

2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS

Initial Bills

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Virginia

- Session started January 13
- 30-day with option for GA to make it a 46-day session, Crossover Feb. 5
- Environmental Justice bills
 - Establish the Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group (HB 2074 (Simonds) & SB 1318 (Hashmi)) as an advisory council in the executive branch of state government and directs each of the Governor's Secretaries to designate at least one environmental justice coordinator to represent on the Working Group
 - Environmental permits; community and environmental justice outreach (HB 2221 (Hayes Jr.) & SB 1373 (McClellan)) Requires the applicant for any ...(iv) new individual Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, (v) new individual Virginia Water Protection permit, (vi) new individual Virginia Stormwater Management Program permit...to complete certain public notice requirements, including (a) holding a public hearing...



Virginia, con't

- Replacement and conservation of trees during development (HB 2024 (Guy))
 - Gives a locality the ability to exceed general requirements in its tree replacement and conservation ordinances in specific circumstances, including development that impacts stormwater permit requirements, recurrent flooding, formerly redlined areas, and comprehensive plan compliance.

Potential bills to watch for:

- Restore funds for DEQ and DCR staffing
- Climate resiliency Del. Mark Levine coastal resiliency for private property owners in Alexandria
- Agriculture support/funding
- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) funding

Maryland

- Started January 13 & it's a 90-day session
- Constitutional Amendment-Environmental Rights (HB 82, SB 151)
 - Similar to bills from previous years which proposed an amendment to the Maryland Constitution establishing certain rights regarding environmental quality.
- Intervention in Civil Actions (HB 76, SB 334)
 - Would allow any person who meets threshold standing requirements under the Clean Water Act to intervene in enforcement causes brought by the State in circuit court. This right does not currently exist.
- Both of the above bills have House E & T hearings scheduled for January 20 at 1:30 p.m., and with Senate Judicial Proceedings for January 26 at 1:00 p.m.



Maryland, con't

- Clean Water Commerce Act (SB 119)-Establishment of a Fund and Revisions to Bay Restoration Fund
- Climate Solutions Now Act
 - Increase MD's greenhouse gas reduction to 80% by 2050 and sets 2045 as net carbon neutral goal.
 - Provision to use Bay Restoration Fund to plant 5 million trees by 2030. At least 10% in underserved communities.
- Plastic Bag Reduction Act (HB 314, SB 223)
- PFAS-Prohibitions & Requirements (HB 22, SB 195)
 - Bill would ban the sell of certain rugs, carpets and food packaging.



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