

# Capitol Contact

## Virginia General Assembly

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## Mandate for Localities to Post All Expenditures on Website Advances

[SB 751 \(Sturtevant\)](#) passed the Senate on February 12 by a vote of 26-13 and now heads to the House for consideration. The bill requires every locality with a population greater than 25,000, and every school division with greater than 5,000 students, to post on its website a register of all transactions. This includes vendor name, date of payment, amount and description of the type of expense. **VACo opposes** the measure because of its potential costs for localities to comply with this mandate. It should be a local option. In addition to the cost of software, the bill will require significant staff time to implement, since staff would need to review transactions and redact certain payments (such as payments to undercover law enforcement).

**VACo Contact:** [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)

## VACo Supports Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) Budget Amendments

VACo has sent a letter to members of the [Senate Finance Committee's Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee](#) and [House Appropriations Committee's Commerce, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Technology Subcommittee](#) encouraging the authorization of Virginia Public Building Authority (VPBA) bonds for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF).

SLAF was created by the General Assembly in 2013 to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. SLAF provides matching grants to local governments for the

planning, design and implementation of stormwater best management practices. Since its inception, SLAF has received cumulative appropriations of \$85 million, leveraged with local matching dollars into \$170 million, and has successfully funded nearly 200 projects. However, SLAF received no appropriation in FY 2018, and the proposed 2019-2020 budget contains no funding as well.

This year, Senator Emmet Hanger, Delegate David Bulova and Delegate Steven Landes introduced SLAF budget amendments, calling for \$25 million to \$50 million in funding over the biennium.

VACo Members are encouraged to contact members of the [Senate Finance Committee's Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee](#) and [House Appropriations Committee's Commerce, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Technology Subcommittee](#) to express support for these important budget amendments.

**VACo Contact:** [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#)

## Bill Allowing Density Bonuses in Exchange for Workforce Housing Passes Senate

[SB 290 \(McClellan\)](#) passed the Senate on February 12 and heads to the House for consideration. The bill expands to all localities the option to adopt an affordable dwelling unit ordinance to “promote a full range of housing choices, and encourage the construction and continued existence of moderately priced and affordable housing by providing for optional increases in density to reduce land costs for such moderately priced housing.” **VACo supports** this incentive to assist counties in fostering affordable housing, as well as workforce housing for employees such as teachers and first responders.

**VACo Contact:** [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)

## Key Dates for 2018 General Assembly Session

The Joint Rules Committee met on December 18 to adopt the procedural resolution that sets the [schedule](#) for the 2018 General Assembly session. Although the procedural resolution will be considered by the full House and Senate in January, typically it is agreed upon without amendments. Key dates in the procedural resolution are as follows:

- **February 13:** Crossover (deadline for legislation to pass its chamber of origin)

- **February 18:** The Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees must report their respective budgets.
- **February 22:** Deadline for each chamber to complete work on its budget
- **March 5:** Deadline for committee action on legislation
- **March 10:** Scheduled adjournment *sine die*
- **April 18:** Reconvened session to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)