

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Continuing the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding. Report.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 30, 2026

Agreed to by the Senate, March 3, 2026

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 50 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 76 (2012) directed the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to study strategies for adaptation to prevent recurrent flooding in Virginia's Tidewater and Eastern Shore localities; and

WHEREAS, the resulting VIMS report, titled "Recurrent Flooding Study for Tidewater Virginia," published as Senate Document 3 (2013), stated that recurrent flooding impacts all localities in Virginia's coastal zone and is predicted to become worse over reasonable planning horizons (20 to 50 years); and

WHEREAS, VIMS offered several recommendations, including that the Commonwealth, working with its coastal localities, (i) begin comprehensive and coordinated planning efforts; (ii) initiate identification, collection, and analysis of data needed to support effective planning for response efforts; and (iii) take a lead role in addressing recurrent flooding in Virginia for the following reasons: (a) accessing relevant federal resources for planning and mitigation may be enhanced through state mediation, (b) flooding problems are linked to water bodies and therefore often transcend locality boundaries, and (c) prioritizing flood management actions must be based in part on risk, and therefore the Commonwealth must oversee the necessary studies to determine adaptation strategies, as well as implementation of the agreed-upon strategies; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 16 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 (2014) established the Joint Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations to Address Recurrent Flooding as recommended by the VIMS report; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding met four times during the 2014 interim to collect information from federal and state agencies, localities, and stakeholders and to carry out its work; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding filed an executive summary with the General Assembly prior to the 2015 Session, which included five initial recommendations to increase public awareness, improve local and state government agency resiliency coordination, and address floodplain management; and

WHEREAS, recommendations made by the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding during the 2014 interim resulted in six bills passing the General Assembly with bipartisan support during the 2015 Session; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding met four times during the 2015 interim to collect information from federal and state agencies, localities, and stakeholders and to carry out its work; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 84 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 58 (2016), the Joint Subcommittee to Study Recurrent Flooding was renamed as the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding and continued its work during the 2016 and 2017 interims and brought forth additional recommendations for the 2018 Session; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 26 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 19 (2018), the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding continued its work during the 2018 and 2019 interims and brought forth additional recommendations for the 2020 Session; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 102 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 27 (2020), the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding continued its work during the 2020 and 2021 interims and brought forth additional recommendations for the 2022 Session; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 16 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 35 (2022), the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding was renamed as the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding and continued its work during the 2022 and 2023 interims; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 437 (2025), the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding was reestablished and continued its work during the 2025 interim; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 437 (2025), the Joint Subcommittee will complete its meetings by November 30, 2026, and submit an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2027 Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, riverine flooding and flooding from stormwater are major concerns for the Commonwealth and deserve further study and action from the joint subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, members of the joint subcommittee concur that the joint subcommittee be continued for one

additional year beyond the 2026 interim; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding be continued for an additional year. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 13 members as follows: (i) one shall be a business leader appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, (ii) one shall be a representative of the environmental community appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, (iii) one shall be from an urban area impacted by stormwater flooding appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, (iv) one shall be from a rural area impacted by riverine flooding appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and (v) one shall be a local official representing an area impacted by coastal flooding appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The current members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be subject to reappointment. The current members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules shall continue to serve until replaced. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing authority. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall recommend short-term and long-term strategies for minimizing the impact of flooding.

Administrative staff support shall continue to be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall continue to be provided by faculty at Virginia institutions of higher education who have expertise in the subject matter. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2027 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$17,440 for the 2027 interim without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2027, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2028 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2027 interim.