

energy

## **BILL ON OFFSHORE WIND IS APPROVED**

**RICHMOND** | The Virginia Marine Resources Commission would get the authority to lease underwater land for an offshore wind farm under a bill that passed a Senate committee Monday.

State Sen. Frank Wagner, R-Virginia Beach, is sponsoring the bill, SB1350. The legislation also directs the commission to study whether there is suitable land off Virginia's coast to support a commercial offshore wind farm, and if there is, to try to lease it for development.

The measure would pave the way for wind energy production in Virginia, especially off southern Virginia Beach, where some of the most ideal spots appear to be near False Cape State Park and the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Wagner said.

— *Dave Forster*

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