

# VACo LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

---



**2025 First Edition**

---

# Table of Contents

<b>Vital Statistics from Recent General Assembly Sessions.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2025 Legislative Priorities.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Summary of Legislation Affecting Counties.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Agriculture and Rural Affairs.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Community, Economic and Workforce Development.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Education.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Environment, Energy, and Land Use.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Finance and Elections.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>General Government.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Health and Human Resources.....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Transportation.....</b>	<b>62</b>

# Vital Statistics from the 2025 Session

---

---

	Introduced	Passed	Failed	Vetoed
<b>House Bills</b>	1,236	537	895	96
<b>House Joint Resolutions</b>	332	308	48	0
<b>House Resolutions</b>	434	430	4	0
<b>Senate Bills</b>	758	379	488	62
<b>Senate Joint Resolutions</b>	201	189	23	0
<b>Senate Resolutions</b>	146	146	0	0
<b>General Assembly Totals</b>	3,107	1,989	1,458	158

**SOURCE:** [Legislative Information System](#)

# 2025 Legislative Priorities

---

## TOP FUNDING PRIORITY

VACo supports legislative action to implement the recommendations of JLARC's landmark 2023 report on Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula where they coincide with local prevailing practices. In the near term, VACo encourages prioritization of efforts to restore pre-recession era K-12 funding, especially eliminating the cap on support positions; provide full state support for the actual number of K-12 staff positions employed; and revise the methodology for calculating teacher salaries to more adequately reflect the actual salaries being paid by school divisions.

### AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

#### **Farm and Forestland Preservation**

VACo supports preserving and enhancing the ability for counties to balance growth and development, as it pertains to farm and forestland, within their jurisdiction.

### COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#### **Broadband**

VACo requests that the Commonwealth provide 100 percent match funding to counties to build the necessary telecommunications infrastructure, including cellular communications, to deploy universal affordable access to the internet for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas, and streamline the application process for both the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) and Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants.

#### **Affordable and Workforce Housing**

VACo supports increasing federal and state funding and appropriate incentives to assist localities to create and sustain more affordable housing.

### EDUCATION

#### **Education Funding**

VACo supports full state funding for public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education, the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC), and Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding.

### ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND AGRICULTURE

#### **Energy Policy**

VACo supports energy policies and goals that reduce greenhouse gas emissions without compromising reliable and affordable access to electricity, and that address potential environmental impacts and life cycle costs for the manufacture, disposal, re-use, or recycle of material inputs.

#### **Water Quality Funding**

VACo supports sufficient and sustained financial and technical assistance to counties to improve water quality and meet all federal and state standards to reduce pollution.

### FINANCE AND ELECTIONS

#### **Local Finance**

VACo supports preserving the authority of county governments to collect revenues necessary to provide local public services.

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

#### **Local Authority**

VACo supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule by enhancing local authority and autonomy in matters including land use, revenue measures, procurement, and other issues of local concern. VACo supports extending powers currently granted to some local governments to all local governments. VACo opposes legislation that erodes local authority.

#### **Unfunded Mandates**

VACo opposes unfunded mandates and shifting fiscal responsibility for existing and new programs by the Commonwealth from the state to localities.

### HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

#### **Health and Human Resources Funding**

VACo supports transparent state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth's at-risk families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Commonwealth should provide full funding to localities and their state administrative entities for state-mandated human services and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide comprehensive and case-tailored services.

#### **Crisis Services and State Hospital Capacity to Accept Individuals Subject to Temporary Detention Orders**

VACo supports efforts to address census pressures at state hospitals through near-term funding measures, to include efforts to stabilize staffing, that will ensure that all state hospitals have the capacity to receive admissions of individuals subject to temporary detention orders without delays.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### **Transportation Funding**

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is committed to advocating for a robust and sustainable transportation funding framework that effectively addresses the evolving needs of our communities across the Commonwealth.

# Summary of Legislation Affecting Counties

---

Unless otherwise stated, all legislation from the 2025 General Assembly Session takes effect on July 1, 2025.

## AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### PASSED LEGISLATION

**[HB 1756](#) Southwest Regional Recreation Authority; directors.** *(Chief patron: Morefield)* Amends § 15.2-6019 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that the board of directors of the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority may hire directors, rather than an executive director, to carry out various duties of the Authority.

**[HB 1798](#) / [SB 890](#) Agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council, appointment and membership terms.** *(Chief patrons: Helmer and Perry)* Amends multiple sections of the Code of Virginia and repeals Chapter 20 (§§ 3.2-2000 through 3.2-2009) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia. The bill amends various provisions relating to the appointment, terms, and quorums of agricultural commodity boards, including the Cotton Board, Egg Board, and Tobacco Board. The bill eliminates the Pork Industry Board and amends membership terms for the Agricultural Council. The bill also amends the production areas for the purposes of membership appointment procedures for the Cotton Board and the Tobacco Board.

**[HB 1834](#) Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program and Fund; administration by Marine Resource Commission.** *(Chief patron: Bloxom)* Amends the Code of Virginia

by adding in new sections and repeals §§ 62.1-132.3:3 and 62.1-132.3:4 of the Code of Virginia. The bill transfers from the Virginia Port Authority to the Marine Resources Commission the administration of the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program and Fund and requires the Commission to utilize the existing Municipal Dredging Operating Program and Municipal Dredging Operating Agreement adopted by the Authority for the administration of the Municipal Dredge Pilot Program operated by the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority. The bill also requires the Commission to utilize the Fast-Track Permitting Program for Disposal of Dredged Material when applicable for dredged material disposal in its implementation of the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program.

**[HB 1837](#) Dealers in agricultural produce.** *(Chief patron: Bloxom)* Amends §§ 3.2-4709, 58.1-609.2, and 58.1-1707 of the Code of Virginia and repeals Article 3 (§§ 3.2-4738 through 3.2-4752) of Chapter 47 of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia. The bill repeals provisions relating to the licensing requirements of any person who buys, sells, solicits for sale, processes for sale or resale, resells, exchanges, negotiates, purchases, or contracts for processing or transfers any fruits and vegetables of a producer of such produce in Virginia. The bill also makes technical changes to references to agricultural produce as a result of the repeal.

**[HB 1887](#) / [SB 969](#) Mineral Mine Safety Act; definition of “surface mineral mine”; mine inspectors; certificate renewal; use of cyanide or cyanide compound.** *(Chief Patrons: Bloxom and Stuart)* Amends multiple sections of the Code of Virginia which amends the definition of “surface mineral mine” in the Mineral Mine Safety Act to exclude excavation or grading when conducted solely in aid of onsite farming or construction and under

certain conditions enumerated in the bill. The bill amends the definition of “mining” in existing law, relating to the exemption from permits for a mining operation, to extend the required completion time from six months to one year for excavation or grading conducted to construct or expand a farm pond for agricultural irrigation or provision of water for livestock. The bill also amends the qualification requirements for mineral mine inspectors, removes references to the defunct Board of Mineral Mining Examiners, and prohibits the issuance of any permit for a mineral mining or processing operation that includes the use of cyanide or a cyanide compound.

**[HB 1941](#) / [SB 1166](#) Invasive plant species; retail sales, penalty, delayed effective date January 1, 2027.** (*Chief patrons: Seibold and Salim*) Amends § 3.2-3810 of the Code of Virginia and adds a section numbered 3.2-3801.1, to require for the retail sale of certain invasive plant species for outdoor use, a retail establishment to post in a conspicuous manner on the property located in proximity to each invasive plant signage identifying such plant as invasive, educating consumers regarding invasive plant species, and encouraging consumers to ask about alternatives. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to designate the format, size, and content of such signage no later than October 1, 2025, and requires the Commissioner to issue a stop sale order and mark or tag a plant in a conspicuous manner when an invasive plant is for sale at a retail establishment without appropriate signage. In such case, the bill requires the Commissioner to give written notice of a finding made to the owner, tenant, or person in charge of such retail establishment and requires the stop sale order issued to remain in effect until the required signage is posted. Certain provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.

**[HB 2000](#) / [SB 857](#) Dam Safety Act; powers and duties of DCR, rights and requirements of dam owners, civil penalty.** (*Chief patrons: Laufer and French*) Amends various provisions of the Dam Safety Act to streamline the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s enforcement powers for impounding structures under the Act and clarifies the Department’s powers and duties during an active dam failure. The bill also makes changes to a dam owner’s responsibilities under the Act, including adding requirements to obtain a general permit for a low hazard impounding structure, making a dam owner responsible for ensuring that his impounding structure that presents an imminent danger has a safety inspection performed as provided in the bill, and allowing a dam owner to identify the dam break inundation zone of his impounding structure by providing the limits of the dam break inundation zone in lieu of filing a map. The bill also changes certain criteria for applicants to receive funds from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund, including the project match requirements for grants or loans. Finally, the bill repeals the provisions providing civil penalties for violating the provisions of the Act and makes technical amendments related to such repeal.

**[HB 2008](#) / [SB 1093](#) Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program authority.** (*Chief patrons: Martinez and Perry*) Amends § 62.1-44.15:39 of the Code of Virginia, which removes the restriction on localities that operate regulated municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) to only enter on those properties from which a discharge enters their MS4 and allows such localities to, at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances, enter any establishment or upon any property, public or private, for the purpose of obtaining information or conducting surveys or investigations necessary in the

enforcement of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program. However, the bill restricts operators of an MS4 that are not a locality, or any duly authorized agent thereof, to only enter on those properties from which a discharge enters their MS4. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

**[HB 2303](#) / [SB 921](#) Large animal veterinary grant program; State Veterinarian to establish, report.** *(Chief patrons: Lopez and Hackworth)* Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5901.2, which directs the State Veterinarian to establish a large animal veterinary grant program no later than July 1, 2026, to provide grants to increase or stabilize the number of large animal veterinarians, as defined in the bill, practicing in areas of the Commonwealth that have been identified by the State Veterinarian as having a shortage of such veterinarians. The bill directs the State Veterinarian to annually select from a pool of applicants no more than four large animal veterinarians to participate in the program and to develop, in consultation with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and relevant stakeholders, selection criteria for applicants to participate in the program. The bill also requires the State Veterinarian to submit a report evaluating the extent to which the program has helped to address the shortage of large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth to the Board and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources no later than July 1, 2030.

**[HB 2313](#) / [SB 1051](#) Boarding establishments; inspections by animal control officers, report.** *(Chief patrons: Lopez and Ebbin)* Directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, convene a work group to consider whether to propose a state license and other regulatory requirements for animal boarding establishments similar to the current

licensing requirements for animal shelters and submit its report of such findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026.

**[HB 2458](#) Vehicles used for agricultural purposes; reflectors/reflectorized material on rear end of trailers.** *(Chief patron: O'Quinn)* Amends § 46.2-1088.5 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that trailers and semitrailers used for certain agricultural purposes may be operated without tail lights or brake lights on the highways of the Commonwealth, except in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia), that are not interstate highways between sunrise and sunset, provided that such trailer or semitrailer has affixed to the rear end either (i) two or more reflectors of a type approved by the Superintendent of State Police or (ii) at least 100 square inches of solid reflectorized material. The bill requires such a trailer or semitrailer operated without tail lights or brake lights to keep to the rightmost lane, except when turning at an intersection or avoiding any hazard. The bill also prohibits the operation of such a trailer or semitrailer operated without tail lights or brake lights whenever (a) certain conditions reducing visibility are present or (b) windshield wipers are in use as a result of fog, rain, sleet, or snow. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

**[HB 2517](#) Sewage sludge; land application, permit exemptions, sunset.** *(Chief patron: Runion)* Amends § 62.1-44.19:3 of the Code of Virginia, to exempt from permitting requirements for land application, marketing, and distribution of sewage sludge any land application for a research project when such land is owned and operated by an institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the institution of higher education to notify the Department of Environmental Quality and the owner of every adjoining property of its intent to land apply such sewage sludge at least 30 days prior to commencing any land application of sewage sludge. The bill also requires the institution of higher education to comply with setback and recordkeeping requirements outlined

in the Virginia Pollution Abatement Permit Regulation. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2030.

**SB 1000 Livestock and poultry killed by dogs; increases fair market value compensation amounts.** *(Chief patron: Stuart)*

Amend § 3.2-6553 of the Code of Virginia, to increase the fair market value compensation amounts for livestock and poultry killed or injured by dogs from \$750 to \$1,000 per animal and from \$10 to \$25 per fowl.

**SB 1204 Hunter education program personnel; Board of Wildlife Resources to staff.** *(Chief patron: Mulchi)* Amends § 29.1-300.2 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Board of Wildlife Resources to staff the hunter education program with appropriate personnel to ensure that hunter education, training, workshops, and volunteer management are carried out across the Commonwealth.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

**HB 2782 Blue catfish; Board of Wildlife Resources shall amend 4VAC15-320-25, Creel and length limits.** *(Chief Patron: Simonds)* Would have required the Board of Wildlife Resources to amend regulations to remove the one-fish daily limit for blue catfish longer than 32 inches in the Commonwealth. **(Vetoed)**

# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## PASSED LEGISLATION

**[HB 1623](#) / [SB 830](#) Eviction Diversion Pilot Program; name change; general application; expiration repealed. (Chief Patrons: McClure and Locke)**

Amends § 55.1-1260 of the Code of Virginia to rename the Eviction Diversion Pilot Program as the Eviction Diversion Program, removes the July 1, 2025, expiration date from the Program, and makes the Program available to all general district courts. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Housing Commission.

**[HB 1759](#) / [SB 877](#) Department of Corrections; Department of Workforce Development and Advancement; post-release job search assistance services. (Chief Patrons: Gardner and Ebbin)**

Amends § 53.1-140.1 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the Department of Corrections shall work with the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement to provide post-release job search assistance services to assist individuals in finding employment upon release from incarceration and refer such individuals to case management services where eligible from such funds as are available. The bill also requires the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement to coordinate implementation and delivery of such post-release job search assistance services with Virginia Workforce System partners, including local workforce development boards.

**[HB 1867](#) / [SB 1043](#) Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; terms and conditions of rental agreement; renewal notice. (Chief Patrons: McClure and Ebbin)**  
Amends § 55.1-1204 of the Code of Virginia to provide that a landlord who owns more than four rental dwelling units or more than a 10 percent interest in more than four rental dwelling units, whether individually or through a business entity, in the Commonwealth shall be required to provide written notice of nonrenewal to any tenant.

**[HB 1940](#) / [SB 1188](#) Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; international licensure and certification; regulations. (Chief Patrons: Willett and Pekarsky)**  
Directs the regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to promulgate regulations allowing the issuance of a license or certification to any applicant who holds a comparable international license or certification issued by another country.

**[HB 1948](#) Abandoned Mine Land Grant Retention Fund established. (Chief Patron: Bulova)**

Amends § 45.2-1032.1 of the Code of Virginia to establish the Abandoned Mine Land Grant Retention Fund and requires any eligible designated funds received under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to be deposited into the Fund. The bill authorizes the Director of the Department of Energy to provide grants for certain projects described in the federal Act relating to the protection of public health, safety, and property from the adverse effects of coal mining practices.

**[HB 2151](#) Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; definitions; community land trust. (Chief Patron: Carr)**

Amends § 55.1-1200 of the Code of Virginia to revise the definition of a community land trust to remove the requirement that a community

housing development organization under such definition must have a corporate membership open to any adult resident or organization of a particular geographic area specified in the bylaws of the organization and that the organization's board of directors must include a majority of members who are elected by the corporate membership.

**[HB 2153](#) Affordable housing; development by nonprofit organizations; Department of Housing and Community Development.** *(Chief Patron: Carr)*

Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to develop a document describing options for alteration or waiver of requirements for zoning permits, site plan application incentives, and other considerations that a locality may consider when implementing an ordinance to stimulate affordable housing and include strategies on property owned by a property tax-exempt nonprofit organization. In preparing the document, DHCD shall consult with stakeholders, including local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other expert resources. The document shall be published on DHCD's website no later than December 31, 2025.

**[HB 2163](#) Enterprise zone grant program; work group; report.** *(Chief Patron: Carr)*

Amends § 59.1-548 of the Code of Virginia by changing provisions related to enterprise zone real property investment grants by (i) creating an elevated grant tier on and after July 1, 2025, for major qualified zone investors, defined in the bill, and capping grants for such major qualified zone investors at \$300,000 within any five-year period for any individual building or facility and (ii) including child day centers in the definition of qualified real property investments for purposes of enterprise zone real property investment grants. The bill directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to collaborate with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority to convene a work group to review the utilization of currently designated

enterprise zones, make recommendations on renewals or termination of such zones, and report its findings by November 1, 2025. The bill contains technical amendments.

**[HB 2179](#) / [SB 1231](#) Virginia Investment Performance Grants.** *(Chief Patrons: Clark and Aird)*

Amends § 2.2-5101 of the Code of Virginia to authorize Virginia Investment Performance Grants be awarded under more lenient requirements if the recipient is located in a locality with an unemployment rate and poverty rate that exceeds the state average. Specifically, the bill would authorize payment of such grants if the average wage paid by the eligible manufacturer or research and development service, excluding fringe benefits, is no less than 85 percent of the prevailing average wage. Grants may be paid for projects in such localities that pay less than 85 percent of the prevailing average wage, upon a written finding by the Governor that the economic circumstances in the area are sufficiently distressed such that assistance to the locality to attract the project is justified. However, the minimum private investment and number of new jobs required to be created are still a condition of eligibility.

**[HB 2203](#) / [SB 787](#) Department of Housing and Community Development reports; consolidation.** *(Chief Patrons: Kilgore and McDougle)*

Amends §§ 36-142 and 36-150 of the Code of Virginia to consolidate varying due dates for certain reports relating to the Department of Housing and Community Development to October 1 and requires such reports be submitted as part of one annual report, to be presented to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill creates a requirement for (i) an annual report on the outcomes associated with closed projects that received a grant from the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund and requires the Department to use such report to create and maintain a public facing performance dashboard with such information to be updated annually and (ii) a

comprehensive annual report on the state's homeless programs. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.

**[HB 2358](#) / [SB 1208](#) Current and Mature Semiconductor Technology Grant Fund.**

*(Chief Patrons: Torian and Lucas)*

Amends various sections of Code of Virginia to establish the Current and Mature Semiconductor Technology Grant Fund to, subject to appropriation, fund 15 annual grant award installments, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$60 million, to a qualified company that engages in the manufacture of semiconductors and that executes a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth and, on and after July 1, 2024, but before June 30, 2040, is expected to (i) make a capital investment, defined in the bill, of at least \$2,170,130,850 and (ii) create and maintain at least 340 new full-time jobs, in an eligible locality, defined in the bill. The bill also authorizes bonus grants of up to \$10 million that a qualified company may earn for certain new full-time job creation and maintenance. The bill also repeals the existing Semiconductor Manufacturing Grant Fund.

**[HB 2360](#) High school diploma seal of biliteracy; designation as high-demand industry workforce credential for certain purposes.** *(Chief Patron: Wilt)*

Amends §§ 22.1-253.13:1 and 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia to require the Board of Education to include on its list of industry workforce credentials its diploma seal of biliteracy and to consider such seal to be a high-demand industry workforce credential for the purpose of satisfying graduation requirements and determining and calculating high school student readiness in its school accountability system.

**[HB 2396](#) / [SB 1270](#) Deed Fraud; Virginia Housing Development Authority; technical advisory group; report.** *(Chief Patron: Simon and Hackworth)*

Directs the Virginia Housing Development Authority to convene a technical advisory

group to (i) evaluate the prevalence of deed fraud, including notary fraud, seller impersonation, owner impersonation, and fraudulent lien filing; (ii) develop recommendations for the prevention of deed fraud; and (iii) develop measures to enhance protections for property owners from such crimes. The bill also requires the technical advisory group to give consideration to certain policy proposals stated in the bill. The bill requires the technical advisory group to submit its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology no later than November 1, 2025.

**[HB 2415](#) / [SB 1221](#) Public housing authorities; indigent parties; unlawful detainer.**

*(Chief Patrons: Cousins and Aird)*

Amends §§ 16.1-107, 55.1-1208, and 55.1-1245 of the Code of Virginia to exempt indigent defendants from having to post an appeal bond in unlawful detainer actions brought by a public housing authority. The bill also amends certain provisions of the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act to (i) prohibit any landlord that is a public housing authority from requiring a tenant to pay any fees for the maintenance or repair of a dwelling unit unless such repair is necessitated by the tenant's action or omission and (ii) require, if a public housing authority issues a notice of nonpayment of rent to a tenant, such public housing authority to provide the tenant certain information printed on pink or orange paper explaining how the tenant may recertify the tenant's income in accordance with federal law and policy. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 2502](#) / [SB 1107](#) Virginia Freedom of Information Act; exclusions; Department of Workforce Development and Advancement.** *(Chief Patrons: Wiley and Jordan)*

Amends §§ 2.2-2040, 2.2-3705.6, and 2.2-3705.7 of the Code of Virginia to exclude

from the mandatory disclosure requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act certain information held by the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement, which includes any information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including trade secrets, employee compensation information, balance sheets and financial statements that are not available to the public through regulatory disclosure or otherwise, and revenue and cost projections supplied by a private or nongovernmental entity to the Department for the purpose of sponsoring, implementing, and operating (i) an apprenticeship program approved by the Department or (ii) a similar lawful workforce development or public-private partnership approved by the Department that assists the Department in fulfilling its mission and objectives and whose workforce development initiative could not advance without such exemption, as determined by the Commissioner of the Department and the Secretary of Labor.

**[HB 2540](#) / [SB 1207](#) Lithium-ion Battery Separator Manufacturing Grant Fund.** *(Chief Patrons: Marshall and Mulchi)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 59.1 a new chapter to establish the Lithium-ion Battery Separator Manufacturing Grant Fund to, subject to appropriation, fund 20 annual grant award installments, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$60.597 million, to a qualified company that engages in the manufacture of lithium-ion battery separators and that executes a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority, and that on and after July 1, 2024, but before July 1, 2045, is expected to (i) make a capital investment, defined in the bill, of at least \$1.3506 billion and (ii) create and maintain at least 2,015 new full-time jobs in Pittsylvania County.

**[HB 2590](#) Virginia Student Training Employment Pipeline for U.S. Procurement (STEP UP) Program established.** *(Chief Patron: Cole)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-204.3 to direct the Department of Education to establish the Virginia Student Training Employment Pipeline for U.S. Procurement (STEP UP) Program for the purpose of facilitating opportunities for any student enrolled in the eleventh or twelfth grade at a public high school in the Commonwealth or enrolled at a comprehensive community college or historically black college or university in the Commonwealth who enters into an agreement with an entity located in the relevant local school division or region that has a procurement contract with the federal government whereby such entity agrees to provide assistance to the student to obtain, prior to graduation, any federal security clearance at the public trust or national security level and any other education, training, or credential that is necessary for the student to be prepared for employment with such entity upon graduation in exchange for a commitment from the student to accept and remain in such an employment position for an agreed-upon period of time after graduation.

**[HB 2736](#) Virginia Values Veterans Program; military spouse eligibility.** *(Chief Patron: Reaser)*

Amends § 2.2-2001.2 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the comprehensive program developed by the Department of Veterans Services to reduce unemployment among veterans extends to military spouses.

**[SB 1275](#) Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund; eligible site for site development grant.** *(Chief Patron: Jordan)*

Amends § 2.2-2240.2:1 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority may

determine a site of at least 25 contiguous acres to be an eligible site to receive a site development grant from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund if such site is located in a locality with an area of 35 square miles of land area or less.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

### **SB 1305 Local taxes; change to zoning ordinances, etc. *(Chief patron: McPike)***

As passed by the Senate, would have provided that for purposes of real estate subject to a special tax assessment for land preservation by local ordinance, a change to the zoning ordinance shall only be effective following the later of (i) the approval of the relevant modification in the zoning classification of real estate; (ii) the exhaustion of the challenge or appeal period; (iii) if pending, the final determination of any challenge or appeal made within such period; or (iv) the sale of the subject property. The bill also provided that for purposes of subdivided or rezoned lots, the assessment or reassessment required by law shall only be effective following the later of (a) the approval of a modification in the zoning classification of the subject real estate, an exception to zoning or classification of the subject real estate, or a reclassification of the subject real estate; (b) the exhaustion of the challenge or appeal period for such approvals; (c) if pending, the final determination of any such challenge or appeal made within such period; or (d) the sale of the subject property.

# EDUCATION

## PASSED LEGISLATION

**HB 1626 / SB 822 Public elementary & secondary school teachers; certain training activities, requirements, etc.** *(Chief Patrons: Thomas and VanValkenburg)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-298.8 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit any public elementary or secondary school teacher from being required to participate in any non-academic training activity, as that term is defined in the bill, more frequently than once within six months of employment with the applicable school board and once every five years thereafter, except in the case of certain training relating to secure mandatory test violations upon determination by the school board or division superintendent that additional training is necessary. The bill also provides that the total frequency and duration of non-academic training activities in which each such teacher is required to participate pursuant to state law or regulation or policy or regulation of the applicable school board shall not exceed 25 hours every five years.

**HB 1674 Professional education programs; exemption for programs leading to certain endorsements.** *(Chief Patron: Laufer)*

Directs the Board of Education to amend its regulations relating to accreditation requirements for professional education programs in the Commonwealth to require the Department of Education to provide an alternative to the requirement to obtain and maintain national accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation for any professional education program that leads to an endorsement as a school counselor or a school psychologist and has a secured specialty area accreditation from a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

**HB 1678 / SB 1048 School board policies; parental notification; safe storage of prescription drugs and firearms in the household.** *(Chief Patrons: Cohen and Pekarsky)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-79.3 of the Code of Virginia to require each local school board to develop and implement a policy to require the annual notification of the parent of each student enrolled in the local school division, to be sent by email and, if applicable, SMS text message within 30 calendar days succeeding the first day of each school year, of (i) the importance of securely storing any prescription drug, as defined in relevant law, present in the household and (ii) the parent's legal responsibility to safely store any firearm present in the household. The bill requires each school board to make such parental notification available in multiple languages on its website.  
**(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**HB 1695 / SB 817 Public elementary & secondary schools; cardiac emergency response or emergency action plans.** *(Chief Patrons: Askew and Rouse)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-271.9, to require each public elementary or secondary school to develop a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) or an athletic emergency action plan (EAP), as those terms are defined in the bill, that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual who is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds and, in the event that such school has an athletic department or organized athletic program, while attending or participating in an athletic practice or event, among other provisions.

**HB 1700 School boards; bleeding control programs, bleeding control kits.** *(Chief Patron: Clark)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-274.7 to require each school board to develop and implement

a bleeding control program in each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division whereby the school board, among other things, requires bleeding control kits with certain enumerated contents such as bandages and tourniquets to be placed in each public elementary and secondary school building in easily accessible locations and requires annual inspection and restocking of each such bleeding control kit.

**[HB 1783](#) Public middle & high schools; establishing career & technical student organizations, etc. *(Chief Patron: Orrock)***

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-227.1 of the Code of Virginia, to establish an exception to the authority granted to each public middle school and high school to establish career and technical education student organizations, regardless of whether such school offers career and technical education courses, in the case of any such organization that is established as a federally chartered corporation pursuant to an act of Congress.

**[HB 1805](#) Individuals w/disabilities; postsecondary transition planning & services, documentation or evidence. *(Chief Patron: Cohen)***

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-217.2 of the Code of Virginia and amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-401.3, to require any individualized education program (IEP) meeting for any student with a disability held for the purpose of postsecondary transition planning and consideration of postsecondary transition services to include, consistent with the guidance developed by the Department of Education pursuant to applicable law, consideration and documentation of any information relating to such student's postsecondary transition planning and service needs that may be necessary or relevant to coordinating and facilitating the successful and efficient transition of such student from secondary school to an institution of higher education, among other provisions.

**[HB 1806](#) Students with disabilities; individualized accommodations and supports during emergency evacuations.**

*(Chief Patron: Cohen)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-274.7, to permit, if deemed appropriate by the individualized education program (IEP) team, including the parent, each IEP implemented for a public school student with a disability, with the exception of such students who have been placed in private day or residential school settings, to contain language addressing individualized accommodations and supports for the student during emergency situations and evacuations, among other provisions.

**[HB 1824](#) / [SB 1462](#) High school graduation requirements; history and social studies credits, etc. *(Chief Patrons: Reid and Bagby)***

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to permit any student to substitute the African American History course or the Advanced Placement African American Studies course for the World History I course or the World Geography course for the purpose of satisfying the history and social studies credit requirements, provided that enrollment in such an African American History course or Advanced Placement African American Studies course is available to the student. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 1880](#) Public schools; enrollment of certain military children with disabilities; provision of special education services and accommodations. *(Chief Patron: Sewell)***

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-3.5, to provide that whenever a child of a service member who enrolls in a school division in accordance with applicable law is also a child with disabilities, the school board of the school division is required to, upon receipt of documentation from the service member parent or an official letter from the service member's command

indicating such service member's relocation to such school division, coordinate with such child's parent and such child's previous school division to facilitate the prompt provision of comparable special education services and accommodations for such child.

**HB 1881 Public elementary/secondary schools; enrollment of dependent student of active duty service members.** *(Chief Patron: Sewell)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-7.2 of the Code of Virginia, to permit any school board to establish and implement policies providing for the enrollment of any student, upon request of such student's parent, (i) who does not reside within the applicable school division, (ii) whose parent is a full-time active duty member of the uniformed services of the United States and for whom the Commonwealth is the home of record, and (iii) who meets the other requirements set forth in the bill. The bill permits such policies to provide for the denial of any such enrollment request if the school board can demonstrate that it lacks the resources or capacity.

**HB 1892 Children with disabilities; annual individualized education program planning process; dual enrollment courses; certain parental notification required.** *(Chief Patron: Seibold)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-215.3, to require, during the annual individualized education program (IEP) planning process prior to any year in which a child with a disability who is enrolled at a public high school is entering the eleventh grade or twelfth grade, the IEP team to provide to the parent of such student written notice of the student's rights and obligations relating to dual enrollment courses, consistent with a model notice developed and made available by the Board of Education, including detailed information on the process for ensuring that the student is receiving both a free and appropriate public education pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as a student enrolled

in a public high school and the necessary educational accommodations pursuant to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as a student enrolled in a comprehensive community college.

**HB 1910 / SB 1289 Public elementary and secondary schools; nutritional standards for school meals and other foods.** *(Chief Patrons: Kent and Jordan)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.4:3, to prohibit any public elementary or secondary school from offering or making available to any student any food served as a part of a school meal or any competitive food, as defined in applicable law, that contains any of the seven color additives listed in the bill. The bill directs the Board of Education to amend its nutritional guidelines for competitive foods promulgated pursuant to relevant law in accordance with the provisions of the bill. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.

**HB 1924 School boards; prohibition against hiring or contracting for the services of certain individuals.** *(Chief Patron: Ward)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-296.1 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit each school board from employing or contracting for the services of any individual who has been convicted of any felony crime of violence as defined in the bill or any offense involving a child.

**HB 1936 Teacher training; Department of Education to establish and maintain an index of each training, etc.** *(Chief Patron: Reaser)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-298.8 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Department of Education (the Department) to establish and maintain an index of each training in which any public elementary and secondary school teacher in the Commonwealth is required to participate pursuant to state or federal law or regulation, including training required as a condition of licensure by the Department, among other provisions.

**[HB 1945](#) / [SB 1037](#) School boards; school-based telehealth and mental health teletherapy services, accessibility. (Chief Patrons: Reaser and Pekarsky)**

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia and amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered § 22.1-272.3, to direct each school board to consider, for the purpose of increasing access to health care services for students, developing and implementing policies for permitting any public school student in the school division to schedule and participate in telehealth services, including mental health teletherapy services pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider developed in accordance with applicable law, on school property during regular school hours with parental consent, among other provisions.

**[HB 1947](#) / [SB 768](#) Department of Education; survey of local education agencies on school-based mental and behavioral health services; report. (Chief Patrons: Seibold and Favola)**

Requires the Department of Education (the Department) to survey each local education agency (LEA) in the Commonwealth to determine (i) how public schools governed by such LEA currently grant access to local departments of social services and community services boards and other community-based providers of mental and behavioral health services and (ii) what school-based mental and behavioral health services are made available by such LEA, among other provisions.

**[HB 1957](#) SOL assessments & related student assessment methods; assessment development, etc., reform. (Chief Patron: Helmer)**

Amends and reenacts §§ 2.2-3705.3 and 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia, to modify provisions relating to assessment methods for determining the level of achievement of the Standards of Learning objectives by all

students, including (i) requirements relating to assessment administration aimed at maximizing instructional time and optimizing time used for assessment administration; (ii) criteria and guidelines for the structure and content of Standards of Learning assessments and alternative assessments developed by local school boards, including criteria for the types of assessment items that shall be included; (iii) provisions relating to eligibility and timelines for students to retake assessments; and (iv) the scoring of Standards of Learning assessments and related assessments, including a requirement that all such assessments be scored on a 100-point scale, among other provisions. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 1961](#) / [SB 738](#) Public elementary & secondary schools; student cell phone & smart device possession & use policies.**

(Chief Patrons: Rasoul and Pekarsky)

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-277 of the Code of Virginia and amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-79.3:1, to direct each school board to develop and each public elementary and secondary school to implement age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate policies relating to the possession and use of cell phones by students on school property during regular school hours, among other provisions.

**[HB 1983](#) / [SB 968](#) Board of Education; support services personnel; annual collection of certain staffing data required; report. (Chief Patrons: Askew and Carroll Foy)**

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-289.3, to require (i) each school board to, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, annually collect and submit to the Department of Education a report on data on the average salaries of support services personnel, as that term is defined in the bill, employed by the school board and (ii) the Department to, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, annually compile such

data, include it in the Annual School Report, and publicly post it on the Department's website, among other provisions.

**HB 1993 Public school buses; display of advertising, hiring of school bus drivers.**

*(Chief Patron: Bennett-Parker)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-177 of the Code of Virginia, to permit any local school board, notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary, to display decals, posters, and stickers on the sides and rear of school buses advertising the hiring of school bus drivers in the local school division, provided that the local school board is responsible for the cost of such decals, posters, and stickers and that no such decal, poster, or sticker obstructs the name of the school division or the number of the school bus.

**HB 2018 / SB 879 Teachers; career and technical education, alternative pathway to provisional licensure.** *(Chief Patrons: Anthony and Ebbin)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-298.1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, to require the Board of Education (the Board) to issue a provisional license to any person seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education who has a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate and an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure to allow time for such person to complete, in lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, coursework in three areas specified in the bill, among other provisions. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**HB 2051 Division superintendents, etc.; annual meetings on school grounds with local law enforcement.** *(Chief Patron: Green)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia, to permit each division

superintendent or his designee and the school safety audit committee established by the division superintendent to meet annually on the grounds of any public school in the local school division with the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or a designee from the local law-enforcement agency to discuss the annual school safety audit completed for such school.

**HB 2055 Student health and safety; responsibility to contact parent of student at imminent risk of suicide.** *(Chief Patron: Reaser)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-272.1 of the Code of Virginia, to require any person licensed as administrative or instructional personnel by the Board of Education (the Board) and employed by a local school board who in the scope of his employment has reason to believe, as a result of direct communication from a student, that such student is at imminent risk of suicide to, in addition to contacting at least one of such student's parents to provide notice of the student's mental state, provide to the parent materials on suicide prevention that (i) shall include information on the requirements set forth in current law relating to the safe storage of firearms in the presence of minors and (ii) may include guidance on best practices and strategies for limiting a student's access to lethal means, including firearms and medications, among other provisions.

**HB 2103 Regulations Governing Allowable Credit for Teaching Experience; etc.** *(Chief Patron: Kent)*

Requires the Board of Education to amend its Regulations Governing Allowable Credit for Teaching Experience for the purpose of salary placement credit to provide that teachers in the field of career and technical education, where the licensure requirement calls for occupational work experience beyond the apprenticeship level, may be allowed credit for one year of teaching experience for each one or two years of work experience. The bill contains a reenactment clause. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 2104](#) / [SB 1036](#) Seizure rescue meds.; administration by certain school employees, possession by certain students. (Chief Patrons: Bennett-Parker and Pekarsky)**

Amends and reenacts §§ 8.01-225, 22.1-274.2, 22.1-274.6, and 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia, to permit a prescriber to authorize an employee of (i) a school board, (ii) a school for students with disabilities, (iii) an accredited private school, (iv) a local governing body, or (v) a local health department who is trained in the administration of seizure rescue medications for the treatment of seizures resulting from a condition causing seizures to administer such medications to a student diagnosed with a condition causing seizures when the student is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a seizure pursuant to a written order or standing protocol issued within the course of the prescriber's professional practice and with the consent of the student's parents, among other provisions.

**[HB 2201](#) / [SB 1230](#) Public schools; temporarily employed teachers, rules and requirements, extension of time limitation. (Chief Patrons: McQuinn and Aird)**

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-302 of the Code of Virginia, to extend from 90 to 180 teaching days the maximum period of time during one school year for which a school board may employ a temporarily employed teacher, as defined in relevant law, to fill a teacher vacancy, with certain conditions and restrictions. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027, among other provisions.

**[HB 2213](#) School boards; driver education behind-the-wheel training to be offered before or after school. (Chief Patron: McQuinn)**

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-205 of the Code of Virginia, to strongly encourage each school board, in recognition of the fact that behind-the-wheel training is an essential school-to-work skill and a vital step in the pathway to obtaining a driver's license and cultivating well-educated teen drivers, to offer as part of its program of driver education behind-the-

wheel training either during school hours or before or after school hours, including on weekends.

**[HB 2265](#) Teachers; certain individuals to be licensed with an endorsement in special ed. early childhood. (Chief Patron: Tran)**

Provides that any individual who has been employed in the Commonwealth as a preschool special education teacher licensed with an endorsement in special education - general curriculum K-12 for at least 15 school years shall be deemed licensed as a teacher with an endorsement in special education early childhood (birth-age five years) upon the recommendation of the division superintendent in the local school division in which such individual is employed to the Department of Education that such teacher is well-qualified to continue to teach preschool special education in such school division. The bill contains an emergency clause.

**[HB 2278](#) School boards/division superintendent; review of accessibility challenges in local school division. (Chief Patron: Price)**

Requires each school board or division superintendent, in consultation with such other stakeholders as it deems appropriate, to review the extent to which (i) public elementary and secondary school buildings and grounds in the local school division present physical accessibility challenges and barriers for individuals with disabilities, including challenges and barriers that may prevent such individuals from fully participating in school activities; (ii) challenges in access to programming and supports exist for individuals with disabilities at public elementary and secondary schools in the local school division; (iii) such schools have begun or plan to address and eliminate all such challenges and barriers; and (iv) state agencies can assist such schools to address and eliminate all such challenges and barriers and fully comply with all applicable state and federal laws, among other provisions.

**[HB 2454](#) / [SB 784](#) Public school accountability system; Three “E” Readiness Framework. (Chief Patrons: Rasoul and Suetterlein)**

Directs the Board of Education to revise its Three “E” Readiness Framework: Employment, Enlistment, and Enrollment, adopted pursuant to the public school accountability system to measure high school student postsecondary readiness, to include as an indicator of postsecondary readiness and incentivize participation in and completion of work-based learning experiences, with the maximum number of points for such indicator awarded to students who participate in a minimum of 90 hours of work-based learning experiences. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 2460](#) Standards of Learning; incorporation of media literacy and digital citizenship. (Chief Patron: Scott, P.A.)**

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-253.13:1 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Board of Education to consider, during each regularly scheduled revision to the Standards of Learning and any associated curriculum framework, including the Digital Learning Integration Standards of Learning, incorporating media literacy and digital citizenship standards, as such terms are defined in the bill, at each grade level.

**[HB 2601](#) Teachers; daily student attendance records. (Chief Patron: Glass)**

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-259 of the Code of Virginia, to require a teacher in every public school in the Commonwealth to keep an accurate daily record of attendance of all children, both (i) at the beginning of the school day and (ii) if applicable, for each class period. Current law requires such a daily record of attendance but is silent on records of attendance for each class period.

**[HB 2606](#) Special education due process hearings; dismissal of certain vexatious and repetitive complaints. (Chief Patron: Ware)**

Permits (i) a special education due process hearing officer, upon determination that a due

process hearing complaint filed pursuant to applicable law contains substantively the same issues as a previously adjudicated due process hearing complaint and evidences a clear pattern of initiating vexatious and repetitive litigation, to dismiss the complaint and (ii) any party aggrieved by such a dismissal to bring a civil action pursuant to applicable law, among other provisions.

**[HB 2618](#) / [SB 1413](#) Public school buildings; indoor air quality, inspection and evaluation. (Chief Patrons: Helmer and Surovell)**

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 9 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-141.3 through 22.1-141.6, to establish several enumerated requirements for local school divisions to ensure indoor air quality in each public school building in the local school division, including providing for an inspection and evaluation program at least once every two years and an industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation at least once every four years.

**[HB 2637](#) / [SB 1377](#) Mental Health First Aid Program; DOE, et al., to develop, participation by school staff & students. (Chief Patrons: LeVere Bolling and Hashmi)**

Directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop and implement a plan to incentivize and facilitate participation in the Commonwealth Mental Health First Aid Program, established pursuant to applicable law, by public school staff and students. As introduced, the bill is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth.

**[HB 2679](#) School boards; threat assessment teams and procedures, etc. (Chief Patron: Reaser)**

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-79.4 of the Code of Virginia, to require each division

superintendent or his designee to provide materials on recognition of and strategies for responding to behavior indicating that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to himself or others to the parent or legal guardian of any student who, according to a preliminary determination from a threat assessment team, poses such a threat, among other provisions.

**[HB 2686](#) School boards; certain advanced or accelerated mathematics opportunities. (Chief Patron: Callsen)**

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.9, to require each school board to develop and adopt a policy that sets forth the criteria for students in grades five through eight to be eligible to enroll in advanced or accelerated mathematics and requires each such policy to provide for (i) the automatic enrollment of certain students in advanced or accelerated mathematics based on Standards of Learning assessment scores, subject to course offerings and availability and the opportunity for parental opt-out; (ii) multiple additional pathways to student enrollment in advanced or accelerated mathematics; and (iii) an annual parental notification relating to mathematics coursework.

**[HB 2720](#) Local school divisions, certain; flexibility relating to student transportation, sunset. (Chief Patron: Austin)**

Permits certain school boards to pursue certain student transportation alternatives for the next two school years and requires such school boards to report certain data on the implementation of such initiatives, among other provisions.

**[HB 2774](#) / [SB 1240](#) School-connected student overdoses; policies relating to parental notification, guidelines. (Chief Patrons: Singh and Sturtevant)**

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-272.1:1 of the Code of Virginia, to require public school principals and heads of private schools in the Commonwealth to report certain information

to the parents of enrolled students within 24 hours of a confirmed or suspected school-connected student overdose, as defined in the bill.

**[HB 2777](#) / [SB 955](#) Public schools; definitions, textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials. (Chief Patrons: Rasoul and VanValkenburg)**

Amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-1, 22.1-238, 22.1-239, 22.1-241, 22.1-242, 22.1-243, 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-253.13:5, 22.1-253.13:6, and 23.1-902.1 of the Code of Virginia, to make several changes relating to the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials that are utilized as the curriculum basis for public elementary and secondary school student instruction, including (i) requiring each local school board to adopt and implement textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials in English language arts for grades six through 12 and mathematics, science, and history and social studies for grades kindergarten through 12 and requiring the Department of Education to support such local adoption and implementation in several ways and (ii) requiring each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education or alternative certification program that provides training for any student seeking initial licensure by the Board of Education with certain endorsements to include a program of coursework and clinical experience and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in identifying and implementing textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials, among other provisions.

**[SB 908](#) Public schools; student discipline and codes of conduct, etc. (Chief Patron: Stanley)**

Amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-276.01 and 22.1-279.6 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Board of Education to include in its guidelines and model policies for codes of student conduct developed pursuant to applicable law standards for school board policies on

cyberbullying, defined in the bill as bullying that occurs through the use of technology, including through cell phones and other electronic devices and technology capable of accessing the Internet, among other provisions.

**[SB 1293](#) Autism spectrum disorder; school board employees, professional development and continuing education.**

*(Chief Patron: Stanley)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-253.13:5 of the Code of Virginia, to direct the Board of Education to provide guidance on and each school board to provide each year an optional program of high-quality professional development for instructional personnel and school board employees whose duties include regular contact with students on communicating with and supporting students with autism spectrum disorder, among other provisions.

**[SB 1486](#) Public schools; protection of student records and personal information, policies and procedures.** *(Chief Patron: Cifers)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-289.01 of the Code of Virginia, to establish certain enumerated requirements for the protection of student personal information on school-issued devices, as defined in the bill, by certain public schools and school boards and by school technology providers, as defined in the bill, that are substantially similar to the requirements established in current law for the protection of student personal information on school services by school service providers.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

**[HB 1769](#) Chronic student absenteeism; task force to examine its effects on local school divisions, etc.** *(Chief Patron: Martinez)*

Would have directed the Chronic Absenteeism Task Force convened by the Department of Education, in consultation with such interested stakeholders as it deems appropriate, to (i) examine chronic student absenteeism and its effects on local school divisions and (ii) make

recommendations to the Board of Education, the Governor, and the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of amending the Board of Education's regulations to exclude certain student absences from the calculation of chronic student absenteeism for the purpose of balancing the importance of student attendance with the need for administrative flexibility for local school divisions. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 1830](#) School board policies; unpaid educational leave for certain employee association officers.** *(Chief Patron: Simonds)*

Would have required each school board to adopt a policy that requires the school board to approve unpaid educational leave for school board employees who are state employee association officers and for at least two school board employees who are local employee association officers for a maximum of four years per officer, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 1831](#) / [SB 1236](#) Public schools; Standards of Quality; certain calculations; support services.** *(Chief Patron: Simonds and Aird)* Would have effectively ended the support cap in Code and required the Department of Education, (i) in calculating the deduction of federal funds in the Standards of Quality funding formula, to examine actual school division spending on support costs as a percentage of actual school division spending on all public education costs, with certain exceptions such as food service, and (ii) in calculating the costs in the Standards of Quality funding formula beginning with fiscal year 2029, to include all employee benefit costs incurred by a majority of school divisions, including costs related to retirement, health care, life insurance, and payout of earned but unused leave. The bill also required support services positions to be funded based on a calculation of prevailing costs and prohibited such positions from being subject to any method of funding calculation that caps the number of funded support services positions based on a ratio of such positions to students

enrolled in the school division, except for certain support services positions enumerated in the bills. These bills were left in Senate Finance and Appropriations, but the provisions of the bills and related funding are included in the General Assembly's budget.

**[HB 1915](#) / [SB 1032](#) Public school teachers; written notice of noncontinuation of continuing contract.** *(Chief Patrons: Reaser and Pekarsky)*

Would have provided that written notice of noncontinuation of a continuing teacher contract by the teacher must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise, the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year in conformity with local salary stipulations, including increments. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 1954](#) / [SB 977](#)** *(Chief patrons: Rasoul and Hashmi)* would have also effectively ended the support cap and codified additional recommendations related to the cost of K-12 salaries, additional funding for special education, at-risk students, and English learners, among other provisions. These bills were left in Senate Finance and Appropriations, but the provisions of the bills and related funding are included in the General Assembly's budget.

**[HB 2244](#) Standards of Quality; measurement of student educational performance and academic achievement.** *(Chief Patron: Cousins)*  
Would have directed the Board of Education (the Board), in consultation with the Department of Education (the Department), to establish and implement standards for determining and recognizing student educational performance and academic achievement in the form of a weighted proportionality score for each school, to account for no less than five percent of such school's accreditation rating score or metric under the current school accountability system, for the purpose of identifying,

accounting for in determining accreditation ratings, and addressing disparities in access to educational resources across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in public schools in the Commonwealth, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**

**[SB 1017](#) School boards; powers and duties, school meal policies, payment of school meal debt.** *(Chief Patron: Roem)*

Would have required that each school board, at the end of each school year, to pay for the total unpaid school meal balance, resulting from uncollectable school meal debts on any student account, on the nonprofit school food service account for each public elementary or secondary school in the school division using any appropriated nonfederal funds, except that each school board is prohibited from requiring any public elementary or secondary school in the school division from paying for or providing any funds to pay for such school's unpaid school meal balance, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**

**[SB 1307](#) Sales and use tax, local; additional tax authorized in all counties and cities to support schools.** *(Chief Patron: McPike)*

Would have authorized all counties and cities to impose an additional local sales and use tax at a rate not to exceed one percent with the revenue used only for public school capital projects, defined in the bill, if such levy is approved in a voter referendum. The bill removed the requirement that such a tax must have an expiration date on either (i) the date of the repayment of any bonds or loans used for such capital projects or (ii) a date chosen by the governing body. Under current law, only Charlotte, Gloucester, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties and the City of Danville are authorized to impose such a tax. **(Vetoed)**

# ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND LAND USE

## PASSED LEGISLATION

### **[HB 1601](#) / [SB 1449](#) Siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility.**

*(Chief Patrons: Thomas and Ebbin)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-2209.4 to provide that prior to any approval of a rezoning application, special exception application, or special use permit for the siting of a new high energy use facility (HEUF), as defined in the bill, a locality shall require that an applicant perform and submit a site assessment to examine the sound profile of the HEUF on residential units and schools located within 500 feet of the HEUF property boundary. The bill also allows a locality to require that a site assessment examine the effect of the proposed facility on (i) ground and surface water resources, (ii) agricultural resources, (iii) parks, (iv) registered historic sites, and (v) forestland on the HEUF site or immediately contiguous land. The provisions of the bill shall not apply to a site with an existing legislative or administrative approval where an applicant is seeking an expansion or modification of an already existing or approved facility and such expansion does not exceed an additional 100 megawatts or more of electrical power. Finally, the bill provides that its provisions shall not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise supersede existing local zoning authority. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

### **[HB 1659](#) Local Foundation and Soil Management Fund.** *(Chief Patron: Henson)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-958.7 to authorize a locality by ordinance to create a local

Foundation and Soil Management Fund consisting of appropriated local moneys for the purpose of granting funds to an owner of private property or a common interest community for foundation management and soil settlement repairs and prevention on previously developed lands.

### **[HB 1706](#) / [SB 1210](#) Virginia Residential Property Disclosure Act; required disclosures for buyer to beware; aircraft noise.** *(Chief Patrons: Bulova and Pekarsky)*

Amends § 55.1-703 of the Code of Virginia to require that the owner of a residential real property include in the residential property disclosure statement provided to a potential purchaser of such residential real property a statement that the owner makes no representations or warranties with respect to the property's proximity to a public use airport nor any noise from aircraft due to the proximity of the property to flight operations, and purchasers are advised to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary to determine whether the property is within proximity to a flight path or public use airport aircraft noise zone. The bill also requires the Department of Aviation to establish and provide to the Real Estate Board by July 31, 2025, a website address that allows purchasers to access public use airport aircraft noise zone maps, and requires the Real Estate Board to include such website address on the form for signature by the parties stating that the purchaser has been advised of the disclosures listed in the residential property disclosure statement. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Housing Commission.

### **[HB 1721](#) Condemnation of conservation or open-space easement; compensation; Uniform Easement Relocation Act.** *(Chief Patron: Watts)*

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to provide that if a person takes by condemnation proceedings any land or right-of-way or similar interest therein that is subject to a conservation easement or

an open-space easement, the person shall compensate, in amounts proportionate to the land or interest therein being condemned, (i) the Commonwealth for the value of any tax credit received by the landowner under the provisions of the Virginia Land Conservation Incentives Act of 1999 during the pendency of the conservation easement or open-space easement and (ii) the locality in which the land or interest therein is located for any property tax avoided by the landowner during the pendency of the conservation easement or open-space easement. The bill further requires that compensation required to be paid to the Commonwealth pursuant to the provisions of the bill shall be in addition to (a) any compensation required by the provisions of the conservation easement due to the landowner and holder or compensation required by the provisions of the open-space easement due to the landowner and the public body and (b) fulfillment of the requirements pertaining to the conversion or diversion of open-space land. Subject to reenactment by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly, the bill further creates the Uniform Easement Relocation Act, which allows the owner of real estate burdened by an easement to obtain a court order to relocate the easement if the relocation does not materially impair, among other impairments, (1) the utility of the easement holder or (2) the physical condition, use, or value of the benefited property. The Act requires that the burdened property owner file a civil action, give notice to other potentially affected real property interest owners, and bear the costs of relocation. Under current law, the owner of land that is subject to an easement may seek relocation of the easement on the servient estate upon petition to the circuit court and notice to all parties in interest, and the petition will be granted if, after a hearing held, the court finds that (A) the relocation will not result in economic damage to the parties in interest, (B) there will be no undue hardship created by the relocation, and (C) the easement has been in existence for not less than 10 years. The bill directs the Boyd-Graves Conference to conduct a study on the provisions of such

Uniform Easement Relocation Act and report any findings of such study to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees for Courts of Justice by November 1, 2025.

**[HB 1779](#) / [SB 1338](#) Carbon-free energy or clean energy; fusion energy; definitions.**

*(Chief Patrons: Sullivan and Marsden)*

Amends § 1-208.1 of the Code of Virginia to add fusion energy, as defined in the bill, to the list of generation sources that qualify as carbon-free energy or clean energy.

**[HB 1819](#) C-PACE financing programs.** *(Chief Patron: Reid)*

Amends § 15.2-958.3 of the Code of Virginia to make several changes to the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing program, including adding a definition of property owner to include a lessee and providing that the lessee may also be eligible for a C-PACE loan by complying with certain conditions, including consent of the fee simple property owner. The bill also (i) changes from two years to three years from a locality's issuance of a certificate of occupancy the time period within which a local C-PACE ordinance may allow submittal of a loan application and (ii) provides that a locality agrees to execute a locality agreement within 30 days of the adoption of the ordinance that opts them into the statewide C-PACE loan program.

**[HB 1821](#) Electric utilities; accelerated renewable energy buyers; zero-carbon electricity; energy storage resources.** *(Chief Patron: Reid)*

Amends § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia to permit an accelerated renewable energy buyer or group of accelerated renewable energy buyers to contract to (i) obtain bundled capacity, energy, and renewable energy certificates from zero-carbon electricity generation resources under certain conditions and (ii) offset all or a portion of their capacity needs through the procurement of energy storage resources under certain conditions.

**(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 1822](#) Electric utilities; construction of electrical transmission lines; advanced conductors. *(Chief Patron: Reid)***

Amends § 56-597 of the Code of Virginia to require that the State Corporation Commission consider the prudence of using advanced conductors in making any determination regarding need, corridor, route, or method of installation as it relates to certain applications for the construction of transmission lines of 138 kilovolts or more. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.

**[HB 1883](#) / [SB 1040](#) Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements; power purchase agreements.**

*(Chief Patrons: Callsen and VanValkenburg)*  
Amends §§ 56-585.5 and 56-594.02 of the Code of Virginia to amend certain renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements for Dominion Energy Virginia, including (i) the annual percentage of program requirements to be met with behind-the meter solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion resources of three megawatts or less located in the Commonwealth and (ii) the date by which 75 percent of such requirements shall be met with resources located in the Commonwealth. The bill also removes the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third party power purchase agreement under a pilot program. The bill permits Dominion Energy Virginia to recover certain costs prior to December 31, 2032, and provides that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to encourage development on previously developed project sites, as defined in existing law, to reduce the land use impacts of solar development. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 1934](#) / [SB 1192](#) Electric utilities; generation of electricity from renewable and zero carbon sources; projects on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools.**

*(Chief Patrons: LeVere Bolling and Deeds)*  
Amends § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia to provide that for purposes of compliance with a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) program, to the extent that low-income qualifying projects, as defined in existing law, are not available and projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools are available, a certain percentage of the required projects shall be composed of projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 1996](#) Planning and zoning; public notice. *Chief Patron: Bennett-Parker***

Amends § 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia to require the second public hearing notice that a planning commission publishes for certain planning and zoning actions to be published no less than five days before the date of the meeting. Current law requires such notice to be published no less than seven days before the date of the meeting.

**[HB 2024](#) / [SB 1165](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; solar photovoltaic equipment meeting national environmental protection and product safety standards. *(Chief Patrons: Seibold and Salim)***

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-4328.3 to prohibit state and local agencies from including a provision in any request for proposal, procurement agreement, contract, ordinance, policy, permit, or accompanying document that directs the exclusion from use of any materials contained in or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that are manufactured in the United States.

**HB 2034 Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources; protection of existing tidal and nontidal wetlands; wetland restoration and creation; policy task force; report.** *(Chief Patron: Simonds)*

Directs the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to establish a policy task force to develop (i) strategies to protect existing tidal and nontidal wetlands and restore, create, and plan for the persistence of such wetlands in the Commonwealth and (ii) mechanisms to incorporate such strategies into appropriate plans, including the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, to address losses and adverse impacts from human activities and climate change. The bill requires the task force to include certain relevant stakeholders, to meet at least two times annually, to report its initial findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources by December 1, 2025, and to update its report at least every two years.

**HB 2050 Drinking water; Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction Program established.** *(Chief Patron: Bulova)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 13 of Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 a section numbered 62.1-44.34:34 to create the Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction Program to reduce excessive levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in public drinking water derived from the Occoquan Reservoir. The bill requires certain facilities to monitor for PFAS on or before October 1, 2025, using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Method 1633 or an alternative method approved by the EPA. The bill requires any such facility to report all results to the Department of Environmental Quality no later than the tenth day of the next month after the month in which the result is reported by the laboratory and to include in such report all PFAS analytes measured by the test method.

The bill requires by July 1, 2027, for any facility that measures exceedances in its discharge of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water promulgated on or before January 1, 2025, the Department, for an individual Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit if the facility discharges directly to surface waters, or a major publicly owned treatment works, for an indirect discharger, to modify the applicable discharge permit to require that the facility's discharge not exceed that MCL. The bill requires the modified permit to provide a compliance schedule that requires compliance with such level as soon as possible but no later than July 1, 2029. The bill exempts from its provisions any industrial discharger not listed in the bill, any publicly owned treatment works or drinking water treatment plant, or a municipal solid waste facility but provides that any public water system may follow the requirements of the bill for the purpose of planning for compliance with the MCL for PFAS in finished water. The bill clarifies that its provisions will not limit the authority of the Department or the owner or operator of any publicly owned treatment works to which any user discharges wastewater to require monitoring or reporting or otherwise regulate the discharge of any PFAS chemicals or other pollutants under other applicable legal authority.

**HB 2077 / SB 1335 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; loan and grant program; eligible recipients; federally recognized tribes; Virginia recognized tribes.**

*(Chief Patrons: Krizek and Marsden)*  
Amends §§ 10.1-603.24 and 10.1-603.25 of the Code of Virginia to expand the type of eligible recipients for loans and grants from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund to include federally recognized tribes and Virginia recognized tribes. Under current law, only localities are eligible to receive loans or grants from the Fund.

**HB 2084 State Corporation Commission regulatory proceeding; reasonable classifications of customers by public utilities.** *(Chief Patron: Shin)*

Directs the State Corporation Commission, in an existing proceeding filed after January 1, 2025, but no later than July 1, 2027, to determine whether Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power are using rates, tolls, charges, or schedules that contain reasonable classifications of utility customers.

**HB 2128 Derelict buildings; civil penalties.** *(Chief Patron: Walker)*

Amends § 15.2-907.1 of the Code of Virginia to expand the authority of localities to impose civil penalties not exceeding \$500 per month on the owners of certain derelict buildings to include non-residential property. Current law limits such civil penalties to residential property.

**HB 2266 / SB 1058 State Corporation Commission; distribution cost sharing program; required distribution system upgrades.** *(Chief Patrons: Tran and Ebbin)*

Directs the State Corporation Commission by July 1, 2026, to establish by regulation a distribution cost sharing program for Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to construct distribution system upgrades required to interconnect participating projects, as defined in the bill. The bill directs the Commission to require each such utility to file any tariffs, agreements, or forms necessary for the implementation of the program by December 1, 2026, and to submit a report on the implementation of the program by November 1, 2028.

**HB 2327 Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee; extension of sunset date.** *(Chief Patron: Hodges)*

Amends § 62.1-256.2 of the Code of Virginia to extend from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2030, the sunset date of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee

to assist the State Water Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality in the management of groundwater in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area.

**HB 2330 Notice of certain land use actions.** *(Chief Patron: Hodges)*

Amends § 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia to provide that one notice sent by first-class mail to the last known address of certain property owners impacted by a proposed change in the zoning map classification of 25 or fewer parcels of land shall be deemed adequate notice, provided that a representative of the local planning commission shall make affidavit that such mailings have been made and file such affidavit with the papers in the case. Current law also allows such notice to be given by registered or certified mail. The bill also makes technical amendments.

**HB 2346 / SB 1100 Electric utilities; virtual power plant pilot program.**

*(Chief Patrons: Hernandez and Hashmi)*

Requires Dominion Energy Virginia to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to conduct a pilot program to evaluate methods to optimize demand through various technology applications, including the establishment of virtual power plants, by December 1, 2025. The bill requires the pilot program to evaluate electric grid capacity needs and the ability of such virtual power plants to provide grid services, including peak-shaving, during times of peak electric demand.

**(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**HB 2426 Small renewable energy projects; permit by rule.** *(Chief Patron: Callsen)*

Amends § 10.1-1197.5 of the Code of Virginia to amend the definition of “small renewable energy project” for the purposes of obtaining a permit by rule from the Department of Environmental Quality to include interconnection facilities, as defined in the bill. The bill requires that the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Corporation Commission enter into a

memorandum of understanding to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 2516](#) Hazardous substances; hazardous substance facility response plans; civil penalties.** *(Chief Patron: Lopez)*

Amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 an article numbered 14, consisting of sections numbered 62.1-44.34:34 through 62.1-44.34:38 to require any person that is required to submit a facility response plan under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water Act Hazardous Substance Facility Response Plans to submit evidence of an EPA-approved facility response plan to the Department of Environmental Quality within a certain time period and to comply with such plan. The bill provides certain requirements for reporting, recordkeeping, and inspection and authorizes the Department to initiate a civil action to obtain certain equitable relief for violations of the bill's provisions. The bill imposes civil penalties for any person that negligently, willfully, or knowingly (i) discharges or causes to discharge a hazardous substance from a facility or (ii) fails to implement or comply with an EPA-approved facility response plan. Finally, the bill requires the Department to develop guidance to implement the provisions of the bill.

**[HB 2533](#) Local comprehensive plan; tiny homes; accessory dwelling units.** *(Chief Patron: Sewell)*

Amends § 15.2-2223 of the Code of Virginia to clarify that the comprehensive plan prepared by a local planning commission and adopted by a local governing body may include the use of tiny homes and accessory dwelling units, defined in the bill, as part of any residential development and use designated within such plan.

**[HB 2537](#) / [SB 1394](#) Electric utilities; energy storage requirements; Department of Energy and Department of Environmental Quality to develop model ordinances; work groups; reports.** *(Chief Patrons: Sullivan and Bagby)*

Amends § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia to increase the targets for energy storage capacity that Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia are required to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure and extends the time frame by which such capacity must be met. Under the bill, (i) Appalachian Power shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 780 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2040 and 520 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and (ii) Dominion Energy Virginia shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 5,220 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and 3,480 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045. "Long-duration energy storage" and "short-duration energy storage" are defined in the bill. The bill requires the Commission to conduct a technology demonstration program for long-duration energy storage resources and initiate a proceeding to determine if such technology is viable and that the targets in the bill are reasonably achievable, for which a final order shall be entered no later than March 1, 2030. Certain provisions of the bill are only effective upon such determination by the Commission. The bill also requires the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Fire Programs, to create model ordinances for use by localities in their regulation of energy storage projects and to convene a work group to develop such model ordinances and submit a report by December 1, 2025. The bill directs the Department of Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality to convene a work

group to develop recommendations and financial incentives related to the development of long-duration energy storage projects and submit a report by December 1, 2025. The bill also directs the Department of Energy to engage with PJM Interconnection, LLC, in reviewing regional market conditions related to energy storage resources and permits Dominion Energy Virginia to propose a partnership with institutions of higher education to deploy energy storage resources. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 2621](#) / [SB 1076](#) Phase I Utilities; securitized asset costs. (Chief Patrons: Ballard, Peake)**

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to authorize Appalachian Power to petition the State Corporation Commission for a financing order for securitized asset costs, as defined in the bill. The bill creates the securitized asset cost charge and provides that the revenues generated by this charge, known as securitized asset cost property, are a property right that can be transferred and pledged as security for the securitized asset cost bonds. The bill establishes the procedures for creating, perfecting, and enforcing the security interest in securitized asset cost property. The bill also prohibits rate increases for Appalachian Power during the months of November through February and prohibits rate adjustment clauses from taking effect on customer bills between the months of November through February. The bill prohibits Appalachian Power from charging a residential customer any interest or late fees between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, and from charging a residential customer any reconnection fees between July 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026. The bill also provides that in any rate proceeding for Appalachian Power, the State Corporation Commission shall include an invitation for public comment.

**[HB 2630](#) Replacement of trees during development process in localities; tree canopy fund. (Chief Patron: Willett)**

Amends § 15.2-961.3 of the Code of Virginia to allow localities by ordinance to establish a tree

canopy fund to collect, maintain, and distribute fees collected from developers that cannot provide for full tree canopy requirements where the development project is situated. The bill requires the ordinance to establish cost units that are based on average costs of two-inch caliper nursery stock trees. The bill allows a locality to use moneys from the fund to (i) plant and maintain trees on public or private property or (ii) make disbursements to a community-based organization that is exempt from income tax pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is operated for tree planting, stewardship, or community-beautification missions that benefit the community at large. The bill requires any funds collected by localities to be spent within five years of the collection date.

**[HB 2644](#) / [SB 1197](#) Electric cooperative subsidiaries; customers exceeding 90 megawatts demand. (Chief Patrons: Sickles, Deeds)**

Amends §§ 56-231.16, 56-231.34:1, and 56-234 of the Code of Virginia to permit electric cooperatives, through one or more of their affiliates, to make unregulated sales of electric power to certain customers that contract for electric utility services to serve a demand that is reasonably expected to exceed 90 megawatts.

**[HB 2660](#) Subdivision ordinance; local approvals; report. (Chief Patron: Simon)**

Amends §§ 15.2-2259 and 15.2-2260 of the Code of Virginia to shorten the timeframes for various local government approvals of subdivision plats and site plans. Additionally, the bill calls on the Virginia Code Commission to convene a work group consisting of various stakeholders to review existing provisions related to the submission, review, and approval of subdivision plats and site plans. The work group shall develop recommendations to (i) organize procedural steps in a clear, logical, and sequential order to enhance ease of reference; (ii) clarify the processes, requirements, and timelines applicable to each type of plat or plan; (iii) standardize terminology to ensure consistency, reduce

ambiguity, and minimize misinterpretation; and (iv) identify and eliminate redundant or duplicative provisions to streamline the Code and improve its usability and shall submit a report to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

**[HB 2663](#) / [SB 1336](#) Electricity consumption tax; rate adjustments.** *(Chief Patrons: Fowler and Marsden)*

Amends § 58.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia to increase the electric utility consumption tax's special utility tax rates for commercial and industrial consumer electricity consumed per month (i) in excess of 2,500 kilowatt hours but not in excess of 50,000 kilowatt hours and (ii) in excess of 50,000 kilowatt hours. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[HB 2671](#) Septic system inspectors; minimum requirements.** *(Chief Patron: Phillips)*

Amends §§ 59.1-310.7 through 59.1-310.10 to amend the requirements for septic system inspections, as such term is defined in the bill, in connection with real estate transactions to provide that an individual must be an authorized septic system inspector, as defined in the bill, in order to conduct such inspections. The bill adds minimum requirements for septic system inspectors in conducting such inspections.

**[HB 2711](#) / [SB 850](#) Water utilities and wastewater utilities; eligible infrastructure replacement and enhancement; cost recovery.** *(Chief Patrons: Lopez and Surovell)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 56 a chapter numbered 31, consisting of sections numbered 56-626 and 56-627 to permit a water or wastewater utility to petition the State Corporation Commission for the approval of an eligible infrastructure replacement and enhancement plan, as defined in the bill. The bill requires that a water or wastewater utility that receives approval for an eligible infrastructure replacement and

enhancement rider shall provide a proposed earnings test for informational purposes in each annual informational filing or base rate proceeding filed with the State Corporation Commission before December 1, 2030. The provisions of the bill expire on July 1, 2035. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the State Water Commission.

**[HB 2749](#) / [SB 1408](#) Department of Health; waterworks; mandatory reporting.** *(Chief Patrons: LeVere Bolling and Reeves)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-174.5 to require owners of waterworks to report any critical equipment failure or malfunction or contaminant release to the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water as soon as practicable but no more than two hours after discovery. The bill also requires owners of waterworks that are required to submit a monthly operating report to the Office to include any noncritical equipment failure or malfunction that could adversely affect water quality, public health, or service continuity in such report.

**[SB 851](#) Local ordinances for the use of certain rainwater harvesting systems.** *(Chief Patron: Diggs)*

Amends § 32.1-248.2 of the Code of Virginia to provide that existing local ordinances adopted prior to July 1, 2025, governing rainwater harvesting systems shall continue in force; however, in the event of a conflict between a Board of Health regulation and a local ordinance adopted prior to July 1, 2025, the Board regulation shall govern, except when the conflicting local ordinance is more stringent. The bill prohibits a locality from adopting any local ordinance requiring owners of Tier 4 rainwater harvesting systems to connect to any municipal water supply or impose any penalty, including condemnation proceedings, on such owner for failing to connect to a municipal water supply.

**[SB 974](#) Subdivision ordinance; plan review by designated agent. (Chief Patron: VanValkenburg)**

Amends §§ 15.2-2201, 15.2-2241, 15.2-2245, 15.2-2254, 15.2-2258, 15.2-2259, 15.2-2260, 15.2-2261, 15.2-2269, 15.2-2270, 15.2-2271, and 15.2-2307 of the Code of Virginia to remove the planning commission and governing body as the approval authority for the administrative review process for subdivision plats and site plans and assigns such authority solely to a designated agent, defined in the bill. However, the bill provides that the local planning commission may serve as the designated agent of any locality with a population of 5,000 or less. The bill also expedites the review process by shortening the timeframe for forwarding plats and plans to state agencies for review.

**[SB 1263](#) Water and sewer connection fees; new residential development. (Chief Patron: Bagby)**

Amends 15.2-2119 of the Code of Virginia to allow a locality to provide for the full or partial reimbursement of water and sewer connection fees, capital recovery charges, and availability fees remitted by an applicant in connection with any new residential development.

**[SB 1267](#) Zoning; enhanced civil penalties; certain residential violations. (Chief Patron: Aird)**

Amends § 15.2-2209 of the Code of Virginia to allow enhanced civil penalties for zoning violations involving property that is zoned or used for multifamily residential purposes. The bill also requires that for any violation involving property that is zoned or used for multifamily residential purposes, a person who admits liability shall be required to abate or remedy the violation within a period of time specified by the locality that is no less than 30 days but no more than 24 months from the date of admission of liability.

**[SB 1316](#) Renewable energy portfolio standard eligible sources; geothermal electric generating resources. (Chief Patron: McPike)**

Amends §§ 56-576 and 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia to provide that geothermal electric generating resources, as defined in the bill, located in the Commonwealth or physically located within the PJM region are eligible for compliance with renewable energy portfolio standard requirements. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**[SB 1422](#) Zoning violations; appeals; fines. (Chief Patron: Reeves)**

Amends § 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia to provide that a zoning ordinance may prescribe an appeal period of less than 30 days but not less than 10 days for a notice of violation involving the storage or disposal of nonagricultural excavation material, waste, and debris. The bill also provides for enhanced fines for any conviction resulting from a violation of provisions regulating the storage or disposal of nonagricultural excavation material, waste, and debris.

**[SB 1476](#) Sale of certain vacant and blighted or derelict property. (Chief Patron: Pillion)**

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-958.1:1 to allow a locality where certain vacant and blighted or derelict property is located to petition the circuit court to appoint a special commissioner to execute the necessary deed or deeds to convey the real estate, in lieu of a sale at public auction, to the locality, to the locality's land bank entity, or to an existing nonprofit entity designated by the locality to carry out the functions of a land bank. The bill provides that the locality shall require any purchaser by covenants in the deed or other security instrument to (i) begin repair or renovation of the property within six months of purchase and (ii) complete all repairs or renovations necessary to bring the property into compliance with the local building code within a period not to exceed two years of the purchase.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

### **HB 1984 (Lovejoy) Data centers; sitings near parks, schools, and residential areas.**

Would have required that any local government land use application required for the siting of a data center be approved only for areas that are one-quarter mile or more from federal, state, or local parks, schools, and property zoned or used for residential use. VACo opposed the legislation.

### **HB 2026 (Thomas) Data centers; industrial zoning.**

Would have required a locality to review and amend its zoning ordinance to (i) designate data centers as industrial uses for zoning purposes; (ii) review the locations of zones allowing data centers by right, and adjust the zoning map, if needed, considering proximity to residential areas; (iii) review the minimum requirements in the zoning ordinance, such as setbacks and building heights, for the purpose of mitigating negative impacts on residential or other sensitive areas and consider adding requirements specific to data centers as needed; (iv) identify optimal areas for data center development in the locality, including locations that are suitable from the locality's perspective as well as the industry's perspective; (v) consider zoning ordinance changes to reduce the likelihood of noisy data centers, including through limiting allowable locations and requiring sound modeling, and prohibit the constant low-frequency noise of data centers from reaching residential areas; and (vi) require commitments from data centers making zoning requests to sufficiently mitigate negative impacts on any nearby residential areas. The provisions of the bill only applied to localities where data centers are already addressed in the locality's zoning ordinance and where a locality is revising its zoning ordinance to include data centers. VACo opposed the legislation.

**HB 2126 (Sullivan) / SB 1190 (Deeds) Va. Energy Facility Review Board & Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center; established.** Would have mandated that every locality, no later than July 1, 2029, shall incorporate into its comprehensive plan targets for energy production and energy efficiency based on regional energy plans that planning district commissions would be required to adopt. The regional energy plans must include targets for the development of energy efficiency, distributed generation solar energy, shared solar, utility-scale solar, onshore and offshore wind, and battery energy storage. It is important to note that the targets would not be developed by the PDCs and their member localities, but rather by the Virginia Department of Energy. The targets, in total, must meet the requirements of the Virginia Clean Economy Act of 2020 to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by the middle of this century. The legislation also would have prohibited (1) a locality from adopting a comprehensive plan or ordinance that unreasonably restricts or prohibits the development of any renewable energy facility; and (2) a locality from denying any permit or special exception application for a renewable energy facility without a reasonable basis. VACo opposed the legislation.

### **HB 2438 (Mundon King) / SB 1114**

**(Van Valkenburg) Solar facilities; local regulation, special exceptions.** Would have required that, unless otherwise permitted "by right", a locality shall require a "special exception" (aka special use permit) for any a solar or energy storage project. The legislation then included the following criteria to be adopted in local zoning ordinances:

- Setback distances between (1) 150 and 300 feet from houses on adjacent properties; (2) 50 and 100 feet from any state-maintained road; and (3) 50 and 100 feet from edged of streams.
- Vegetative visual screening requirements shall not be required to exceed between three and four

feet at planting and shall allow for consideration of preexisting natural or manmade visual barriers.

- Maximum 25-foot height for solar panels, except in cases where a height variance is necessary to allow for agrivoltaics activity below or in proximity to the panels.

VACo opposed the legislation, noting that counties should not be required to adopt state-wide criteria for the review and approval of solar and energy storage facilities in local zoning ordinances.

**[HB 2641 \(Helmer\)](#) / [SB 975 \(Van Valkenburg\)](#) **Statewide housing targets; requires localities to increase their total housing stock.** Would have established a three-member Housing Approval Board with authority to overturn local land use decisions and to automatically approve such applications that will have the effect of increasing the supply of housing in a locality, if a locality has not made a “good faith effort” to meet required housing targets of at least 7.5 percent over the five-year period beginning January 1, 2027. The legislation also required every locality to develop a housing growth plan to include at least three of the following nine actions in order to be “deemed” at making a “good faith effort” to meet a housing:**

- Eliminate minimum lot size requirements or reduce such requirements by at least 25 percent.
- Increase building height limits for dwelling units by at least 25 percent.
- Simplify the permitting procedures for multifamily housing and shorten the average time to receive final approval for multifamily housing projects by at least 25 percent.
- Modify zoning ordinances to allow for high-density housing, including multifamily units such as apartments and condominiums, on land previously zoned for single-family use.

- Allow multifamily housing as a permitted use on all lots where office, retail, or commercial is the primary permitted use.
- Rezone land for higher-density housing near transit stations, places of employment, higher education facilities, and other appropriate population centers.
- Implement a plan to repurpose underutilized office parks and strip malls for multifamily housing.
- Eliminate requirements for off-street parking minimums per dwelling unit or reduce such requirements by at least 25 percent.
- Eliminate aesthetic, material, shape, bulk, size, floor area, and other massing requirements for multifamily developments.

VACo opposed the legislation noting that it was a preemption of local land use authority that creates unnecessary bureaucracy at the state level with policies and targets for affordable housing that are more appropriate for localities and regions to establish.

**[SB 893](#) **Renewable energy portfolio standard program; geothermal heating and cooling systems; report.****

*(Chief Patron: Surovell)*

Would have required Dominion Energy Virginia and American Electric Power to procure and retire certain percentages of renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems, as defined in the bill, beginning with the 2026 or 2027 compliance year and thereafter. The bill would have amended the method by which renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems are calculated and directs the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation to prepare and deliver a report evaluating the procurement and retirement of renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems in the Commonwealth

on or before November 1, 2027. The bill also would have directed the Real Estate Appraiser Board to promulgate regulations requiring the development of a continuing education curriculum and required training for all licensees that includes how to properly determine the increase in value of real estate created by reductions in building energy costs associated with solar, geothermal, and solar water heating investments.

**SB 1045 (Roem) Siting of data centers; property classified for industrial use.** Would have required that any local government land use application for the siting of a data center shall only be approved if such application is for a data center located on property classified by local ordinance for industrial use. VACo opposed the legislation.

**SB 1313 (McPike) Affordable housing; local zoning ordinance authority, comprehensive plan.** Would have expanded to all localities the ability to provide optional increases in density to meet affordable housing needs in the Commonwealth. Currently this authority is only provided to seven jurisdictions and has proven successful in developing affordable housing units where developers have chosen this option. The legislation also lays out additional implementation measures and tools for localities to consider when developing a successful program. These include lot size reductions, accessory housing unit allowances, conversion of vacant office and commercial space to multi-family apartments, and allowance for lower-cost home construction alternatives such as manufactured homes and duplex manufactured homes. VACo supported this legislation. **(Vetoed)**

**HB 2247 (Runion) Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund; point source pollution grant agreements.** Would have stated that the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is only required to enter into water quality improvement grant agreements with publicly owned wastewater treatment plants that apply for such grants if

sufficient and unobligated funds are available in the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund at the time the Director enters into such grant agreements. Currently, the DEQ Director is required to sign an agreement with all eligible applicants. VACo opposed this bill and it failed.

**SB 923 (Stuart) Virginia Water Protection Permit; interbasin transfers of water prohibited.** Would have prohibited the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from issuing a Virginia Water Protection Permit for a surface water withdrawal if more than 6 million gallons of water per day would be returned to a different river basin. VACo opposed the legislation.

# FINANCE AND ELECTIONS

## PASSED LEGISLATION

### Taxation and Finance

#### **[HB 1698](#) / [SB 1369](#) Retail sales and use tax; exemption for prescription medicine and drugs purchased by veterinarians; sunset.**

*(Chief Patrons: Askew and Pillion)*

Amends § 58.1-609.10 of the Code of Virginia to extend from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2028, the sales and use tax exemption for the purchase by veterinarians of prescription medicines and drugs that are administered or dispensed to patients within a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

#### **[HB 1699](#) Tax exemptions; Confederacy organizations.** *(Chief Patron: Askew)*

Amends §§ 58.1-811 and 58.1-3607 and repeals §§ 58.1-3650.31 and 58.1-3650.716 of the Code of Virginia to eliminate the exemption from state recordation taxes for the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and to eliminate the tax-exempt designation for real and personal property owned by the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the General Organization of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Incorporated, the Virginia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

#### **[HB 1729](#) / [SB 942](#) Sales and use tax; exemption for aircraft components, extends sunset.** *(Chief Patrons: Delaney and DeSteph)*

Amends § 58.1-609.10 of the Code of Virginia to extend the sunset date for the sales and use tax exemption for parts, engines, and supplies used for maintaining, repairing, or

reconditioning aircraft or any aircraft's avionics system, engine, or component parts from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2030.

#### **[HB 1743](#) License tax, local; work group to review deduction for receipts attributable to out-of-state.** *(Chief Patron: Watts)*

Directs the Department of Taxation to convene a work group to review the deduction from local license taxes for receipts attributable to out-of-state business, including a review of current policy and methodology, and potential impacts to local governments as a result of determining such deduction based on receipts subject to a net income tax or gross receipts tax in another jurisdiction, and to submit a report of the findings and recommendations, if any, of the work group to the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy and to the Chairs of the House Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by October 1, 2025.

#### **[HB 1792](#) Local taxes; nonjudicial sale of tax delinquent real properties, threshold for nonjudicial sale.** *(Chief Patron: Orrock)*

Amends § 58.1-3975 of the Code of Virginia to raise the assessment threshold at which a local treasurer or other officer responsible for collecting taxes has general authority to sell real property with more than three years of delinquent taxes from \$10,000 or less in value to \$15,000 or less. The bill also raises the assessment range for the sale of certain real property with more than three years of delinquent taxes and that meet certain criteria from more than \$10,000 but no more than \$25,000 to more than \$15,000 but no more than \$30,000. The bill also increases the assessment threshold for the nonjudicial sale of real property with more than three years of delinquent taxes when such property is (i) unimproved, (ii) one-half acre or less in size, and (iii) located within a designated urban redevelopment or revitalization zone from properties assessed at more than \$25,000 but no more than \$40,000 to properties assessed at more than \$30,000 but no more than \$40,000.

**HB 1841 Motor vehicle sales and use tax; abandoned vehicles not sold at auction.**

*(Chief Patron: Wyatt)*

Amends § 58.1-2405 of the Code of Virginia to clarify the basis by which the motor vehicle sales and use tax is calculated in cases where a person is applying for a title to an abandoned motor vehicle that is in his or her possession and did not sell at auction. In this instance, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may employ such publications, sources of information, and other data as are customarily employed in ascertaining the maximum sales price of such motor vehicle.

**HB 1868 Real property tax exemption; surviving spouses of members of armed forces who died in line of duty.** *(Chief Patron: Feggans)*

Amends § 58.1-3219.9 of the Code of Virginia to clarify that the real property tax exemption currently available to the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the U.S. Department of Defense includes the death of any such servicemember that was the result of suicide.

**HB 1896 Real property tax; exemption by classification.** *(Chief Patron: Willett)*

Amends § 58.1-3606 of the Code of Virginia and provides that real and personal property owned by a single member limited liability company whose sole member is an organization whose property would otherwise be tax-exempt by classification qualifies for the exemption.

**HB 1970 / SB 1202 Tax exempt property; nonprofit institutions of learning.** *(Chief Patrons: Watts and Deeds)*

Adds § 58.1-3606.2 to the Code of Virginia to clarify that institutions licensed by the Department of Education that provide services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or any school that is licensed by the Board of Education as a school for students with disabilities, qualify

for the property tax exemption mandated by the Constitution for institutions of learning not conducted for profit. The bill contains an emergency clause and a statement that its provisions are declaratory of existing law.

**HB 2029 / SB 816 Real property tax; exemption for elderly and disabled individuals.** *(Chief Patrons: Hernandez and Rouse)*

Amends §§ 58.1-3212, 58.1-3213.1, and 58.1-3215 of the Code of Virginia to revise various provisions of the local real property tax exemption and deferral program for elderly and disabled individuals. The bills allow a locality to require that an individual, in order to qualify for an exemption or deferral, must (i) pay all delinquent taxes, penalties, and interest assessed by the locality and incurred prior to becoming eligible for an exemption or deferral; (ii) enter into an installment agreement with the locality for the payment of all such delinquent amounts in installments over a period that is reasonable under the circumstances, but that in no event shall exceed 72 months; (iii) submit and obtain the treasurer's agreement to an offer in compromise with respect to all amounts of delinquent taxes, penalties, and interest; or (iv) carry out a combination thereof. Additionally, the bills provide that notice of the terms and conditions of the exemption and deferral program may be included in any notice of change in assessment and that the treasurer shall post such information on the locality's website. Finally, the bills allow a locality to provide a prorated exemption or deferral for the portion of the taxable year during which the taxpayer would have qualified for such exemption or deferral but had not yet filed an application.

**HB 2245 Real property tax; assessment of affordable rental housing.** *(Chief Patron: Callsen)*

Amends § 58.1-3295 of the Code of Virginia to require that the duly authorized real estate assessor charged with determining the fair market value of certain affordable rental

housing properties must use the income approach, as specified in the bill, when such housing generates income, unless certain information is not provided by the property owner. This requirement is effective for assessments beginning on or after January 1, 2026. Directs the Department of Taxation, in consultation with a stakeholder group, to develop a uniform income and expense reporting form that may be provided by duly authorized assessors and completed by the owners of affordable rental housing properties prior to assessment of such affordable rental housing properties. The form is to be developed no later than September 1, 2025, and the Department is required to provide by November 1, 2025, a letter to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Finance with an update on the development of such form and implementation of training for assessing officials and contracted assessors on the assessment of affordable rental housing.

**[HB 2302](#) Real property tax; exemption for religious buildings, rebuilding structure.**

*(Chief Patron: Sickles)*

Amends § 58.1-3606 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the property tax exemption for property used for religious worship shall include property on which a church or other building for religious worship is being replaced or rebuilt. The property owner shall demonstrate the intention to use such structure exclusively for religious worship or for the residence of the minister of any church or religious body, as well as complying with certain other requirements provided in the bill. This bill applies to tax years on and after January 1, 2023.

**[HB 2362](#) Sale of real estate for delinquent taxes; procedure, enforcement of liens, orders of publication.** *(Chief Patron: Mundon King)*

Amends §§ 8.01-268, 8.01-317, 8.01-318, 8.01-623, 58.1-3965, 58.1-3967, 58.1-3968, 58.1-3970.1, 58.1-3973, and 58.1-3974 of the Code of Virginia and repeals § 8.01-321 of the

Code of Virginia to revise certain procedures relating to the sale of real estate to recover delinquent real estate taxes, including the enforcement of liens for taxes assessed upon real estate. The bill clarifies that any party or entity with an interest in the subject real estate, including a lienor, a person with a claim of title, or the beneficiary and trustees under a deed of trust, shall be named as party defendants in a proceeding for the sale of such real estate. The bill also makes the process by which notice by publication is given for a proceeding to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes consistent with other actions where notice by publication is authorized.

**[HB 2383](#) / [SB 1402](#) Transient occupancy tax; administration.** *(Chief Patrons: Mundon King and Surovell)*

Amends §§ 58.1-3, 58.1-3826, and 58.1-3827 of the Code of Virginia to clarify the existing requirement for an accommodations intermediary to submit to a locality the property addresses and gross receipts for all accommodations facilitated by the accommodations intermediary in such locality. The bills also provide that an accommodations provider shall not be required to transmit a transient occupancy tax return to a locality if (i) all retail sales of accommodations owned by the accommodations provider are facilitated by an accommodations intermediary and (ii) the accommodations provider attests to the locality that all such sales were facilitated by an accommodations intermediary. Such attestation shall be effective for 12 months beginning with the month in which the attestation is made, and annual attestations shall be due thereafter on a date set by the locality. The bills also require that information provided by an accommodations intermediary to a local commissioner of the revenue, treasurer, or any other local tax or revenue officer or employee of a county, city, or town for transient occupancy tax purposes shall be confidential and shall not be divulged to any other department or official of the locality or any other political subdivision of the Commonwealth. Such information shall be used

by such officials only for the purpose of levying and collecting retail sales and use tax, transient occupancy tax, and any other taxes imposed on the sale of accommodations.

**[HB 2595](#) / [SB 1389](#) Firearm safety device tax credit; defines commercial retailer.**

*(Chief Patrons: Singh and Srinivasan)*

Amends § 58.1-339.14 of the Code of Virginia to define an “eligible transaction” for purposes of the firearm safety device tax credit as one in which a taxpayer purchases one or more firearm safety devices from a commercial retailer, as defined in the bill. Current law defines “eligible transaction” as one in which a taxpayer purchases one or more firearm safety devices from a federally licensed dealer. The provisions of the bill apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2025.

**[HB 2653](#) Qualified equity and subordinated debt investments tax credit; sunset.** *(Chief*

*Patron: Bennett-Parker)*

Amends § 58.1-339.4 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the qualified equity and subordinated debt investments tax credit expires after taxable year 2025.

**[HB 2675](#) / [SB 871](#) Retail Sales and Use Tax; media-related exemptions, sunset.** *(Chief*

*Patrons: Simon and VanValkenburg)*

Amends § 58.1-609.6 of the Code of Virginia to extend from 2025 to 2028 the expiration of the retail sales and use tax exemption for certain printed materials purchased by an advertising business from a printer in the Commonwealth, so long as such materials are distributed outside of the Commonwealth.

**[SB 1472](#) Revenue Stabilization and Revenue Reserve Fund; revenue reserves.** *(Chief*

*Patron: Lucas)*

Amends §§ 2.2-1829 and 2.2-1831.3 of the Code of Virginia to increase the maximum combined amount in the Revenue Stabilization Fund and the Revenue Reserve Fund from 15 percent to 20 percent of the Commonwealth’s average annual tax revenues, provided that such combined amount shall only exceed

15 percent if the balance of the Revenue Reserve Fund does not exceed 10 percent of such revenues. The bill also removes the requirement that the Governor include increased deposits into the Revenue Stabilization Fund during periods of increased revenue collection as part of his budget recommendations to the General Assembly.

**[SB 1474](#) Filing of six-year financial outline by Governor; alternative recession estimates.** *(Chief Patron: Lucas)*

Amends § 2.2-1503.1 of the Code of Virginia to require the Governor to include in his six-year financial plan that is required to be submitted to the General Assembly alternative estimates of general and nongeneral fund revenues based on the above-baseline and below-baseline economic assumptions presented to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates.

## **Constitutional Officers**

**[HB 2658](#) Local treasurers; increases maximum amount of surety bond required.**

*(Chief Patron: Knight)*

Amends §§ 15.2-1529 and 15.2-1530 of the Code of Virginia to increase the maximum amount of the surety bond that may be required for local treasurers based on the population of the county or city.

## **Elections**

**[HB 1735](#) / [SB 991](#) Voter registration; time period for closing registration records before certain elections.** *(Chief Patrons: Cole and Williams Graves)*

Amends § 24.2-416 of the Code of Virginia to reduce from 21 to 10 the number of days during which registration records are closed before primary and general elections and from 13 to 10 the number of days during which registration records are closed before special elections that are not called by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, or President pro tempore of the Senate.

**HB 2165 / SB 1002 Campaign finance; prohibited personal use of campaign funds, etc.** *(Chief Patrons: Cole and Boysko)*

Amends §§ 2.2-3711, 24.2-946, and 24.2-948.4 of the Code of Virginia and adds sections numbered 24.2-948.6 through 24.2-948.9 to prohibit any person from using contributions to a candidate or his campaign committee for personal use. The bills direct the State Board of Elections to adopt emergency regulations to implement these provisions, which are to be substantially similar to the regulations of the Federal Election Commission, and to publish an updated summary of Virginia campaign finance law that reflects the State Board's and Attorney General's guidance on the prohibitions on the personal use of campaign funds and any new regulations promulgated by the State Board of Elections.

**SB 940 Elections; candidates for office, challenges to candidate qualifications.**

*(Chief Patron: Surovell)*

Adds § 24.2-546 to the Code of Virginia to require any legal action relating to a person's eligibility to appear on the ballot on the basis that such person did not meet all qualifications or fulfill all requirements for candidacy to be filed in a circuit court and served on all parties at least (i) 90 days before the date of a general election, (ii) 65 days before the date of a primary election, (iii) 70 days before the date of a special election held on the same date as the general election, or (iv) for any special election held at a time other than a general election, (a) at least 55 days before the date of the special election, or (b) within 10 days of any writ of election or order calling a special election to be held less than 60 days after the issuance of the writ or order. The bill specifies that any such legal action will be given precedence on the docket and be decided by the court no later than 10 days before the date on which ballots for that election are made available for absentee voting. The bill also specifies that the qualifications of candidates who are nominated at a primary election cannot be later challenged on the basis of facts that were present prior to the primary

election and could have been raised in a challenge to such candidate's eligibility for the primary ballot. **(Pending final action by the Governor)**

**SB 945 Campaign finance; appeal of penalties.** *(Chief Patron: DeSteph)*

Adds § 24.2-953.6 to the Code of Virginia to provide for an appeal process for any person or committee assessed a civil penalty under the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act of 2006. Upon petition, the State Board of Elections may provide relief to the petitioner for good cause shown; such relief may include forgiveness of all or a portion of an assessed civil penalty, the retroactive extension of a deadline, or other appropriate remedy. For each appeal that it hears, the State Board shall publish a written opinion.

**SB 1044 Elections; general registrar of each locality to report number of provisional ballots cast.** *(Chief Patron: Roem)*

Amends § 24.2-667.1 of the Code of Virginia to require the general registrar of each locality to report to the Department of Elections the total number of provisional ballots cast for each precinct, the number of those provisional ballots determined to be valid by the electoral board, and the results of such valid provisional ballots by voters assigned to such precinct. The bill specifies that results from provisional voting and voting at the precinct on election day must be reported separately. The bill directs the Department to establish standards for ascertaining and reporting such information; these standards must require all results to be posted promptly, and no later than 5p.m. on the tenth day after the election day.

**SB 1174 Elections; prohibited activities, distribution of referendum materials.** *(Chief Patron: Suetterlein)*

Amends §§ 24.2-310, 24.2-604, 24.2-701.2, and 24.2-1003 of the Code of Virginia to add "referendum" to the description of materials that are prohibited from being distributed within certain areas while voting and registration activities are being conducted.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

**HB 1764 Disposable plastic bag tax; distribution to towns.** *(Chief Patron: Martinez)*  
Would have provided that any town located within a county that has imposed a disposable plastic bag tax shall receive a distribution of revenues collected by the county based on the local sales tax distribution formula for appropriations to towns. **(Vetoed)**

**HB 1794 / SB 1119 Elections; primary dates, presidential year primaries.** *(Chief Patrons: Helmer and VanValkenburg)*  
Would have required that all primaries for offices to be filled at the November election in presidential election years be held on the date of the presidential primary. **(Vetoed)**

**HB 1939 Tangible personal property tax; electric landscaping equipment.** *(Chief Patron: Reid)*  
Would have established a separate classification of tangible personal property for electric-powered landscaping equipment employed in a trade or business. Such property would have been permitted to be taxed by a locality at a rate not to exceed the rate applied to the general class of tangible personal property. **(Vetoed)**

**HB 2056 Absentee voting in person; voter satellite offices, days and hours of operation.** *(Chief Patron: Reaser)*  
Would have authorized the governing body of any county or city establishing voter satellite offices for absentee voting in person to prescribe, by ordinance, the dates and hours of operation for such offices. **(Vetoed)**

**HB 2488 Local tax authority; nicotine vapor products.** *(Chief Patron: Green)*  
Would have authorized localities by ordinance to impose a tax on the sale or use of nicotine vapor products.

**HB 2668 Elections; procedures for removal of electoral board members and general registrars.** *(Chief Patron: Simon)*  
Would have allowed the Board of Elections to remove any member of an electoral board or general registrar by a recorded two-thirds majority vote of all its members after a public hearing on related matters, and provided that any such removal or any removal proceedings instituted against an electoral board member or general registrar shall be based on neglect of a clear ministerial duty of the office, misuse of the office, or incompetence in the performance of the duties of the office, or an unambiguous indication of a future refusal or failure to carry out the duties of the office where such refusal or failure is likely to have a material adverse effect upon the conduct of the office. Such decision shall be final and not subject to appeal. The bill also would have allowed an electoral board to remove a general registrar by a unanimous vote of all its members after a public hearing on related matters; a registrar who was so removed would be able to file an appeal to the State Board. **(Vetoed)**

**SB 760 Elections; deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and certain other information, etc.** *(Chief Patron: Favola)*  
Would have moved the deadline for receipt of absentee ballots, information required to cure an absentee ballot, or proof of identification to accompany a provisional ballot from noon to 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the election. **(Vetoed)**

**SB 1009 Elections; conduct of election, ranked choice voting, report.** *(Chief Patron: Salim)*  
Would have set out certain procedures for the conduct of an election by ranked choice voting. The bill would have also directed the Department of Elections to review the testing and approval framework for voting equipment in the Commonwealth and submit a report of such review no later than the first day of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly. **(Vetoed)**

**SB 1312 Real property tax; high exemption locality reimbursements. (*Chief patron: McPike*)**

Would have required the Commonwealth to reimburse 50 percent of lost revenue associated with the property tax exemptions for disabled veterans or their surviving spouses and the surviving spouses of members of the armed forces who are killed in the line of duty, if at least one percent of real property in the locality was exempt from real property taxes in tax year 2022.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

## PASSED LEGISLATION

### **HB 1690 Eminent domain; documents provided to landowner.** *(Chief Patron: Convirs-Fowler)*

Amends § 25.1-204 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that a report showing all matters that affect the current ownership, existing liens, encumbrances, and other matters affecting title as of the date of the title report shall be provided by the condemnor to a landowner in a condemnation action.

### **HB 1705 Virginia Retirement System; disability benefits for certain emergency dispatchers.** *(Chief Patron: Bulova)*

Amends §§ 51.1-1150, 51.1-1153, 51.1-1161, and 51.1-1169 of the Code of Virginia, to require that, beginning July 1, 2026, emergency dispatchers who are not members of the hybrid retirement program become participants in the disability program for hybrid retirement plan members if the locality employing such dispatcher participates in such program. The employers of such dispatchers shall provide the costs required for funding participation in such program.

### **HB 1712 / SB 1194 Law-enforcement agencies and officers; establishing training course for certain arrests.** *(Chief Patrons: Watts and Deeds)*

Amends §§ 9.1-102 and 19.2-81.3 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish a training course for law-enforcement agencies and officers on the discretion such officers can exercise regarding certain arrests.

The bill requires any person employed as a law-enforcement officer prior to July 1, 2026, to complete such in-person or virtual training by January 1, 2027, and biennially thereafter, and any person employed as a law-enforcement

officer after July 1, 2026, to complete the training within one year of his date of hire and biennially thereafter, among other provisions.

### **HB 1730 / SB 894 Personal injury or death by wrongful act; liability of employer to vulnerable victims.** *(Chief Patrons: Delaney and Perry)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 8.01-42.6, to provide that in an action for personal injury or death by wrongful act brought by a vulnerable victim, as defined in the bill, against an employee, a finding that the employee's employer is vicariously liable for such employee's conduct shall be based on several factors, including the likelihood of the employee coming into contact with such vulnerable victim and the employer's failure to exercise reasonable care over the employee. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

### **HB 1766 / SB 1056 Unemployment compensation; weekly benefit amounts, duration of payment, report.** *(Chief Patrons: Martinez and Ebbin)*

Amends §§ 60.2-602 and 60.2-619 of the Code of Virginia to provide that, for unemployment compensation claims effective on or after January 1, 2026, an eligible individual's weekly benefit amount shall be \$52 higher than the current weekly benefit amount, among other provisions.

### **HB 1800 Persons with disabilities; rights to the full and free use of public playgrounds.** *(Chief Patron) Cohen*

Amends § 51.5-44 of the Code of Virginia, to clarify that persons with disabilities have the same rights as other persons to the full and free use of public playgrounds.

### **HB 1815 / SB 1142 Line of Duty Act; benefits for campus and private police officers.** *(Chief Patrons: Campbell and Obenshain)*

Amends §§ 9.1-101, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 9.1-400, 9.1-400.1, 9.1-401, and 9.1-402 through 9.1-404 of the Code of Virginia, to provide employees

of contributing nonprofit private institutions of higher education and contributing private police departments, as those terms are defined in the bill, with the benefits granted to employees of participating employers under the Line of Duty Act. The bill clarifies that the Line of Duty Act shall not apply to any (i) private institution of higher education that is not a contributing nonprofit private institution of higher education or (ii) private police department that is not a contributing private police department. The bill requires each contributing nonprofit private institution of higher education and contributing private police department to pay its pro rata share of the initial costs to implement the bill, as determined by the Virginia Retirement System.

**HB 1820 Public safety communications; evaluation of need for infrastructure updates & hardware replacements.** *(Chief Patron: Reid)*

Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of Finance, to evaluate the need for public safety communications infrastructure updates and hardware replacements, and the cost of meeting such need. The Secretaries shall report any findings and recommendations, including possible funding options, to the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than December 1, 2025.

**HB 1874 / SB 781 Retired or former law-enforcement officers; definition, publication of personal information.** *(Chief Patrons: Henson and Carroll Foy)*

Amends § 18.2-186.4:1 of the Code of Virginia, to add retired or former law-enforcement officers, defined in the bill, to the definition of “public official” for the purposes of prohibiting the Commonwealth from publishing a public official’s personal information on the Internet. The bill clarifies that such retired or former law-enforcement officer be in good standing with no pending investigations or disciplinary actions. The bill provides that the demand in

writing required to prohibit the publication of such personal information shall be effective for a period of four years, provided that such retired or former law-enforcement officer was retired or ended his service within four years of filing a petition with a circuit court.

**HB 1933 / SB 920 Workers’ compensation; presumption as to death or disability from throat cancer.** *(Chief Patrons: LeVere Bolling and Salim)*

Amends § 65.2-402 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that for the purposes of the workers’ compensation presumption as to death or disability from certain types of cancer, throat cancer includes cancer that forms in the tissues of the pharynx, larynx, adenoid, tonsil, esophagus, trachea, nasopharynx, oropharynx, or hypopharynx. This bill applies only to diseases diagnosed on or after July 1, 2025.

**HB 2065 / SB 1282 Fire Programs Fund; aid to localities, requirement for emergency incidents reporting.** *(Chief Patrons: Thomas and Durant)*

Amends § 38.2-401 of the Code of Virginia, to require that, in order to remain eligible for funding from the Fire Programs Fund, a locality must report all emergency incidents through the National Emergency Response Information System while sharing such emergency incident data with the Department of Fire Programs. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

**HB 2150 Virginia Public Procurement Act; contract terms inconsistent with Virginia law.** *(Chief Patron: Carr)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-4311.3, to provide that no public contract for information technology goods and services, as defined by the bill, may contain terms in conflict with Virginia law. The bill also provides that public contracts shall provide for the application of Virginia law and for jurisdiction in the state of Virginia regardless of the terms of the contract. The provisions of this bill only apply to a county, city, town, political subdivision, or public

institution of higher education, or to a public body listed as an independent agency in the appropriation act, if its governing body has adopted such provisions as part of its procurement policies and procedures.

**[HB 2152](#) Virginia Freedom of Information Act; public body’s FOIA officer training.**

*(Chief Patron: Carr)*

Amends § 2.2-3704.2 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that any legal counsel for a public body who is also designated as the public body’s Freedom of Information Act officer (FOIA officer) shall complete a training session or online course offered or approved by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

**[HB 2177](#) Unmanned aircraft systems; use by public bodies, certain employees.**

*(Chief Patron: Walker)*

Amends § 19.2-60.1 of the Code of Virginia, to allow a law-enforcement officer or an employee of a law-enforcement agency to deploy an unmanned aircraft system without a warrant (i) following an accident where a report is required pursuant to relevant law to survey the scene of such accident for the purpose of crash reconstruction and record the scene by photographic or video images or (ii) to (a) aerially survey a primary residence of the subject of the arrest warrant to formulate a plan to execute an existing arrest warrant or capias for a felony offense or (b) locate a person sought for arrest when such person has fled from a law-enforcement officer and a law-enforcement officer remains in hot pursuit of such person. Current law allows a law-enforcement officer to operate an unmanned aircraft system under such conditions. The bill also permits a law-enforcement officer to deploy an unmanned aircraft system without a warrant where such officer is investigating unmanned aircraft systems surrounding or over property of the federal or state government, public critical infrastructure, or nongovernment-operated prison or jail facilities.

**[HB 2541](#) Information Technology Access Act; digital accessibility, definitions, procurement requirements.**

*(Chief Patron: Tran)*

Amends §§ 2.2-3500 through 2.2-3504 of the Code of Virginia and amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-3505, to make numerous organizational changes to the Information Technology Access Act. The bill defines “information and communications technology” as it relates to digital accessibility, defined in the bill, for all persons with disabilities. The bill permits the head of each covered entity, defined in the bill, to designate an employee to serve as such covered entity’s digital accessibility coordinator and provides that such digital accessibility coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing such covered entity’s digital accessibility policy. The bill has delayed effective dates of April 24, 2026, and April 26, 2027, for specific covered entities according to population size.

**[HB 2628](#) / [SB 997](#) Local officers; oath of office.**

*(Chief Patrons: Glass and Williams Graves)*

Amends § 15.2-1522 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that, notwithstanding the provisions of any local government charter, or any other provision of law, every elected county, city, town and district officer, on or before the day on which his term of office begins, shall qualify by taking the oath prescribed by general law. Current law allows a local government charter to prescribe a different procedure for taking the oath.

**[HB 2724](#) Automatic license plate recognition systems; use, reports, penalty.**

*(Chief Patron: Herring)*

Amends § 52-30.2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 2.2 a chapter numbered 55.6, consisting of a section numbered 2.2-5517, to require the Division of Purchases and Supply of the Department of General Services (the Division) to determine and approve the automatic

license plate recognition systems, defined in the bill, for use in the Commonwealth and provides requirements for use of such systems by law-enforcement agencies. The bill limits the use of such systems by law-enforcement agencies to the following purposes: (i) as part of a criminal investigation into an alleged criminal violation of the Code of Virginia or any ordinance of any county, city, or town where there is a reasonable suspicion that a crime was committed; (ii) as part of an active investigation related to a missing or endangered person, including whether to issue an alert for such person, or a person associated with human trafficking; or (iii) to receive notifications related to a missing or endangered person, a person with an outstanding warrant, a person associated with human trafficking, a stolen vehicle, or a stolen license plate, among other provisions. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

**HB 2725 Surveillance technology; reporting by state/local law-enforcement agencies & sheriff's departments.**

*(Chief Patron: Rasoul)*

Amends § 9.1-116.10 of the Code of Virginia, to add any third-party service or third-party subscription that allows access to any form of surveillance technology or the data therefrom to the list of what is included in the definition of surveillance technology used in the provisions requiring all state and local law-enforcement agencies and sheriff's departments to annually provide to the Department of Criminal Justice Services a list of all surveillance technologies used, accessed, or procured by such agencies and departments. The bill specifies that such list of surveillance technologies shall include (i) all surveillance technologies used, accessed, or procured where the agency or department is the owner, user, or licensee and (ii) all surveillance technologies used or accessed where the owner or licensee is a separate law-enforcement agency, sheriff's department, government agency or department, or private business, entity, or individual, among other provisions.

**SB 913 Virginia Public Procurement Act; procurement of imported goods, forced and child labor prohibition.** *(Chief Patron: Stanley)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-4311.3, to provide that a public body that enters into a public contract for goods or services that exceeds \$10,000 shall include in such a public contract provisions (i) prohibiting the use of forced or indentured child labor in the performance of the contract and (ii) requiring that the contractor include such prohibition in every subcontract or purchase order that exceeds \$10,000, so that the prohibition will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Manufacturing Development Commission.

**SB 1158 Eminent domain; condemnation proceedings.** *(Chief Patron: Obenshain)*

Amends § 8.01-187, 15.2-1906, 25.1-204, 25.1-234, 25.1-244, 25.1-245.1, 25.1-307, 25.1-309, 25.1-313, 25.1-315, 25.1-318, 33.2-1020, 33.2-1022, 33.2-1023, 33.2-1025, 33.2-1026, and 33.2-1029.1 of the Code of Virginia and repeals § 25.1-205.1 of the Code of Virginia, to make various changes to provisions governing eminent domain, primarily relating to procedures in condemnation proceedings and the transfer of a defeasible title by certificate. The bill specifies that, in a condemnation proceeding initiated by an authorized condemnor or the Commissioner of Highways, a certificate transferring a defeasible title shall include certain information describing the property and any rights to the property being taken or damaged. Finally, the bill repeals the requirement that the court refer a matter initiating a condemnation proceeding to a dispute resolution orientation.

**SB 1248 Fire Prevention Code; prohibition on permit fees for fire departments, etc., for certain localities.** *(Chief Patron: Hackworth)*

Amends § 27-98 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit the State Fire Marshal from charging a fee for the approval and administration of certain permits issued to fire departments and emergency medical services agencies in

localities with a total population of less than 10,000 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census by the United States Census Bureau.

**[SB 1318 \(McPike\)](#) Board of Pharmacy; emergency medical services providers; work group. *(Chief Patron: McPike)***

Directs the Board of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health and the Office of Emergency Medical Services, to report on progress in implementing Board regulations that replaced the hospital drug box exchange program, pursuant to U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency requirements.

**[SB 1420](#) Forfeited assets; law enforcement use. *(Chief Patron: Head)***

Amends § 19.2-386.14 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that a state or local agency that receives a forfeited asset or an equitable share of the net proceeds of a forfeited asset from the Department of Criminal Justice Services may use such proceeds for equipment and training for law-enforcement officers. The bill also provides that such forfeited property or proceeds shall only be used by law enforcement in the course of employment and in the performance of their official duties and not for personal use.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

**[HB 1602](#) Military leaves of absence for employees of the Commonwealth or political subdivisions; law-enforcement officers. *(Chief Patron: Thomas)***

Was passed by indefinitely in Senate Finance and Appropriations and would have provided that any person who is employed by the Commonwealth or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth as a law-enforcement officer shall receive paid leaves of absence for up to 388 work hours for which a leave of absence is required, during which such person is engaged in federally funded military duty, to include training duty, or is called forth by the Governor for military duty.

**[HB 1921](#) Employment; paid sick leave, civil penalties, effective date. *(Chief Patron: Ward)***

Would have expanded provisions of the Code that currently require one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked for home health workers to cover all employees of private employers and state and local governments, among other provisions.

**(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2069](#) Insurance; Fire Programs Fund; purposes; Aid to Localities Grant Program. *(Chief Patron: Garret)***

Was left in House Appropriations and would have increased the assessment on certain insurance companies from one percent to 1.5 percent. The bill provides that the portion of the Fire Programs Fund allocated to localities may be used for the additional purposes of (i) constructing, improving, or expanding fire station facilities; (ii) providing mental health resources for fire personnel; or (iii) hiring additional fire personnel and funding recruitment and retention programs.

**[HB 2098](#) Labor & employment provisions; application of law, protection of employees, definition of employer. *(Chief Patron: Maldonado)***

Would have provided that the exemption for the Commonwealth or any of its agencies, institutions, or political subdivisions, or any public body, under Title 40.1 does not apply when expressly provided otherwise. The bill provides a definition of “public body” for Title 40.1. Additionally, the bill provided that for the purposes of various requirements related to the protection of employees, including the payment of wages, “employer” includes the Commonwealth and its agencies, institutions, and political subdivisions, or any public body.

**(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2482](#) / [SB 962](#) Va. Public Procurement Act; additional public works contract requirements. *(Chief Patrons: Krizek and Carroll Foy)***

Would have provided that public bodies shall require the contractor and its subcontractors

for any capital outlay project, as defined in the bill, to complete certain safety training programs, maintain records of compliance with applicable laws, and participate in approved apprenticeship training programs. The bill provided exemptions from such requirements for reasons related to lack of availability of apprentices and high costs. The provisions of the bill did not apply to transportation-related construction projects, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2485](#) / [SB 970](#) Cannabis control; establishes framework for creating retail market, penalties.** *(Chief Patrons: Krizek and Rouse)*

Would have established a framework for the creation of a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth, to be administered by the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority. The bill allowed the Authority to begin issuing all marijuana licenses on September 1, 2025, but provided that no retail sales may occur prior to May 1, 2026. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2495](#) Collective bargaining by firefighters and emergency medical services providers.** *(Chief Patron: Askew)*

Was passed by indefinitely in Senate Commerce and Labor and would have authorized firefighters and emergency medical services providers employed by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth to engage in collective bargaining through labor organizations or other designated representatives. The bill established the Fire Service Cooperation Board to administer its provisions. The bill provided for the appointment of a three-member board of arbitration regarding any dispute arising between an employer and firefighters or emergency medical services providers. Under the bill, determinations made by such board of arbitration would be final on a disputed issue and are binding on the parties involved.

**[HB 2531](#) Paid family and medical leave insurance program; definitions, notice requirements, civil action.** *(Chief Patron: Sewell)*

Would have required the Virginia Employment Commission to establish and administer a paid family and medical leave insurance program with benefits beginning January 1, 2028. Under the program, benefits would be paid to covered individuals, as defined in the bill, for family and medical leave. Funding for the program would be provided through premiums assessed to employers and employees beginning January 1, 2027. The bill provided that the amount of a benefit is 80 percent of the employee's average weekly wage, not to exceed 120 percent of the state weekly wage, which amount is required to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the statewide average weekly wage. The bill capped the duration of paid leave at 12 weeks in any application year and provides self-employed individuals the option of participating in the program. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2559](#) / [SB 1489](#) Authority of local governments; definitions, service employees.** *(Chief Patrons: Lopez and Bagby)*

Would have permitted any county, city, or town in the Commonwealth to provide for certain requirements concerning incumbent and successor service employers, defined in the bill, by local ordinance or resolution. For example, such local ordinance or resolution may require that successor service employers retain incumbent service employees during a transition period of 90 days. Under the bill, service employees are those who perform work in connection with the care or maintenance of property, services at an airport, or food preparation services at schools, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**

**HB 2561 Employee protections; minimum wage and overtime wages, civil actions, misclassification of workers.** *(Chief Patron: Lopez)*

Would have provided that an employer that violates minimum wage or overtime wages provisions is liable to the employee for the applicable remedies, damages, or other relief available in an action brought pursuant to the civil action provisions currently available for the nonpayment of wages, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**

**HB 2764 / SB 917 Collective bargaining by public employees; exclusive bargaining representatives.** *(Chief Patrons: Tran and Surovell)*

Would have repealed the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bills created the Public Employee Relations Board, which would determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The bills required public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The bills repealed a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement. **(Vetoed)**

**SB 876 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; notice of public meetings; proposed agenda required.** *(Chief Patron: Ebbin)*

Was left in House General Laws and referred to the FOIA Council. This bill would have required public bodies subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to include a proposed agenda

and any subsequent revisions to be posted on the public body's official public government website, if any, and made available to the public prior to the meeting. The bill provided that any items added to the agenda after the meeting commences may be considered and discussed at the meeting, but final action shall not be taken on such an item unless the matter is time sensitive.

**SB 984 Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program established.**

*(Chief Patron: Mulchi)*

Was passed by indefinitely in Senate Finance and Appropriations. This bill would have established the Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants to localities to hire additional firefighters and to improve their firefighting and emergency medical services.

**SB 1029 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; procedure for responding to requests; charges; posting of notice of rights and responsibilities.** *(Chief Patron: Roem)*

Was left in House General Laws, and would have limited the fees charged for producing public records to the median hourly rate of pay of employees of the public body or the actual hourly rate of pay of the person performing the work, whichever is less, and provided that a public body may petition a court for relief from this fee limit if there is no one who can process the request at the median hourly rate of pay or less. The bill also amended existing law providing that a public body may petition a court for additional time to respond to a request for public records to allow such petitions to be heard in either general district or circuit court, to give such petitions priority on the court's docket, and to toll the response time while such a petition is pending before a court.

**SB 1132 Prospective employees; prohibiting employer seeking wage or salary history.**

*(Chief Patron: Boysko)*

Would have prohibited a prospective employer from (i) seeking the wage or salary history of a prospective employee; (ii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in determining the wages or salary the prospective employee is to be paid upon hire; (iii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in considering the prospective employee for employment; (iv) refusing to interview, hire, employ, or promote a prospective employee or otherwise retaliating against a prospective employee for not providing wage or salary history; and (v) failing or refusing to disclose in each public and internal posting for each job, promotion, transfer, or other employment opportunity the wage, salary, or wage or salary range, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**

# Health and Human Resources

## PASSED LEGISLATION

### Aging and Individuals with Disabilities

**HB 1804 DMAS; application for medical assistance, eligibility for Medicaid Works.** *(Chief Patron: Cohen)*

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to seek the necessary approvals from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend the application for medical assistance to gather all necessary information to determine an applicant's eligibility for the Medicaid Works program.

**HB 2120 Vulnerable adults; seizure of property used in connection with financial exploitation, etc.** *(Chief Patron: Maldonado)*  
Amends § 19.2-386.5 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 19.2-386.36 to the Code of Virginia to establish a procedure for seizure of property used in connection with or derived from financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. The bill permits a guardian, adult proactive agent, or representative of the vulnerable adult to enforce such an action for good cause shown.

**HB 2253 / SB 1383 Nursing homes; establishes procedures for implementation of sanctions, civil penalty.** *(Chief Patron: Wachsmann and Aird)*  
Amends §§ 32.1-127.01, 32.1-134.1, 32.1-134.4, and 32.1-135 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 32.1-27.3 to the Code of Virginia to establish procedures for the implementation of sanctions by the State Health Commissioner on any licensed nursing home in response to certain findings made during a state licensure inspection conducted during the previous

24 months. The bill specifies the forms of sanctions that the Commissioner may impose, the nursing home's continued responsibility for persons under its care, the use of funds remunerated in accordance with such sanctions and the process for the imposition of such sanctions.

**HB 2255 / SB 1484 Hospitals and nursing homes; licensure and inspection fees.** *(Chief Patrons: Wachsmann and Srinivasan)*  
Amends §§ 2.2-4006, 32.1-127 and 32.1-130 of the Code of Virginia to direct the State Board of Health to require in its regulations the establishment of fees for the issuance, change, or renewal of a hospital or nursing home license to cover the costs of operating the hospital and nursing home licensure and inspection program in a manner that ensures timely completion of inspections. The bill requires the Board to distribute the costs of operating the hospital and nursing home licensure and inspection program in an equitable manner across all hospitals and nursing homes and specifies the circumstances under which fees may be changed.

**SB 821 Nursing facilities; use of electronic monitoring devices in resident rooms.** *(Chief Patron: Craig)*  
Adds § 32.1-138.5:1 to the Code of Virginia to permit residents of nursing facilities to have electronic monitoring devices placed in their rooms. The bill contains several provisions establishing the requirements for the placement and utilization of any such electronic monitoring device in any resident's room, including requirements relating to ensuring consent by residents and roommates.

**SB 1038 Telehealth visits for patients with disabilities; best practice educational training.** *(Chief Patron: Pekarsky)*  
Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to develop and disseminate best practice educational training for health care providers on how to conduct telehealth visits for patients with disabilities.

## **Behavioral Health**

**[HB 1578](#) / [SB 885](#) Office of the State Inspector General; behavioral health and developmental services; required reports.** *(Chief Patrons: Campbell and Perry)*

Amends § 2.2-309.1 of the Code of Virginia to add the Behavioral Health Commission to the list of entities to whom the Office of the State Inspector General is required to report on certain issues related to behavioral health and developmental services.

**[HB 1587](#) Drug Control Act; Schedule I; Schedule IV.** *(Chief Patron: Wachsmann)*

Amends §§ 54.1-3446 and 54.1-3452 of the Code of Virginia to add certain chemicals to Schedules I and IV of the Drug Control Act.

**[HB 1637](#) / [SB 1035](#) Opioid antagonists; dispensing and administration by person acting on behalf of an organization.** *(Chief Patrons: Hope and Pekarsky)*

Amends § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia to permit persons acting on behalf of an organization that provides services to individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose or training in the administration of naloxone to dispense other opioid antagonists. The bill also allows persons to whom other opioid antagonists are dispensed to possess and administer such opioid antagonists. Under current law, persons acting on behalf of such organizations may only dispense naloxone.

**[HB 1760](#) Mental health for children 5 yrs. of age or younger; DBHDS, et al., to develop screening, etc.** *(Chief Patron: Gardner)*

Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Education to convene a work group to develop a plan to (i) create a mental health screening and assessment tool for children in early childhood care and (ii) provide mental health consultation resources and training to early childhood education providers, pediatric health providers, and families.

**[HB 1877](#) Barrier crimes; peer recovery specialists; screening requirements.** *(Chief Patron: Callsen)*

Amends §§ 37.2-314, 37.2-416.1, and 37.2-506.1 of the Code of Virginia to modify the barrier crimes screening assessment requirements for peer recovery specialists applying for employment with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, an employer licensed by the Department, or a community services board to require that such specialists have completed all prison or jail terms, been free of parole or probation for at least five years, have no pending charges in any locality, and not be under probation or parole supervision in order to be eligible for a screening assessment. Under current law, an applicant must also have paid all fines, restitution, and court costs for any prior convictions.

**[HB 1895](#) / [SB 1094](#) Involuntary temporary detention orders; amends definition of “psychiatric emergency department.”** *(Chief Patrons: Willett and Jordan)*

Amends § 37.2-809 of the Code of Virginia to expand the definition of “psychiatric emergency department” as it relates to involuntary temporary detention orders to remove the requirement that a psychiatric emergency department be located adjacent to a facility licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and to add requirements that a psychiatric emergency department (i) be licensed by either the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or the Department of Health and (ii) provide that at least one physician who is primarily responsible for the emergency department be on duty and physically present at all times that the hospital is operating as an emergency service.

**[HB 1902](#) Board of Health; Department of Health Professions; Prescription Monitoring Program; overdose information.** *(Chief Patron: Willett)*

Amends §§ 32.1-276.6 and 54.1-2522.1 to direct the Board of Health to report patient

level data on patients who experience a nonfatal opioid overdose to the Department of Health Professions for use in the Prescription Monitoring Program. The bill requires practitioners to obtain such data when prescribing opioids.

**[HB 1937](#) / [SB 1439](#) Acute psychiatric bed registry; patient privacy and data security, etc. (Chief Patron: Hope)**

Amends §§ 2.2-3705.5 and 37.2-308.1 of the Code of Virginia to require the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to include provisions for the protection of patient privacy and data security in contracts with private entities for the administration of the acute psychiatric bed registry. The bill requires the Commissioner to create the Bed Registry Advisory Council to advise the Commissioner and any such private entity on the administration of such registry and to review and approve requests for access to data from the registry. The bill also creates a Virginia Freedom of Information Act exemption for information submitted to such registry.

**[HB 2307](#) Prescription Monitoring Program; requirements of practitioners, pharmacy technicians, training prog. (Chief Patron: Hodges)**

Amends §§ 54.1-2522.1 and 54.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia to require any prescriber of controlled substances approved for use in opioid addiction therapy, prior to or as a part of execution of a treatment agreement with a patient, to request information from the Director of the Department of Health Professions for the purpose of determining what, if any, other covered substances such patient is currently being prescribed. Under current law, only prescribers who hold a special identification number from the Drug Enforcement Administration authorizing the prescribing of controlled substances are required to request such information. The bill also adds certain training programs to the list of approved pharmacy technician training programs.

**[HB 2319](#) / [SB 924](#) Drug and controlled paraphernalia; creates exception for drug checking products. (Chief Patrons: Sickles and Head)**

Amends §§ 18.2-265.1 and 54.1-3466 of the Code of Virginia to exclude drug checking products used to determine the presence or concentration of a contaminant that can cause physical harm or death from the definitions of drug paraphernalia and controlled paraphernalia. Under current law, the exception applies only to narcotic testing products used to determine whether a controlled substance contains fentanyl or a fentanyl analog.

**[HB 2473](#) / [SB 1367](#) Long-acting injectable or extended-release prescription drugs; correctional facilities. (Chief Patrons: Sickles and Pillion)**

Amends § 54.1-3423 of the Code of Virginia to allow the Board of Pharmacy to register a correctional facility to maintain a floor stock of long-acting injectable or extended-release prescription drugs for the treatment of mental illness or substance use disorder. The bill requires such drugs to be stored in an area accessible only to persons who are licensed to administer such prescription drugs, regardless of whether the prescriber is on site. The bill sets out certain requirements for correctional facilities to maintain inventories of all such drugs.

**[HB 2534](#) / [SB 1304](#) Nonhospitalized individuals; crisis stabilization services. (Chief Patrons: Sewell and McPike)**

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to seek necessary federal approvals to remove the prohibition against the use of crisis stabilization services for nonhospitalized individuals in institutions for mental disease. Upon receiving federal approval, the Department is authorized to implement such change through agency guidance documents prior to the completion of any regulatory review process and is required to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of such change to be effective within 280 days of receiving federal approval.

**[HB 2649](#) Prescription Monitoring Program; exemptions, licensed narcotic maintenance treatment programs. (Chief Patron: Wachsmann)**

Amends §§ 54.1-2521 and 54.1-2522 of the Code of Virginia to remove dispensing of covered substances within a licensed narcotic maintenance treatment program from the list of circumstances that are exempt from the reporting requirements of the Prescription Monitoring Program. The bill specifies that any reporting of information related to dispensing covered substances within a licensed narcotic maintenance treatment program shall comply with applicable federal laws and regulations. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

**[HB 2738](#) Health insurance; coverage for mental health and substance abuse disorders. (Chief Patron: Sickles)**

Amends § 38.2-3412.1 of the Code of Virginia to require health insurance coverage, as defined in the bill, to provide coverage for mental health and substance use disorder benefits for children, adolescents, and adults and requires such coverage to apply the definitions of “generally accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care” and “medically necessary” provided in the bill for any determination of medical necessity, prior authorization, or utilization review under such coverage.

**[HB 2742](#) Hospitals; urine drug screening to include testing for fentanyl. (Chief Patron: Shin)**

Amends §§ 32.1-123 and 32.1-127 of the Code of Virginia to require hospitals with an emergency department, when conducting a urine drug screening to assist in diagnosing a patient’s condition to include testing for fentanyl in such urine drug screening. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.

**[HB 2754](#) / [SB 870](#) Behavioral health services; correctional facilities, exchange of medical/mental health information. (Chief Patrons: Singh and Favola)**

Amends §§ 16.1-300, 53.1-40.10, and 53.1-133.03 of the Code of Virginia to permit the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Department of Social Services, and any local department of social services to access medical and mental health information and records for persons committed to any correctional facility for the purposes of providing pre-release services, reentry planning, and post-incarceration placement and services. The bill also authorizes the Department of Medical Assistance Services to access a juvenile’s social, medical, psychiatric, and psychological reports and records during pre-release and for up to 30 days following such juvenile’s release from commitment for the purposes of providing pre-release services, reentry planning, and post-incarceration placement and services.

**[SB 819](#) Community-based outpatient stabilization programs for voluntary treatment; referrals. (Chief Patron: Favola)**

Amends §§ 37.2-808, 37.2-809, 37.2-813, 37.2-815, 37.2-816 and 37.2-817, and 37.2-1104 of the Code of Virginia to require health care professionals and evaluators to consider whether a referral to a community-based outpatient stabilization program for voluntary treatment is appropriate prior to a patient’s release from an emergency custody order or a temporary detention order.

**[SB 838](#) Recovery residences; certification required penalty, report. (Chief Patron: VanValkenburg)**

Amends § 37.2-431.1 of the Code of Virginia to change the existing civil penalty for a violation of law related to the operation of recovery residences to a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to issue

conditional certification to certain recovery residences. The bill also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to (i) make recommendations related to oversight and transparency for recovery residences and (ii) develop credentialing guidelines for recovery residences. The bill directs the work group to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

**SB 842 Mobile health clinics; DHCD to include broadband access services for clinics. (Chief Patron: Favola)**

Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to include broadband access services for mobile health clinics as a priority for broadband nondeployment programs using federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funding to the extent approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

**SB 1064 Medical care facilities; relocation, conversion, and addition of beds. (Chief Patron: Hashmi)**

Amends §§ 32.1-102.1:3, 32.1-102.2, 32.1-102.4, and 32.1-102.6 of the Code of Virginia to expand the State Board of Health's procedures for expedited review of applications for certificates of public need for certain projects to include the relocation or conversion of beds from, or the addition of beds to, an already existing medical facility with a certificate to provide psychiatric services, as well as the establishment of a new psychiatric medical care facility by an existing medical care facility.

**SB 1257 Student & campus safety; opioid antagonist administration training for resident assistants required. (Chief Patron: Bagby)**

Amends § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 23.1-802.2 to the Code of Virginia to require each resident assistant in a student housing facility at a public institution of higher education to complete, prior to the commencement of his duties, training in the

administration of an opioid antagonist to any student, faculty, or staff member who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opioid overdose. The bill requires each public institution of higher education to adopt policies and procedures relating to the administration of an opioid antagonist by each resident assistant.

**Children's Services Act**

**SB 801 Children's Services Act; changes to state pool of funds. (Chief Patron: Favola)**  
Amends §§ 2.2-5209, 2.2-5211, and 2.2-5212 of the Code of Virginia to make several changes to the Children's Services Act state pool of funds for the provision of public or private nonresidential or residential services for troubled youth and families, chiefly codifying current practice by adding children and youth who are determined to be a child in need of services, as such term is defined in relevant law, to the list of populations who are eligible for state pool funding. The bill also makes several other changes, including (i) removing from the purpose of the state pool of funds the consolidation of categorical agency funding and the institution of community responsibility for the provision of services; (ii) removing language specifying that references to funding sources and current placement authority for the target population served by the state pool of funds are for the purpose of accounting for the funds and should not be intended to categorize children and youth into funding streams in order to access services; (iii) modifying the target population served by the state pool of funds by removing references to the Department of Education's private tuition assistance and the Interagency Assistance Fund for Noneducational Placement for Handicapped Children; (iv) removing the requirement that the financial and legal responsibility for certain special education services remains with the placing jurisdiction, unless the placing jurisdiction has transitioned all appropriate services; (v) requiring that the uniform assessment instrument used to

determine eligibility for funding through the state pool of funds be approved by the State Executive Council for Children’s Services; and (vi) modifying the eligibility criteria for funding through the state pool of funds by adding language that (a) specifies that the child or youth’s emotional or behavioral problems have resulted in the child or youth, or place the child or youth at imminent risk of, entering purchased residential care and (b) includes the determination by a court that the child or youth is a child in need of services, as such term is defined in relevant law.

## **Health**

**[HB 1552](#) / [SB 1177](#) Critical access hospitals; swing beds.** *(Chief Patrons: Wiley and Suetterlein)*

Amends §§ 32.1-102.1:3, 32.1-122.07, and 32.1-132 of the Code of Virginia to allow critical access hospitals to utilize an average of up to 10 swing beds for skilled care services per day, calculated over the hospital’s fiscal year, without obtaining a certificate of public need. Under current law, critical access hospitals may only use up to 10 percent of beds as swing beds. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2028.

**[HB 1582](#) Pharmacists; collaborative agreements, drug therapy.** *(Chief Patron: Wachsmann)*

Amends § 54.1-3300.1 of the Code of Virginia to specify that a collaborative agreement between pharmacists and other health care providers may include prescribing, modification, continuation, or discontinuation of drug therapy after proof of such signed collaborative agreement is submitted to and authorized by the Board of Pharmacy.

**[HB 1860](#) Nursing, Board of; waiver of regulations related to nursing faculty ratios.** *(Chief Patron: Price)*

Directs the Board of Nursing to allow nursing education programs to apply for a waiver of the student-to-faculty ratios for direct client care to permit a nursing education program

to increase the ratio of students to faculty engaged in direct client care from 10 students per faculty member to 15 students per faculty member.

**[HB 1861](#) / [SB 1438](#) Department of Health Professions; health regulatory boards; regulations; licensure by endorsement.**

*(Chief Patrons: Price and Durant)*

Directs each health regulatory board regulated by the Department of Health Professions to enact regulations to provide a licensure by endorsement pathway for qualified applicants as practitioners of the particular profession or professions regulated by such board. The bill specifies that the Board of Medicine shall be the first health regulatory board to enact regulations to provide a licensure by endorsement pathway.

**[HB 1976](#) High-risk pregnant patients; remote patient monitoring services available to patients.** *(Chief Patron: Laufer)*

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to amend its regulations, guidance, and provider manuals to clarify that remote patient monitoring services for high-risk pregnant patients include pregnant patients with maternal diabetes and maternal hypertension. The bill requires the Department to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2025, on the number of persons receiving remote patient monitoring services for maternal diabetes and maternal hypertension and the cost of providing such services.

**[HB 1989](#) Medical cannabis program; changes requirements for product labels, dispensing cannabis products.** *(Chief Patron: Askew)*

Amends §§ 4.1-1600, 4.1-1602, and 4.1-1603 of the Code of Virginia to require medical cannabis product labels affixed by pharmaceutical processors to include (i) the total milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol included in the edible cannabis product or topical cannabis product; (ii) the number of milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol

and cannabidiol in each serving of the edible cannabis product or topical cannabis product; and (iii) the total percentage of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol included in the inhalable cannabis product, defined in the bill. The bill also allows a pharmaceutical processor or cannabis dispensing facility to dispense or deliver cannabis products in person to a patient or such patient's registered agent, parent, or legal guardian at any residence or business. However, the bill prohibits dispensing or delivering cannabis products to certain locations, and the bill also specifies that all such transportation or delivery must comply with all relevant laws and regulations and provides that the Board of Directors of the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority may suspend or revoke the privileges of any employee or delivery agent to transport or deliver such products for failure to comply. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

**[HB 2119](#) / [SB 1203](#) Certificate of public need; task force to develop recommendation for expedited application & review.** *(Chief Patrons: Walker and Head)*  
Instructs the State Health Commissioner to direct the State Health Services Plan Task Force to develop recommendations for establishing an expedited application and review process for projects requiring a certificate of public need in areas that meet certain criteria regarding access to health care.

**[HB 2309](#) Local health districts and health departments; guidance for septic and well permits.** *(Chief Patron: Hodges)*  
Directs the Department of Health to develop guidance directing local health districts and local health departments to evaluate and recommend solutions to problems with a valid onsite sewage system or private well permit prior to issuing a revocation for such system or private well permit.

**[HB 2548](#) / [SB 953](#) Practical nursing programs, certain; transferability to registered nursing programs, etc.** *(Chief Patrons: Rasoul and Favola)*

Adds § 23.1-903.5 to the Code of Virginia to direct the Virginia Community College System, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Board of Nursing, and representatives from associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education that offer nursing programs, to develop a common curriculum for practical nursing programs that shall be implemented at each comprehensive community college that offers a practical nursing program. The bill requires such common curriculum, to the extent possible, to (i) align with the degree requirements for registered nursing programs offered at associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education and (ii) be transferable to each registered nursing program offered at an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education. The bill also requires the System to establish a pathway of stackable nursing credentials and directs the System to develop and implement the common curriculum for practical nursing programs by July 1, 2026.

**[HB 2610](#) / [SB 875](#) State pharmacy benefits manager; DMAS to select & contract with a third-party administrator** *(Chief Patrons: Callsen and Rouse)*  
Amends § 32.1-325 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 32.1-325.5 to the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Medical Assistance Services, by July 1, 2026, to select and contract with a third-party administrator to serve as the state pharmacy benefits manager to administer all pharmacy benefits for Medicaid recipients, including recipients enrolled in a managed care organization. The bill enumerates requirements for the Department's contract with the state pharmacy benefits manager, including a requirement that the manager use the common

formulary, reimbursement methodologies, and dispensing fees negotiated by the Department. In addition, the bill directs the Department to engage an independent consultant to evaluate the implementation of a contract with a third-party pharmacy benefits manager pursuant to the bill. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

**[HB 2617](#) / [SB 1120](#) Women’s Health, Commission on; established, report.** *(Chief Patrons: Mundon King and Lucas)*  
Adds §§ 30-447 through 30-453 to the Code of Virginia to establish the Commission on Women’s Health as a permanent commission in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of studying and making recommendations on issues related to women’s and maternal health

**[HB 2748](#) Veterans; provision of copies of vital records.** *(Chief Patron: Laufer)*  
Amends § 32.1-273 of the Code of Virginia to require the Board of Health to provide a copy of a veteran’s vital records to the Department of Veterans Services upon request when a veteran or his surviving spouse requires a certified copy of a vital record to obtain service-connected benefits.

**[SB 843](#) Remote patient monitoring patients with chronic conditions, report.** *(Chief Patron: Favola)*  
Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to develop a plan and estimate costs for expanding eligibility criteria under Medicaid for remote patient monitoring for individuals with chronic conditions and to report such plan and cost estimate to the Joint Commission on Health Care by October 1, 2025.

**[SB 981](#) Certified community health workers; Department of Health shall evaluate status of workers, report.** *(Chief Patron: Hashmi)*  
Directs the Department of Health to submit a report on certified community health workers to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations and the Director

of the Department of Planning and Budget by November 1, 2025.

## **Human Trafficking**

**[HB 1734](#) Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator; name change.** *(Chief Patron: Delaney)*  
Amends §§ 9.1-116.5 and 15.2-1627.6 of the Code of Virginia to rename the Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator as the Human Trafficking Response Coordinator within the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The bill also changes related references from “sex trafficking” to “human trafficking.”

**[HB 2033](#) Alcoholic beverage control retail licensees and employees; training on human trafficking.** *(Chief Patron: Simonds)*  
Amends §§ 4.1-227 and 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 4.1-203.2 to the Code of Virginia to direct the Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop an online course for the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority to offer to retail licensees and their employees to train such licensees and employees to recognize and report instances of suspected human trafficking.

**[HB 2393](#) / [SB 1460](#) Human trafficking; issuance of writ of vacatur for victims.** *(Chief Patrons: Mundon King and Locke)*  
Amends §§ 19.2-327.15, 19.2-327.17, 19.2-327.18, and 19.2-327.19 of the Code of Virginia, to revise the procedure that allows victims of human trafficking, defined in the bill, to file a petition of vacatur in circuit court to have certain convictions vacated and the police and court records expunged for such convictions.

## **Social Services**

**[HB 1723](#) Assistance w/food access, etc.; methods to improve participation in fed. public assistance programs.** *(Chief Patron: Price)*  
Directs the Department of Social Services to

convene a work group to evaluate methods to improve access to and maximize participation in federal programs relating to assistance with food access and improving food security. A report is due by December 1, 2025. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

**[HB 1733](#) / [SB 1372](#) Children; petitions for relief of care & custody, investigation by local dept. of social services. (Chief Patrons: Cole and Suetterlein)**

Amends § 16.1-277.02 of the Code of Virginia to require that a local department of social services, as a part of its investigation after the referral of a request for a petition for relief of the care and custody of a child, to (i) refer the parent to the local family assessment and planning team and (ii) create a written report. The bill directs the Department of Social Services, in coordination with the Virginia League of Social Services Executives, to create a template for such report. The bill also directs the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to convene a work group composed of relevant stakeholders to (a) determine the factors a court should consider when determining whether there is good cause shown for a petitioner's desire to be relieved of the care and custody of a child and (b) explore the potential benefits and considerations of raising the standard of evidence for granting temporary relief of custody. The bill directs the work group to submit a report by November 1, 2025.

**[HB 1777](#) / [SB 1406](#) Office of the Children's Ombudsman; foster youth's right to receive information. (Chief Patrons: Sullivan and Salim)**

Amends §§ 2.2-438, 2.2-441, 2.2-445, and 2.2-446 of the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Social Services or a local department of social services, a children's residential facility, or any child-placing agency to provide certain information along with the contact information for the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to any child in

foster care age 12 or older upon the opening of a foster care case for such child. The bill also provides that, in relation to complaints made to the Ombudsman, if such child is the complainant, the Ombudsman need not gain the consent of the Department or local department of social services, the children's residential facility, the child-placing agency, or the foster parent or guardian of the child or other person having custody or care of the child to receive information from or communicate with the child.

**[HB 1897](#) Master's social worker; scope of practice, regulations. (Chief Patron: Willett)**

Amends § 54.1-3700 of the Code of Virginia to expand the scope of practice of master's social workers to allow the provision of clinical services under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker.

**[HB 2260](#) Child in need of services; expands definition. (Chief Patron: Delaney)**

Amends § 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia to expand the definition of a "child in need of services" for purposes of juvenile and domestic relations district courts to include a child who remains away from, deserts, or abandons his family or lawful custodian during one occasion and is demonstratively at risk of coercion, exploitation, abuse, or manipulation or has been lured from his parent or lawful custodian by means of trickery or misrepresentation or under false pretenses.

**[HB 2457](#) Foster care; State Bd. of Social Services to amend regulations, application for and use of benefits. (Chief Patron: Glass)**

Directs the State Board of Social Services to amend its regulations by January 1, 2026, to (i) require local departments of social services to apply for federal benefits on behalf of children in foster care, (ii) prohibit the use of military survivor benefits to pay for the care and support of children in foster care that the Commonwealth is otherwise obligated to pay for, and (iii) require local departments of social

services that are representative payees for children in foster care to conserve such military survivor benefits in an appropriate trust instrument or protected account that is exempt from federal asset and resource limits.

**HB 2597 / SB 937 Administrative Process Act; provisional license to an assisted living facility or adult day center.** *(Chief Patrons: Rasoul and Craig)*

Amends § 63.2-1707 of the Code of Virginia to require that corrective action of an applicant for provisional licensure that is acceptable to the Commissioner of Social Services and on a schedule determined by the Commissioner shall be required prior to any appeal of the provisional license issued to an assisted living facility or adult day center.

**SB 818 Children in foster care; federal benefits, written notice by certified mail, notice of eligibility.** *(Chief Patron: Favola)*

Adds § 63.2-905.6 to the Code of Virginia to provide that, if the local department of social services serves as representative payee for a child receiving certain federal benefits, the local department of social services shall provide written notice, in person or by certified mail, that it is acting as the child's representative payee within 30 days after receiving the first benefit payment on behalf of the child to (i) the child, if the child is 12 years of age or older; (ii) the child's parent, prior guardian, or prior custodian, or, if there is no legal parent or prior guardian or custodian, the child's next of kin; (iii) the guardian ad litem, if applicable; and (iv) the counsel appointed for the child, if applicable.

**SB 1018 Higher educational institutions, public; SNAP eligibility, applications, and participation.** *(Chief Patron: Roem)*

Amends §§ 23.1-409.1 and 63.2-801 of the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Social Services to (i) develop, annually update, and provide to each public institution of higher education in advance of the start of

each school year an information sheet on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill requires each public institution of higher education to ensure that such SNAP information sheet is provided to each student enrolled in such institution.

**SB 1019 WIC applications; VDH to provide information to food banks.** *(Chief Patron: Roem)*

Directs the Department of Health to provide information, resources, and education to food banks regarding assisting individuals completing a Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) application.

**SB 1020 Restaurant Meals Program of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; DSS to report.** *(Chief Patron: Roem)*

Directs the Department of Social Services to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the Restaurant Meals Program of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The report shall include data on the number of restaurants that have applied to participate and that have been approved to participate and identified barriers to program expansion.

**SB 1153 Social Services, Department of; appointment of receiver for assisted living facilities.** *(Chief Patron: Obenshain)*

Amends § 63.2-1709 of the Code of Virginia to specify the circumstances under which the Commissioner of Social Services may petition the court to appoint a receiver for an assisted living facility, including when an assisted living facility receives official notice from the Commissioner that its license has been or will be denied, revoked, or suspended or a facility operates at any time under conditions that present a major and continuing threat to the health, safety, security, rights, or welfare of the residents. Describes the procedures to be followed for the filing of such petition and when a receivership has been established.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

### **HB 1724 Prescription Drug Affordability Board; established, drug cost affordability review, report. *(Chief Patron: Delaney)***

Would have established the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, which would have been charged with identifying certain prescription drug products for potential affordability reviews and empowered to establish upper payment limits for up to 12 drugs annually, under certain circumstances outlined in the legislation. **(Vetoed)**

### **SB 1432 Juvenile secure detention facilities; closure or consolidation; funding contributions; education programs. *(Chief Patron: Marsden)***

Would have required the closure and consolidation of seven juvenile detention centers by January 1, 2026. Among other provisions, would have required a locality or commission operating a facility that would receive youth from a facility that would be closed under the provisions of the bill to negotiate with the locality from which the youth would be placed regarding mutually agreeable funding contributions; if the localities were unable to reach an agreement, the Department of Juvenile Justice would determine the contributions, and failure to comply with this determination could result in the loss of state funding. The bill also proposed changes to staffing requirements for education professionals at detention centers.

# TRANSPORTATION

## PASSED LEGISLATION

**[HB 1579](#) License taxes; local gas road improvement/Va. Coalfield Economic Development Authority tax, sunset.** (*Chief Patron: Morefield*) Amends § 58.1-3713 of the Code of Virginia, to extend from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028, the expiration date for provisions permitting any county or city to impose a license tax at a rate not to exceed one percent on every person engaged in the business of severing gases from the earth for the purposes of funding improvements to public roads or as otherwise provided for the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority.

**[HB 1603](#) / [SB 1144](#) Commonwealth Rail Fund; funds applied to Shortline Railway Preservation and Development Fund.** (*Chief Patrons: Runion and Obenshain*) Amends § 33.2-1526.4 of the Code of Virginia, to remove the \$4 million cap on those Commonwealth Rail Fund (Fund) moneys distributed to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation that may be applied to the Shortline Railway Preservation and Development Fund and instead provides that up to 50 percent of such Fund moneys may be applied to the Shortline Railway Preservation and Development Fund. The bill retains the current provisions granting 93 percent of Fund moneys to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and seven percent to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

**[HB 1682](#) / [SB 1269](#) Surplus lines broker taxes; certain insurance policies.** (*Chief Patrons: Cohen and Pekarsky*) Amends § 38.2-4809 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that any surplus lines broker or any person required to be licensed as one shall not be subject to the annual taxes, license taxes, or penalties under current law for any policy of insurance procured during the preceding calendar year on behalf of a commuter rail

system jointly operated by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation District beginning in calendar year 2025.

**[HB 1856](#) Amber warning lights; certain department of social services vehicles.** (*Chief Patron: Arnold*) Amends § 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia, to authorize the use of amber warning lights on vehicles used by a local department of social services to respond to a request for assistance from law-enforcement agency personnel.

**[HB 2022](#) / [SB 948](#) Registration of aircraft; fees.** (*Chief Patrons: Anthony and DeSteph*) Amends § 5.1-5 of the Code of Virginia, which increases fees for registrations of aircraft and creates multiyear registrations for aircraft for a period not to exceed three years.

**[HB 2036](#) Reckless driving; definition of “exhibition driving,” penalties.** (*Chief Patron: Bulova*) Amends multiple sections of the Code and adds a section which expands reckless driving to include exhibition driving, defined in the bill. The bill prohibits i) slowing or stopping traffic for a race or exhibition driving; (ii) riding as a passenger on the hood or roof of a motor vehicle during a race or exhibition driving; or (iii) aiding or abetting exhibition driving. The bill establishes penalties for violations and establishes a process for impounding or immobilizing motor vehicles driven by persons arrested for exhibition driving.

**[HB 2074](#) Portable changeable message signs; certain vehicles authorized to be equipped with signs.** (*Chief Patron: McClure*) Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section that authorizes certain towing, traffic management, and highway maintenance vehicles to be equipped with a portable changeable message sign that may be used without prior authorization from the Department of Transportation, provided that certain conditions are met.

**[HB 2087](#) Electric utilities; transportation electrification, definitions. (Chief**

*Patron: Shin)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding sections and repeals a section to permit Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company to develop, own, maintain, and operate public-facing fast-charging stations, as defined in the bill, at or beyond a radial distance from privately owned fast-charging stations, which radial distance shall be determined by the Commission in a rulemaking proceeding initiated by June 1, 2027, with a final order entered no later than December 31, 2027. The bill repeals current law related to the recovery of costs associated with investment in transportation electrification on December 31, 2027, to coincide with such final order. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2030. **(Pending final action by Governor)**

**[HB 2096](#) Intelligent Speed Assistance Program; established, penalty. (Chief**

*Patron: Hope)* Amends multiple sections of the Code and adds new sections to establish the Intelligent Speed Assistance Program to be administered by the Commission on the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program. The bill authorizes enrollment in such Program as an alternative to suspending a person's driver's license upon such person's conviction of certain speed-related offenses. The bill requires a court to order enrollment in such Program for a person convicted of reckless driving and who was found to have been driving in excess of 100 miles per hour, unless the court has ordered suspension of such person's driver's license. The bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide the option, in a written notice, for enrollment in such Program instead of license suspension for a person who has accumulated certain amounts of demerit points, and if such person does not respond to such written notice within 30 days, the bill requires such suspension of his license. The bill requires any person enrolled

in the Program to enter into and successfully complete the Program and install an intelligent speed assistance system, defined in the bill, in any motor vehicle owned by or registered to the participant and prohibits such person from driving any motor vehicle that does not have such a system installed. The bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for tampering with or attempting to bypass or circumvent such a system. The bill provides that any person who enters into the Program prior to trial may pre-qualify with the Program to have an intelligent speed assistance system installed on any motor vehicle owned or operated by him and that the court may consider such pre-qualification and installation. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

**[HB 2211](#) Mine rescue team vehicles; authorized to be equipped with flashing red and white warning lights. (Chief**

*Patron: O'Quinn)* Amends multiple sections of the Code of Virginia, which authorizes vehicles operated by mine rescue teams that are certified by the Mine Safety and Health Administration under federal law to (i) be equipped with flashing, blinking, or alternating red or red and white combination warning lights and (ii) disregard certain regulations regarding the operation of vehicles without being subject to criminal prosecution while responding to an emergency, provided that the operator of such vehicle has received certain training and recertifies every two years. The bill adds responding to mine rescue incidents to the list of circumstances in which such lighted warning lights shall be displayed.

**[HB 2234](#) / [SB 1250](#) Transportation Trust Fund; extends limitation on personal liability for loss in investments. (Chief**

*Patrons: Cousins and Bagby)* Amends § 33.2-1525 of the Code of Virginia, which extends the limitation on personal liability for loss in investments from moneys in the Transportation Trust Fund to an individual's

actions taken while serving on or employed by certain entities, even if such individual no longer serves on or is employed by any such entity. The bill also applies such limitation on personal liability for loss in investments to members and employees of the Central Virginia Transportation Authority.

**[HB 2254](#) Outdoor advertising in sight of public highways; reduces license fee.** (*Chief Patron: Wachsmann*) Amends and repeals multiple sections of the Code of Virginia to remove the requirement for a license for certain outdoor advertising in the sight of public highways.

**[HB 2256](#) Motor vehicle accident; increases damage threshold.** (*Chief Patron: Maldonado*) Amends § 46.2-373 of the Code of Virginia, which increases from \$1,500 to \$3,000 the property damage threshold at which law enforcement is required to forward a written report of a motor vehicle accident to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**[HB 2261](#) / [SB 1004](#) Trailer franchise requirements; applicability to certain trailers, definitions.** (*Chief Patrons: Delaney and Boysko*) Amends §§ 46.2-1500 and 46.2-1573.13 of the Code of Virginia, which changes the applicability of trailer franchise requirements to only apply to new trailers with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 30,000 pounds.

**[HB 2423](#) Incorrect vehicle title or registration address; owner or lessee of any real property to notify DMV.** (*Chief Patron: Weibert*) Amends § 46.2-606 of the Code of Virginia, which authorizes the owner or lessee of any real property in the Commonwealth to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles if the address of the real property is used for the titling or registration of a vehicle that does

not belong to any owner, lessee, or resident of the real property. The bill requires the Department to (i) attempt to notify the vehicle owner of such report and (ii) conduct a search of the National Change of Address System and provides that if the Department is unable to identify the correct address for the vehicle, the Department may revoke the registration, registration card, license plates, and decals issued for the vehicle.

**[HB 2475](#) Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems.** (*Chief Patron: Keys-Gamarra*) Amends § 46.2-1094 of the Code of Virginia, requiring all adult passengers in a motor vehicle equipped with a safety belt system to wear such safety belt system when the motor vehicle is in motion on a public highway. Current law requires adult passengers to wear such safety belts when occupying the front seat.

**[HB 2627](#) Autonomous driving systems; work group to identify & review issues presented by operation of system.** (*Chief Patron: Glass*) Directs the Secretary of Transportation to convene a work group to identify and review issues presented by the operation of autonomous driving systems in the Commonwealth and develop draft legislation governing the operation of such systems. The bill directs the work group to report its findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2026.

**[HB 2718](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; school crossing zones.** (*Chief Patron: Leftwich*) Amends § 46.2-882.1 of the Code of Virginia, which requires photographs, microphotographs, or other recorded images, or documentation, produced by a photo speed monitoring device placed in a school crossing zone to depict or confirm a portable sign or tilt-over sign that is in position and blinking or otherwise activated, indicating the school crossing zone, at the time of such vehicle speed

violation in order for a sworn certificate to be considered prima facie evidence for purposes of enforcing vehicle speed violations.

**[SB 852](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; proof of violation affirmed by retired law-enforcement officials.**

*(Chief Patron: Craig)* Amends § 46.2-882.1 of the Code of Virginia, to allow a retired sworn law-enforcement officer, defined in the bill, to swear to or affirm a certificate for a vehicle speed violation enforced by a photo speed monitoring device.

**[SB 1082](#) Commonwealth Transportation Special Structures Program Revenue Bond Act of 2025; created.**

*(Chief Patron: McDougle)* Amends multiple sections of the Code of Virginia, authorizing the Commonwealth Transportation Board to issue revenue bonds to be known and designated as “Commonwealth of Virginia Special Structures Program Revenue Bonds.” The bill provides that the aggregate principal amount of such bonds shall not exceed \$1 billion and shall not exceed \$200 million in any single fiscal year. The bonds shall be payable solely (i) first from revenues received from the Special Structure Fund; (ii) second and to the extent required, from revenues legally available from the Transportation Trust Fund; and (iii) then to the extent required, from any other legally available funds.

**[SB 1317](#) Transportation district commissions; contracts or agreements.**

*(Chief Patron: McPike)* Amends § 33.2-1915 of the Code of Virginia, to expand the localities and entities with which transportation district commissions may enter into contracts or agreements to provide transit facilities and services and other modes of transportation.

**[SB 1332](#) Towing and storage of certain vehicles; limitation on charges.**

*(Chief Patron: Marsden)* Amends § 46.2-1233.1 of the Code of Virginia to increase the maximum hookup and initial towing fee of a passenger car from \$150 to \$210. The provision that

authorizes a towing and recovery operator to charge a fuel surcharge fee of \$20 for the removal of certain vehicles expires July 1, 2025.

## **FAILED LEGISLATION**

**[HB 1791](#) Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund; established and created.**

*(Chief Patron: Sullivan)*

Would have amended the Code of Virginia by adding new sections creating the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund to assist private developers with non-utility costs associated with the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (i) in certain localities; (ii) on eligible public land, as defined in the bill; or (iii) within one mile of the boundary of eligible public land. The bill would have provided that a private developer may apply for a grant in an amount equal to 70 percent of the private developer’s non-utility costs for the installation of such public electric vehicle charging stations. The awarding of a grant under the Program would be conditional upon an agreement with the applicant that any cost of a project not funded by a grant awarded by the Program be funded by non-federal funds. The Department of Energy shall establish guidelines for the administration of the Program, including guidelines related to the application for and award of grants. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2030. **(Vetoed)**

**[SB 1233](#) Speed safety cameras; placement and operation, definitions.**

*(Chief Patron: Williams Graves)* Would have amended multiple Code sections which authorize state and local law-enforcement agencies to place and operate pedestrian crossing violation and stop sign violation monitoring systems in school crossing zones, highway work zones, and high-risk speed corridors for purposes of recording pedestrian crossing and stop sign violations, as those terms are defined in the bill. The bill changed the term “photo speed monitoring device” to “speed safety camera” and “high-

risk intersection segment” to “high-risk speed corridor” in provisions related to vehicle speed violations. The bill would have made various changes to the requirements for the use of speed safety cameras and extends most of those requirements to the use of pedestrian crossing and stop sign violation monitoring systems. The bill would have required local law-enforcement agencies implementing or expanding the use of pedestrian crossing violation and stop sign violation monitoring systems, prior to the implementation or expansion of such systems, to conduct a public awareness program for such implementation or expansion. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2619](#) / [SB 919](#) Private companies providing public transportation services; employee protections.** (*Chief Patrons: Helmer and Salim*) Would have required the governing body or transportation district commission of any county or city that contracts with a private company to provide transportation services to (i) require such company to provide any employee of such company providing such services compensation and benefits that are, at a minimum, equivalent to the compensation and benefits provided to a public employee, as defined in the bill, with a position requiring equivalent qualifications and years of service; (ii) provide transportation services through such company’s own employees; and (iii) if such transportation district commission, county, or city subsequently elects to provide its own system of public transportation, adopt an ordinance or resolution providing for collective bargaining, ensure all employees of such private company are offered employment with such subsequent public transportation system without loss of compensation or benefits, and ensure the recognition of any lawful collective bargaining representative of such private company’s employees. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2550](#) Noise abatement monitoring systems; counties in Planning Districts 8 and 16 to place & operate.** (*Chief Patron: Sullivan*)  
Would have authorized counties and cities

in Planning Districts 8 (Northern Virginia Regional Commission) and 16 (George Washington Regional Commission) to place and operate noise abatement monitoring systems, defined in the bill, for the purpose of recording and enforcing exhaust system violations, also defined in the bill. The bill provides that the operator of a vehicle is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$100, but the violation shall not be reported on the driver’s operating record or to the driver’s insurance agency. Under the bill, the civil penalty will be paid to the locality in which the violation occurred to be used for the cost of administering the noise abatement monitoring system program and for transportation safety initiatives. The bill contained the same data privacy and storage requirements as are in current law for photo speed monitoring devices. The bill required any locality that places and operates such a noise abatement monitoring system to report on its public website by January 15 of each year on the number of traffic violations prosecuted, the number of successful prosecutions, and the total amount of monetary civil penalties collected. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027. **(Vetoed)**

**[HB 2466](#) Hampton Roads Interstate Highway Corridor Improvement Program and Fund, etc.; created.** (*Chief Patron: Glass*)  
Would have created the Hampton Roads Interstate Highway Corridor Improvement Program for the purpose of planning, developing, financing, building, constructing, and otherwise making infrastructure and safety improvements to, or maintaining the infrastructure of, certain new or existing highway corridors, highways, bridges, and tunnels in Planning District 23 (Hampton Roads). The bill also would have created the Hampton Roads Highway Coastal Resilience Program for the purpose of planning, developing, financing, building, constructing, and maintaining infrastructure to address transportation infrastructure that is at risk due to recurrent and coastal flooding in Planning District 23. **(Vetoed)**

## **VACo Legislative Team**

Dean Lynch | [dlynch@vaco.org](mailto:dlynch@vaco.org)

Jeremy Bennett | [jbennett@vaco.org](mailto:jbennett@vaco.org)

Katie Boyle | [kboyle@vaco.org](mailto:kboyle@vaco.org)

Phyllis Errico | [perrico@vaco.org](mailto:perrico@vaco.org)

Gage Harter | [gharter@vaco.org](mailto:gharter@vaco.org)

James Hutzler | [jhutzler@vaco.org](mailto:jhutzler@vaco.org)

Joe Lerch | [jlerch@vaco.org](mailto:jlerch@vaco.org)

Karie Walker | [kwalker@vaco.org](mailto:kwalker@vaco.org)

To read the full text of legislation mentioned in this summary, as well as the legislative history and votes on individual bills, visit the Division of Legislative Services at [lis.virginia.gov](http://lis.virginia.gov).