coast Guard, as appropriate;**
17 **relevant legal and land use experts; and any other representatives deemed necessary by the Commissioner**
18 **of Highways. The Working Group shall identify options for reestablishing ferry access points where**
19 **operations were ceased, including fair compensation for landing rights and granting of easements. The**
20 **Working Group shall include any potential solution that involves the disbursement of state funds or**
21 **legislative action in the final report submitted to the General Assembly.**22 **§ 2. The Office of the Attorney General shall participate in the Working Group and review any proposed**
23 **legal or property agreements to ensure constitutionality and compliance with state and federal law and any**
24 **relevant interstate compacts or agreements.**25 **§ 3. The Office of the Attorney General, Secretary of Transportation, and Commissioner of Highways are**
26 **authorized to enter into any agreement proposed by the Working Group, provided that each such official**
27 **determines that the agreement is necessary, prudent, and in the public interest, and the agreement places no**
28 **additional financial burden on the Commonwealth.**29 **§ 4. The county in which ferry service ceased operations on or after December 1, 2020, shall provide all**
30 **staff support and meeting logistics for the Working Group to meet, conduct interviews, and hold public**
31 **meetings.**32 **§ 5. The Working Group shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary**
33 **and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The**
34 **executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative**
35 **Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than December 1, 2026,**
36 **and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.**

INTRODUCED

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