

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25  
2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
3 (Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations  
4 on February 28, 2024)  
5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Stuart)

6 Requesting the Department of Environmental Quality to study the groundwater supply in the  
7 Commonwealth east of Interstate 95. Report.

8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the critical importance of ensuring a safe and  
9 sustainable drinking water supply for its citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, the Ground Water Management Act of 1992 has served as a foundational framework  
11 for the regulation and management of groundwater resources in the Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has experienced changes in its population, industrial  
13 development, and technological advancements over the past three decades; and

14 WHEREAS, it is imperative to assess the effectiveness of the existing regulatory framework in  
15 addressing the current and future challenges to the Commonwealth's groundwater supply; and

16 WHEREAS, newer industrial activities such as data centers have the potential to significantly  
17 impact groundwater resources, and it is essential to evaluate the historical, current, and potential future  
18 impacts of such activities on the Commonwealth's groundwater supply; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of  
20 Environmental Quality be requested to study the groundwater supply in the Commonwealth east of  
21 Interstate 95.

22 In conducting its study, the Department of Environmental Quality shall (i) provide historical and  
23 current data and trends relating to groundwater levels and groundwater quality; (ii) to the extent that  
24 dedicated funds are available, include future projections for groundwater levels and groundwater quality;  
25 (iii) to the extent that dedicated funds are available, evaluate potential future impacts to the groundwater  
26 supply as a result of increasing groundwater withdrawals from newer industries such as data centers; (iv)

27 assess the current regulatory effectiveness of the Ground Water Management Act of 1992 (§ 62.1-254 et  
28 seq. of the Code of Virginia); and (v) consider and recommend any amendments to the Ground Water  
29 Management Act of 1992. If sufficient dedicated funds are not available to fully complete the necessary  
30 analysis, the Department of Environmental Quality's report shall include an estimate of the amount of  
31 additional funding necessary to complete its analysis.

32 Technical assistance shall be provided to the Department of Environmental Quality by the State  
33 Water Control Board. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department of  
34 Environmental Quality for this study, upon request.

35 The Department of Environmental Quality shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2025, and  
36 shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings  
37 and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report  
38 shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the  
39 processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2026 Regular Session of  
40 the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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