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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1152**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to direct the Secretaries of Agriculture and Forestry and Natural and Historic Resources to convene*
5 *a work group to evaluate the benefits and impacts of establishing a Blue-Green Carbon Credit Fund.*

6 Patron—Hodges

7 Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9
10 1. *That the Secretaries of Agriculture and Forestry and Natural and Historic Resources (the*
11 *Secretaries) shall convene a work group to evaluate the benefits and impacts of establishing a Blue-Green*
12 *Carbon Credit Fund (the Fund). The work group shall include the Department of Agriculture and Consumer*
13 *Services, Department of Forestry, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and any other relevant*
14 *stakeholders as deemed necessary by the Secretaries. The work group shall evaluate the potential need for*
15 *Blue-Green Carbon Credits, potential purposes for the Fund, benefits of establishing the Fund, ways in*
16 *which moneys from the Fund might be awarded, and any other considerations deemed relevant by the*
17 *Secretaries. For the purposes of this act, "Blue-Green Carbon Credits" means nature-based credits*
18 *generated from the preservation, restoration, and sustainable management of coastal, marine, and*
19 *terrestrial ecosystems that (i) are purchased through the private sector, (ii) are validated and issued by*
20 *third-party registries, (iii) comply with applicable federal and state laws, and (iv) have no fiscal impact on*
21 *the Commonwealth. The Secretaries shall submit a report of the work group's findings and*
22 *recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources*
23 *and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources no later than November 30,*
24 *2026.*

INTRODUCED

HB1152