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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1475**

2 Offered January 23, 2026

3 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered*  
4 *29.1-509.1, relating to Virginia Fungi Task Force established; report.*

5 Patron—Schmidt

6 Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section**  
9 **numbered 29.1-509.1 as follows:**10 **§ 29.1-509.1. Virginia Fungi Task Force; report.**11 *A. The Director shall establish the Virginia Fungi Task Force (the Task Force) to assess, categorize, and*  
12 *protect the Commonwealth's natural fungi species and explore the economic potential of fungi. The Task*  
13 *Force shall include the Director, the State Forester, the Director of the Department of Conservation and*  
14 *Recreation, and the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services or their designees; representatives*  
15 *from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage Division; and representatives of the*  
16 *Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Association of Soil and*  
17 *Water Conservation Districts, the Virginia Soil Health Coalition, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia*  
18 *Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the*  
19 *Mycological Association of Washington D.C., the Blue Ridge Mycological Society, and any other*  
20 *stakeholders deemed appropriate by the Director. The Director or his designee shall serve as chair of the*  
21 *Task Force.*22 *B. The Task Force shall meet at least four times annually to discuss and develop recommendations to (i)*  
23 *conduct a gap analysis and needs assessment on the Commonwealth's natural fungi species; (ii) identify*  
24 *economic development opportunities for fungi; (iii) build a Virginia database of native and invasive fungi*  
25 *species; (iv) incorporate vulnerable fungi species in the 2035 Wildlife Corridor Action Plan; (v) conduct*  
26 *statewide fungal monitoring and research; (vi) support forest health, agriculture, and water quality in the*  
27 *Commonwealth; (vii) provide guidance on toxic mushrooms and public safety; (viii) coordinate with*  
28 *universities with mycology expertise; (ix) support academic expertise related to mycology; and (x) build*  
29 *public education and identification resources on fungi in the Commonwealth.*30 *C. The Task Force shall report its initial findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Natural and*  
31 *Historic Resources and the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural*  
32 *Resources and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by December 1, 2027,*  
33 *and shall update such report at least every five years.*

INTRODUCED

HB1475