

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Emergency Management to assess the feasibility and impact of developing*
3 *a program to prioritize the prevention and mitigation of damage, loss, hardship, or suffering due to the*
4 *anticipated impacts of an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration of a state of*
5 *preparedness or an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency;*
6 *report.*

7 [H 1189]

8 Approved

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

10 1. § 1. *As used in this act, "state of preparedness" means the condition declared by the Governor when, in*
11 *his judgment, the threat or danger of a credible emergency or a disaster in any part of the Commonwealth is*
12 *of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant disaster preparedness assistance by the Commonwealth to*
13 *supplement the preparedness efforts and pre-position available resources of the several localities and relief*
14 *organizations in order to prevent or alleviate the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering threatened or caused*
15 *thereby.*

16 § 2. *That the Department of Emergency Management (the Department) shall assess the feasibility and*
17 *impact of developing a program to prioritize the prevention and mitigation of damage, loss, hardship, or*
18 *suffering due to the anticipated impacts of an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration*
19 *of a state of preparedness, or an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of*
20 *emergency. In conducting the assessment, the Department shall evaluate and develop recommendations for*
21 *the following:*

22 1. *Criteria for determining whether an emergency situation warrants a response from the Department*
23 *when such emergency does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency;*

24 2. *Procedures for the procurement, maintenance, and replenishment of materials, equipment, and*
25 *supplies, in such quantities and at such locations as the Department may deem necessary to ensure readiness*
26 *and to preserve the lives, property, and economic well-being of the people of the Commonwealth prior to and*
27 *during an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration of a state of preparedness or an*
28 *emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency;*

29 3. *The feasibility of seeking reimbursement from any person causing or contributing to an emergency or*
30 *disaster for expenses incurred by the Department for the protection, relief, and recovery from loss or damage*
31 *caused by such person; and*

32 4. *Cost estimates, including personnel, administrative, and equipment expenses that will be incurred by*
33 *the Department, or by any other state agency or political subdivision or other entity, in and for responding to*
34 *an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency.*

35 § 3. *That the Department shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and*
36 *the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology and*
37 *the House Committee on Appropriations no later than November 1, 2026.*