

1 SENATE BILL NO. 239  
23 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
4(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
5

on February 5, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Head)

6 *A BILL to direct the State Health Services Plan Task Force to develop recommendations for designating  
7 areas of the state with identifiable need for certain projects and expedited review criteria for those  
8 projects and to direct the Board of Health to update regulations implementing expedited application and  
9 review.*

10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

11 *1. § 1. That the State Health Commissioner (the Commissioner) shall direct the State Health Services Plan  
12 Task Force (the Task Force) to develop recommendations on options for designating areas of the state with  
13 an identifiable need for additional projects, taking into account the unique geographic, socioeconomic,  
14 cultural, transportation, and other barriers to access to health care. The Task Force shall also develop  
15 recommendations on specific criteria for determining when expedited review should apply to projects  
16 located in such areas. The Commissioner shall report such recommendations to the Chair and members of  
17 the Senate Committee on Education and Health by October 1, 2026.*

18 *§ 2. That the Board of Health shall promulgate updated regulations to implement the expedited  
19 application and review process for any certificate for projects reviewable pursuant to subdivision A 5 of  
20 § 32.1-102.2, including criteria and considerations that the State Health Commissioner shall apply when  
21 making a determination to approve or disapprove such expedited application, by January 1, 2027.*