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Microplastics are tiny fragments of plastics that contaminate waterways, wildlife, and people, and are the result of plastic breaking down over time. They are a threat to clean water, wildlife, and human health.

Due to their chemical properties, microplastics carry several other pollutants with them that enhance their toxicity and pose risks to the environment and public health, including leaching into our drinking water

A recent study estimated that 90% of the microplastics which make it to our waterways stay within the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, the Chesapeake Bay and its fisheries are vulnerable to significant accumulation of microplastics.

Microplastics are also found in both tap and bottled water. They can enter our tap water from a variety of sources, including washing machines that release synthetic fibers from clothing that drain into the water and degrading car tires.

Virginia's state agencies have not yet had the capacity to monitor critical sources for microplastics. Analyzing microplastics will identify important needs for addressing plastics in Virginia.

Please support HB1618 (Clark) so decision-makers have a better understanding of toxins in our drinking water.



CHESAPEAKE BAY
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Saving a National Treasure

Support HB 1618: Study of Microplastics in Drinking Water

House Bill 1618 (Clark) directs the Commissioner of Health to convene a workgroup to study the occurrence of microplastics in the Commonwealth's drinking water and develop recommendations for reducing these microplastics.

The workgroup will be charged with

- determining the current levels of microplastics in the state's drinking water,
- identifying possible sources of microplastics,
- evaluating existing approaches to reducing microplastics, including regulatory approaches adopted by other states and the federal government,
- and developing recommendations for the reduction of microplastics in the state's drinking water.

The workgroup's findings should be completed by December 1, 2025.

It is critical that Virginia legislators ensure the health of the Commonwealth's drinking water supplies by understanding what toxins may be present in our water supply. We urge support of HB 1618.

For more information, contact:
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