Code of Virginia

Title 15.2. Counties, Cities and Towns

Chapter 22. Planning, Subdivision of Land and Zoning

## § 15.2-2223.5 Comprehensive plan shall consider current and future threats and vulnerabilities associated with climate change-related natural hazards

## For purposes of this section “resiliency” means the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, health, the economy, and the environment.

Beginning July 1, 2023, each city with a population greater than 20,000 and each county with a population greater than 100,000 shall consider in the next scheduled and all subsequent reviews of its comprehensive plan (i) future threats and vulnerabilities associated with climate change-related natural hazards, including, but not limited to increased temperatures, increased precipitation levels, drought, wild fires, flooding, hurricanes, storm surge, wind, and sea-level rise; (ii) include a build-out analysis of potential future residential, commercial, industrial, and other development, and an assessment of the climate change-related threats and their vulnerabilities; (iii) analyze the potential impact of climate change-related natural hazards on critical facilities, utilities, bridges, roadways, tunnels, waterways and other infrastructure necessary for evacuation purposes; (iv) analyze the potential impact of climate change-related natural hazards on individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, economic development, public infrastructure and facilities, public health and public safety; (v) analyze the potential impact of climate change-related natural hazards on components and elements of the master plan to include an inventory of existing resiliency conditions; (vi) propose strategies and design standards that may be adopted and implemented to increase resiliency and reduce or avoid risks associated with climate change-related natural hazards; (vii) include a specific policy statement on the consistency, coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard vulnerability assessment with any existing or proposed natural hazard mitigation plan, floodplain management plan, comprehensive emergency management plan, emergency response plan, post-disaster recovery plan, or capital improvement plan; and (viii) rely on the most recent natural hazard projections and best practices provided by the Commonwealth’s Chief Resiliency Officer, Special Assistant for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Transportation Research Council, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Environmental Resilience Institute at the University of Virginia, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.