

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Fire Programs to convene a work group to evaluate the funding formula*
3 *for the distribution of aid to localities through the Fire Programs Fund; report.*

4 [S 233]

5 Approved

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

7 **1.** *§ 1. That the Department of Fire Programs (the Department) shall establish a work group to evaluate the*
8 *funding formula for the distribution of aid to localities through the Fire Programs Fund established in*
9 *§ 38.2-401 of the Code of Virginia. The work group shall include representatives from the Department of*
10 *Planning and Budget, the Virginia Fire Services Board, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, the Virginia*
11 *State Firefighters Association, the Virginia Professional Fire Fighters Association, the Virginia Association*
12 *of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, and such other stakeholders as the Department deems*
13 *appropriate. In conducting the evaluation, the work group shall consider (i) a survey of the fiscal distress of*
14 *each locality providing firefighting services, (ii) a survey of the population and total square mileage of each*
15 *locality providing firefighting services, (iii) best practices and funding formulas employed by other states to*
16 *fund firefighting services, and (iv) recommendations for changes to the funding formula for the distribution*
17 *of aid to localities that more equitably address the needs of less populated and rural localities. The*
18 *Department shall submit a report on the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the*
19 *Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor and Finance and Appropriations and the House Committees on*
20 *Labor and Commerce and Appropriations by November 1, 2026.*