



23. ESTABLISH THE HURRICANE AND FLOODING RISK REDUCTION AND BOND RATING PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

SPONSORED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JESSICA ABBOTT

Background Information:

Flooding is a risk to communities from the mountains to the sea. This can be from hurricanes, nor'easters, mountain flooding, and other natural causes. Nowhere in the state is immune to such calamities. Hurricane Camille in the late 1960s caused over 100 deaths in the area of Nelson County. Arlington has had recurrent flooding from the Potomac River, and flooding on The Eastern Shore, Tangier Island and other coastal Virginia areas and is all too frequent. Although many communities like Virginia Beach have robust programs to address recurrent flooding, Virginia Beach is programming over \$.5 billion in flooding control and elevation of roads; no locality can stand alone. This is a statewide issue and demands statewide addressing. During the 2018 session of the General Assembly, Senate Bill 985 by Senator Wagner and a companion bill in the House by Delegate Miyares were introduced. These would have established the hurricane and flooding risk reduction and Bond Rating Protection Act of 2018. They would have gone a long way in addressing the lack of coordination within the state among the various agencies both state, federal and local and furthermore, would have set up a process to force the Commonwealth to partner with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Senate bill passed Senate, but was defeated in the House Appropriations Committee because of the fiscal impact. The House Bill met a similar fate.

Request:

The General Assembly is requesting to pass and fund legislation much like Senate Bill 985 from the 2018 session of the General Assembly and House Bill 229. This would establish a process and capability within the Commonwealth to address which is rapidly becoming a much more persistent issue.