

Paying for Environmental Outcomes in Virginia



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
INNOVATION
CENTER

Virginia legislators have an exciting opportunity to adopt a budget amendment that directly funds guaranteed reductions of nitrogen flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

\$20M is currently proposed for a Pay for Success nutrient reduction pilot program to buy nutrient reductions to address non-point source pollution.

What you need to know:

The [Virginia House Appropriations Sub-Committee: Commerce Agriculture & Natural Resources](#) and the [Senate Finance and Appropriations Sub-Committee: Economic Development and Natural Resources](#) are considering a budget amendment that would appropriate \$20M to create a Pay for Success pilot program for nutrient reductions to address non-point source pollution.

*"Out of the amounts in this item, **\$20,000,000 the first year from the general fund is provided for the establishment of a pay-for-outcomes pilot program in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.** The Department [DEQ] shall issue requests for nonpoint source pollution reduction proposals, conduct a transparent proposal selection process based on project ranking criteria, execute contracts with selected entities, **verify that the promised nonpoint source pollutant reductions are being achieved, and make payments when contractually defined terms are verified...**"*

[The full amendment text can be found here.](#)

Why this matters:

Paying for outcomes results in cheaper nutrient reductions, less paperwork, and fewer capacity issues within state agencies. It's a win-win solution that is gaining traction across the country, especially in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Farmers like pay for success, because they can make money off cleaning up waterways.

How you can help:

As VA legislators work through the budget process, you can make your voice heard in support of this innovative program. Please send letters of support to all members of the two legislative subcommittees linked above. EPIC staff can assist in drafting if needed.

Virginia moves quickly. It would be best to have all messages sent by February 6th if possible.

For more information, contact [Harry Huntley](#) or [Grace Edinger](#) at the Environmental Policy Innovation Center