

2026 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

26106419D

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Askew)
A BILL to direct the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group to evaluate existing emergency management needs in the Commonwealth; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

9 1. § 1. That the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security (the Secretary) shall establish a work
10 group composed of representatives from the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of
11 Planning and Budget, the Virginia Emergency Management Association, the Virginia Association of
12 Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, and such other stakeholders as the Secretary deems appropriate
13 to evaluate existing emergency management needs, analyze sustainability of current funding for such needs,
14 and review alternative funding models for such needs in other states. In conducting its evaluation, the work
15 group may hire an outside consultant and shall analyze local capability assessment for readiness reports,
16 recent after-action reports from declared emergency events, historical trends of federal homeland security
17 and emergency management funding, any anticipated or announced changes to federal homeland security
18 and emergency management funding, any gaps in current funding, how other states fund emergency
19 management services, and best practices from other states. The Secretary shall report the work group's
20 findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House
21 Committee on General Laws, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, and the Senate
22 Committee on General Laws and Technology on or before October 1, 2026.

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