

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

March 18, 2020



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General Assembly Adopts Budget



The General Assembly approved compromise conference reports on the FY 2020 “caboose” and 2020-2022 biennium budgets on Thursday, March 12. Conferees struck an agreement on the budgets late on Saturday, March 7, and legislators agreed to return on March 12 in order to allow time for members to review the conference report prior to voting on it. Both budget bills passed by comfortable margins; however, several members of the Senate expressed concern in floor debate about potential economic repercussions of the coronavirus outbreak and urged that the legislature pause to reassess market conditions before approving the budget and sending it to the Governor. Senate Finance and Appropriations Chair Janet Howell suggested that the budget conferees continue to meet in advance of the April reconvened session to prepare recommendations for the Governor to revise the budget in case revenue projections need to be reassessed. It is important to note that the compensation actions included in the budget are contingent on revenues meeting projections.

Below is a summary of the key provisions of the budget conference report of interest to county governments. In addition, an analysis of the conference report’s provisions related to Constitutional officers prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board is available at [this link](#). The Superintendent of Public Instruction’s memorandum of March 13, 2020, is available at [this link](#); calculation templates for projected state payments are available at [this link](#). VACO will provide FY 2021 estimates of local option sales and use tax and recordation and grantor’s taxes to be distributed to localities when those estimates are available from the Department of Taxation.

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Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

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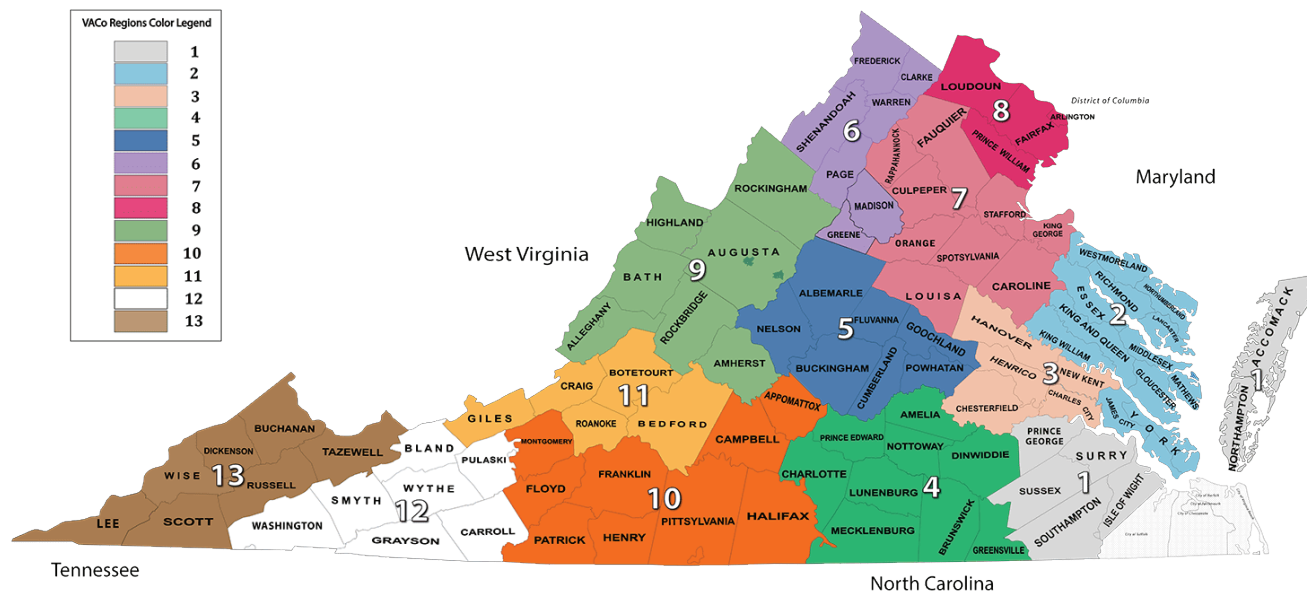


VACo covered important legislation during the 2020 General Assembly Session through [Capitol Contact](#). Issues critical to local governments included revenue fairness, the state budget, environment and agriculture, broadband, education funding, economic development, public safety, taxes and other policy matters.

- **March 16, 2020:** [General Assembly Adopts Budget](#)
- **March 5, 2020:** [School Modernization Legislation Overview](#)
- **March 3, 2020:** [Collective Bargaining Legislation Update](#)
- **February 27, 2020:** [Peer-to-peer vehicle rental bill proceeds to the Governor's desk](#)
- **February 25, 2020:** [Revenue fairness bills heading to conference](#)
- **February 21, 2020:** [Key Elements of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Budgets](#)
- **February 20, 2020:** [Unfunded Mandate for Public Defender Salaries Defeated for the Year](#)
- **February 18, 2020:** [Problematic "preclearance" bill to be heard in Senate Privileges and Elections; calls needed](#)
- **February 18, 2020:** **Capitol Contact ALERT** – [Oppose Unfunded Mandate for Public Defender Salary Increases](#)
- **February 13, 2020:** [Support critical water funding in the Governor's proposed budget](#)
- **February 13, 2020:** **Capitol Contact ALERT** – [Oppose Mandated Collective Bargaining for Public Employees](#)
- **February 11, 2020:** [Revenue fairness bills advance at "crossover"](#)
- **February 6, 2020:** [Local Government Day Bulletin](#)
- **February 4, 2020:** [Positive changes made to Public Employee Collective Bargaining bills](#)
- **February 3, 2020:** **Capitol Contact ALERT** – [Call Your Legislators Now to Support Revenue Fairness Bills](#)
- **January 30, 2020:** [VACo opposes extending state-mandated exemption from local taxes for large solar projects](#)
- **January 30, 2020:** **Capitol Contact ALERT** – [Oppose unfunded and mandated collective bargaining for public employees](#)
- **January 28, 2020:** [Additional Priority Budget Amendments Introduced](#)
- **January 27, 2020:** **Capitol Contact ALERT** – [Support County authority to determine local tax incentives for large solar projects](#)
- **January 23, 2020:** [Equal taxing authority bills introduced; VACo's overarching legislative priority](#)
- **January 21, 2020:** [Budget amendments introduced at VACo's request](#)
- **January 16, 2020:** [Governor proposes significant increase in motor fuels tax as part of major overhaul of transportation system funding](#)
- **January 14, 2020:** [Workers' compensation first responder presumption legislation advances to Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee](#)
- **January 9, 2020:** [Virginia General Assembly Convenes](#)

Revenue fairness bills headed to the Governor's desk

Virginia Association of Counties Regions



[HB 785 \(Watts and Kilgore\)](#) and [SB 588 \(Hanger and Favola\)](#) passed the General Assembly on Sunday, March 8, and are headed to the Governor for final action. The bills, which incorporated related measures by Delegate Krizek and Senators Lewis, Locke, and Mason, are now identical after a compromise was negotiated in a conference committee.

Key provisions of the bill as passed by the General Assembly:

- Authorizes all Counties to levy a tax on admissions at a rate not to exceed 10 percent, with the exception of Counties in the Historic Triangle where an additional state sales and use tax is imposed.
- Authorizes all Counties to levy transient occupancy taxes at rates exceeding 2 percent. The revenue derived from rates greater than 2 percent would be spent either (1) for purposes previously authorized or (2) for rates between 2 and 5 percent, for tourism promotion (as is currently required for the Counties that secured the authority to impose taxes up to 5 percent under Virginia Code 58.1-3819). Revenue from rates greater than 5 percent could be used for general purposes.
- Authorizes all Counties to impose cigarette taxes at a rate not to exceed 40 cents per pack. This authority would take effect July 1, 2021. In the interim, the Department of Taxation is required to convene a stakeholder workgroup to make recommendations to modernize the process for collection of cigarette taxes. Cities and Towns with rates higher than 40 cents per pack would be grandfathered at the rates in effect as of January 1, 2020.
- Authorizes all Counties to impose meals taxes at a rate not to exceed 6 percent and eliminates the referendum requirement. A locality in which a meals tax referendum failed prior to July 1, 2020, would have to wait six years after the date of the failed referendum to impose the tax.
- The Division of Legislative Services is tasked with convening a workgroup of stakeholders to recommend any additional technical amendments necessary to effectuate the bill's provisions and to review the legal authorities and responsibilities of Cities and Counties and report by October 31, 2020.
- The bill's provisions (with the exception of the cigarette tax) take effect July 1, 2020.

VACo is extremely grateful for the hard work of the bill patrons and for the support of our members who contacted their legislators on behalf of additional revenue options for Counties.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Collective bargaining legislation conference report

Legislation changing provisions of the Code related to collective bargaining for public employers and employees came out of conference committee and passed the House and Senate with language preserving local option for local public employers. [HB 582 \(Guzman\)](#)/[SB 939 \(Saslaw\)](#) were substituted in conference committee with language that preserves the prohibition on striking by public employees. The legislation allows Counties, Cities, Towns, and school boards to allow their employees to engage in collective bargaining via ordinance or resolution, but still excludes constitutional officers and their employees. Any such ordinance or resolution authorizing collective bargaining would be required to provide a process for the certification and decertification of exclusive bargaining representatives. Additional language added in conference committee requires a local governing body to vote within 120 days of receipt of any certification from a majority of public employees in a collective bargaining unit whether or not to adopt an ordinance or resolution to allow for collective bargaining for said unit of employees.

As previously [reported](#), VACo opposes any effort to mandate collective bargaining for public employees, which the bill's language in its current modified form does not mandate. The legislation now awaits action from Governor Ralph Northam. Thank you to everyone who responded to our action alerts on this issue.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

Virginia Food Access and Investment Fund finally approved and funded by General Assembly

After years of effort, the Virginia Food Access Investment Fund (VFAIF) has finally been approved and funded by the General Assembly.

The VFAIF is designed to provide funding for the construction, rehabilitation, equipment upgrades, or expansion of grocery stores, small food retailers, and innovative food retail projects in underserved communities. The effort is a refreshed and revamped form of a bill Delegate Delores McQuinn and numerous other lawmakers have introduced numerous times the past several years seeking to create the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund (VGIF). While the VGIF sought exclusively to provide funding for public-private partnerships that would aid in opening and expanding grocery stores in underserved communities ("food deserts"), the VFAIF has two components, one focusing on infrastructure and one focusing on nutrition efforts.

- The VFAIF will provide funding for the construction, rehabilitation, equipment upgrades, and/or expansion of grocery stores, small food retailers, and innovative small food retail projects in underserved communities.
- On the nutrition incentive side, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will team up with public and private sector partners to increase the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) retailers who participate in the Virginia Fresh Match Incentive Program. The Incentive Program provides SNAP recipients with a \$1 to \$1 match for nutritious fruits and vegetables.

Delegate McQuinn's legislation as well as Senator Jennifer McClellan's Senate counterpart bill each saw broad support in the General Assembly. Both [HB 1509 \(McQuinn\)](#) and [SB 1073 \(McClellan\)](#) passed the House and Senate by wide margins and are now ready to be signed into law by the Governor. In the final budget proposal voted on March 12, the General Assembly agreed to fund the VFAIF with \$1,125,000 in FY 2021 and an additional \$125,000 in FY 2022.

VACo is proud to have supported this legislation and is grateful to Delegate McQuinn and Senator McClellan for all their hard work in making the VFAIF a reality.

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



Visit Alleghany County and the LOVEwork at Humpback Covered Bridge

LOVEwork at Humpback Bridge. The "L" was created with historic bricks from the area. The "O" is a gear from one of the old paper machines at MWV, representing the history of manufacturing in the area. The "V" is the natural feature created by a tree in the creek bank. The "E" was created with railroad ties representing the history of the railroad in our community. We encourage our local community and guests to visit and enjoy the beauty of our National Historic Landmark, Humpback Bridge, and the Alleghany Highlands.

Visitors are encouraged to take photos with the LOVEwork and share with loved ones on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/VirginiaisforLovers and on Twitter with the special hashtag #LOVEVA. A complete list of the LOVEwork locations is at www.Virginia.org/LOVE.

SOURCE: [Virginia is for Lovers](https://www.Virginia.org/LOVE)



Mark Your Calendars



Enter the 2020 VACo Achievement Awards



It's time for the 2020 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

[Achievement Awards submission form](#)

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic copy should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at gcharter@vaco.org.

Submissions must be received by June 1, 2020.

Last year we processed 96 entries and selected 26 winners from 21 Counties. VACo presented awards at 21 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the Annual Conference, issued a news release to statewide media and highlighted winning Counties in an Achievement Awards booklet.

The judges for the 2020 Achievement Awards will be announced soon. VACo has received more than 800 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Chesterfield County for its "Chesterfield County Police Experience Program."

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2020 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact gcharter@vaco.org with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [2019 Achievement Awards Press Release](#)
[Browse all of the 2019 Entries](#) | [2019 Achievement Awards Book](#) | [Past Achievement Award Winners](#)

Meet Our Newest VACo Associate Member



Each town, city, and county provides key services to its citizens and manages buildings, equipment, vehicles and other capital assets. This portfolio of assets and services is often overseen by departments without the benefit of an overall organizational analysis of how operations are being conducted and assets being managed.

Waypoint360 will perform this initial assessment for free and make recommendations for areas of improvement. We only benefit if the client benefits.

So how do we do this? Our leadership team brings 60+ years serving localities directly both as local government staff and, since 2010, as professional consultants serving only the public sector. We have strong relationships with local governments, state officials, and private sector vendors serving local government. We know quality and innovation and work with only the best companies in the business. Whether it's asset management, financial investment, healthcare, fleet management, insurance, or any other aspect of local government operations, we can assess an organization's effectiveness and make recommendations for improvements. Clients choose which areas they'd like to explore further, and then Waypoint360 matches up their needs with providers we recommend and endorse.

No matter how good you are, there is always room for improved success!

CONTACT

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The Value of VACo's Supervisors' Certification Program

By Bob Babyok | Supervisor | Louisa County
Supervisors' Certification Graduate | Class of 2019

My definition of Professional Certification. A person accredited by a professional organization after demonstrating the knowledge, qualifications and skills for competent performance exhibited by completion of that organization's qualified program of study.

As a recent graduate, I can attest that VACo's Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program is all those words above and much more. The quality of the structure, content and delivery of this program is of the highest relevance for any Virginia Supervisor.

Consider the following breakdown.

1. Combination of classroom interaction, reading and writing assignments derived from the most relevant thought-provoking articles and books, all aligned with the new VACo Supervisors' Manual.
2. Consider the five courses in the curriculum – The Role of Leadership; Community Planning; Budgeting; Purpose Driven Policy, Deliberation, and Decision Making; and Understanding Your Powers, Duties and Responsibilities. These subjects directly apply no matter the size or location of any County.
3. Program instructors include a cadre of local government officials – current and former County Administrators, current and former Boards of Supervisors members, and faculty members from Virginia Tech, including Professor Emeritus Michael Chandler.



Course Duration? It does take 18 months to complete this master's degree level program. It's to minimize interference with your Supervisor and community responsibilities. Also, if you have a conflict, there's flexibility for you to make up the work when that course subject repeats.

Distance to travel? The course locations alternate between Richmond and Charlottesville making it more equitable from the state perspective.

Cost? Very affordable at \$350 a course including all the materials/books and the VACo Supervisors' Manual and lunch.

Class size? It varies between 15-20 Supervisors. Some are veterans of many years while others are first timers. The hidden benefit there is the sharing of past victories, defeats, current problems, and delicate issues that are discussed during classroom time or casual conversation. This spirit of camaraderie in the frank, challenging discussions help provide some potential solutions as well as developing a fraternal like bond for future involvement and engagement. In short – we all become friends and respected resources for each other.

Another definition...What is value? Anyone who has taken this program will freely express how much it has helped them gain a broader perspective of their responsibilities and duties. All will attest that it provides a deeper insight and understanding of potential solutions. All will tell you that the reference materials are invaluable and continue to aid their future endeavors. Being a Supervisor is challenging. This program removes some of those obstacles by its multifaceted educational approach to effective and efficient governance.

I considered this course as the most important investment of my time to help enable me to better represent my constituents in fulfilling the serious oath of office I swore to uphold. I hope you, too, will entertain this opportunity to engage and gain all the benefits. Taking this program demonstrates a serious commitment to your professional development.

Feel free to contact me with any questions – rbabyokjr@yahoo.com

Become a Certified Supervisor



The Virginia Association of Counties, in partnership with Virginia Tech, offers the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program: an opportunity for county supervisors to learn how to more effectively and efficiently lead in their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, 70 supervisors representing more than 40 counties have completed this training program, earning credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective, and confidence needed to address the challenges and opportunities of the local governance experience.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program features a five-course curriculum, designed to maximize engagement and enhance scholarship. Each course begins with a six-hour topically driven, classroom session, followed by an eight-week home study experience. Course participants are assigned relevant articles and books, completing assignments drawn from these readings on a weekly basis. The final component of each course is a concluding six-hour classroom session, which includes a review of the reading and assignment material.

Managing While Leading:
Understanding Your Powers, Duties,
and Responsibilities
[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

Opening Session | May 29
Albemarle County

Closing Session | July 24
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | May 15

Funding Public Services: The Role
of Budgeting

[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

Opening Session | September 4
Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 6
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 20

Stay informed with these valuable resources from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the National Association of Counties

The screenshot shows the Virginia.gov website. The header includes the Virginia.gov logo, a search bar, and navigation links for State Government, Local Government, Agencies, and Services & Resources. The main content area is titled "Coronavirus (COVID-19) In Virginia". Below this title are two blue boxes: "About the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak" with a link to CDC.GOV, and "Updates about COVID-19 in Virginia" with a link to the Department of Health. Below these boxes are links for "Governor's Response", "Situation Updates", and "Testing Data". A video player is embedded, showing Governor Northam declaring a state of emergency, with a "Watch later" button and a "Share" button.

The screenshot shows the NACo website. The header includes the NACo logo and navigation links for WHAT WE DO, TOPICS, ADVOCACY, RESOURCES, EVENTS, NEWS, and EXPLORER. The main content area is titled "CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19): COUNTY RESPONSE EFFORTS & PRIORITIES". Below this title is a large image of a healthcare worker's hands holding a stethoscope. To the left of the image is a text box with a "COMPLETE THE SURVEY" button. To the right of the image is a "CONTACT" section with two entries: Teryn Zmuda, Deputy Chief Innovation Officer and Chief Economist, and Blaire Bryant, Associate Legislative Director. Below the survey and contact sections is a paragraph of text about the importance of public health and a link to a survey.

The Census is Here. Is Your Community Ready?



A message from VACo Partner - Voices for Virginia's Children. Contact [Lauren Snellings](#) for more information.

The 2020 Census is just around the corner. The self-response website goes live on March 12, and invitations to participate will start arriving at households across the country. It is important that each person in your community is counted in the Census. Results inform BILLIONS in funding allocated to states to support services that our communities need to thrive such as WIC & SNAP. Results also inform voting districts, and even where we plan to build schools, roads, health clinics and so much more!

This is our one chance for the next 10 years to get it right and count each person living in our community. 2020 is unique because not every household will get a paper survey. The Census Bureau is pushing to have people fill out their form online or over the phone, but remember, it only takes 10 minutes! Make sure to encourage your residents to fill it out as soon as they can, so the Census Bureau doesn't have to show up in person in May!

Our ask is small. Please share this timeline and the importance of the 2020 Census with your community & make sure to fill out your form this spring. With so much at stake, we can't afford to miss a single person.

To learn more about the importance of the Census, what populations are missed, and what you can do about it, make sure to check out Voices for Virginia's Children website vakids.org/2020-census or contact Research Director, Lauren Snellings, lauren@vakids.org, with any questions!

BUDGET Continued from page 1

The Governor's deadline for action on the budget and on bills that passed the General Assembly in the last week of the session is midnight on April 11. The General Assembly is scheduled to meet on April 22 to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes.

K-12 Education

- Subject to revenue contingency language providing that no downward revision of the biennium revenue forecast is made after the close of FY 2020, provides for 2 percent salary increases in each year for the state share of funded SOQ instructional and support positions. The state share of the salary increases would be given to school divisions that certify that increases of at least an average of 2 percent have been or will have been provided during each year of the 2020-2022 biennium, either in the first year or in the second year, or through a combination over both years. Provides \$95.2 million General Fund (GF) in FY 2021 and \$49.9 million GF in FY 2022 to the compensation adjustment proposed in the Governor's introduced budget. This is not intended as a mandate to increase salaries. ([Item 145 #21c](#))
- Provides \$8.7 million in GF in the second year to increase the at-risk add-on from 25 percent to 26 percent. This is in addition to the Governor's investment of \$50.1 million in FY 2021 and \$90 million in FY 2022. ([Item 145 #16c](#))
- Amends the Lottery Proceeds forecast to \$657.9 million in FY 2021 and \$666.1 million in FY 2022 following the prohibition of Games of Skill pursuant to [HB 881 \(Bulova\)](#) / [SB 971 \(Howell\)](#) and increases following the implementation of online lottery tickets sales pursuant to [HB 1383 \(Sickles\)](#) / [SB 922 \(Norment\)](#). Provides \$0.5 million GF in FY 2021 and \$19.7 million GF in FY 2022 and \$41.8 million Non-General Fund (NGF) in FY 2021 and \$43.8 million NGF in FY 2022. ([Item 145 #22c](#))
- Provides \$9.6 million GF in FY 2021 and \$10 million GF in FY 2022 to partially restore Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) funds to eligible school divisions (nine school divisions in Planning District 8 and nine adjacent school divisions). ([Item 145 #12c](#))
- Provides relief to school divisions with fewer than 10,000 students experiencing unexpected enrollment loss greater 2 percent over the summer between school years. Provides \$2.5 million GF in FY 2021 and \$2.1 million GF in FY 2022. ([Item 145 #15c](#))
- Provides for the state share of an increased ratio of one counselor for every 325 students for K-12 for FY 2022 and thereafter. This provides for approximately 615 additional school counselors pursuant to [HB 1508 \(McQuinn\)](#) / [SB 880 \(Locke\)](#) and is \$53.2 million GF in FY 2022 less than the Governor's original proposal for a ratio of one counselor for every 250 students. ([Item 145 #14c](#)).
- Provides \$6.7 million GF in the first year and \$14.3 million in the second year, pursuant to the passage of [HB 975 \(Guzman\)](#) / [SB 910 \(Hashmi\)](#). This will provide funding to increase the English Language Learner student-teacher ratios from 17 positions per 1,000 students to 18.5 positions per 1,000 students in fiscal year 2021, and to 20 positions per 1,000 students in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter. ([Item 145 #13c](#)).
- Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a workgroup to establish a plan to transfer the Child Care Development Fund grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services to the Virginia Department of Education by July 1, 2021. This amendment includes the same participants from the workgroup created by [HB 1012 \(Bulova\)](#) to oversee planning and implementation of a statewide unified early childhood care and education system. ([Item 137 #3c](#))
- Provides \$34,000 GF in each year to establish the Commission on School Construction and Modernization, pursuant to [SB 888 \(McClellan\)](#). ([Item 27.10 #1c](#))
- Provides \$5 million GF in each year to support mixed-delivery of pre-kindergarten pilot programs for at least 500 at-risk three- and four-year-olds. No local funding match is required for these slots. The amendment also requires pilot program applications to address how each pilot will transition to a level of state support similar to the state support provided for VPI slots. ([Item 144 #9c](#)).
- Directs the Department of Education to develop a mechanism to allocate regional alternative education program slots to participating school divisions. Allocation of the existing slots to participating divisions shall be based upon the number of students in a division requiring regional alternative education. The Department will report the planned allocation by August 1, 2021. ([Item 145 #2c](#)).
- Waives certain staffing standards for several categories of instructional positions the first year only and requires school divisions to report the extent which these flexibility provisions were utilized to waive staffing standards. This amendment partially restores waivers for the first year that had been included in the Appropriation Act since 2010 that were eliminated in the introduced budget. VACo requested restoration of this language. ([Item 145 #18c](#)).
- Modifies Lottery Proceeds funding to establish the Infrastructure and Operations Per Pupil Fund, which would provide \$263.0 million the first year and \$266.2 million the second year from the Lottery Proceeds fund to provide

BUDGET Continued from page 12

the state share of per-pupil payments of \$375.27 the first year and \$378.52 the second year, and payments to ensure that each school division receives at least a \$200,000 payment. Unlike current Lottery Proceeds funding, this language would require local matching funds based on composite index of local ability to pay (LCI) and require certain percentages be used for non-recurring and recurring costs. VACo has expressed concerns over this language. ([Item 145 #17c](#)).

Compensation and Retirement

- Provides \$837,291 GF in FY 2021 and \$993,932 GF in FY 2022 to fund the state share of costs associated with providing a retiree health insurance credit of \$1.50 per year of service to certain retired school division employees who are not teachers, pursuant to [HB 1513 \(McQuinn\)](#). ([Item 145 #8c](#))
- Provides \$3.9 million GF in FY 2021 and \$4 million GF in FY 2022 to reduce the amortization period for the retiree health care credit for state employees by five years. ([Item 477 #3c](#))
- Subject to revenue contingency language providing that no downward revision of the biennium revenue forecast is made after the close of FY 2020, funds the following compensation actions:
 - For state employees, provides a three percent bonus effective December 1, 2020, and a three percent salary increase effective June 10, 2021.
 - For Constitutional officers and their employees and state-supported local employees, provides a two percent bonus, effective December 1, 2020, and a three percent salary increase, effective July 1, 2021.
 - For sworn employees of the Department of State Police with three or more years of continuous state service, provides \$110 for each year of service up to 30 years, effective August 10, 2020, as well as a two percent salary increase effective the same date. ([Item 477 #5c](#))
- Directs the Chief Workforce Development Advisory and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to study the development of a statewide paid family and medical leave program for all employers. ([Item 111 #1c](#))
- Provides \$144,000 in each year pursuant to passage of [HB 1495 \(Torian\)](#) / [SB 54 \(Cosgrove\)](#) to allow retired law-enforcement personnel to return to work as school security officers. ([Item 477 #6c](#)).

Judiciary/Public Safety

- Provides \$3.9 million GF per year, in addition to the \$5.6 million over the biennium included in the introduced budget, to hire a total of 120 new deputy district court clerks over the biennium. The additional funding in the conference report is generated by an increase in general district court filing fees. ([Item 42 #2c](#), [Item 4-14 #1c](#))
- Continues the workgroup convened by the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security on the effects of body-worn cameras on the state's public safety and judicial agencies. ([Item 391 #3c](#))
- Provides \$8.6 million GF per year in state aid to localities with police departments ("HB 599" funding). ([Item 408 #1c](#))
- Provides \$2.5 million in FY 2021 for the Emergency Shelter Upgrade Assistance Fund ([SB 350 \(Lucas\)](#)), which provides funding to local governments in proactively preparing for emergency sheltering situations. ([Item 410 #1c](#)).
- Provides \$4.5 million GF in FY 2021 and \$1.5 million GF in FY 2022 for the Community Policing Act, which requires certain data related to motor vehicle or investigatory stops to be collected by law enforcement ([HB 1250 \(Torian\)](#)). ([Item 425 #5c](#))

Agriculture and Forestry

- Provides \$1.1 million GF in FY 2021 and \$125,000 GF in FY 2022 for the Virginia Food Access Investment Fund (VFAIF), as created by [HB 1509 \(McQuinn\)](#)/[SB 1073 \(McClellan\)](#). ([Item 97 #3c](#))

Elections

- Retains the Governor's proposal to include \$2.5 million GF per year in FY 2021 and FY 2022 to provide full reimbursement for the salaries of general registrars and electoral board members, as well as \$5.9 million GF in FY 2020 to fund costs associated with the presidential primary.
- Directs the federal Help America Vote Act funding awarded to Virginia in December 2019 to be used for replacement of the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and provides required state match. Permits the Department of Elections to consider using any leftover funds to assist localities in complying with the IT security standards established as part of 2019 legislation. Budget amendments had been introduced in the House and Senate at VACo's request to direct these funds to localities to assist with IT compliance, but were not successful. ([Item 83 #2c in caboose](#), [Item 86 #3c in biennium budget](#))

BUDGET Continued from page 13**Economic Development**

- Provides an additional \$10.5 million GF in FY 2021 for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program; reduces funding in FY 2022 by \$3 million, for a total of \$12.5 million over the biennium when added to funding levels in the introduced budget. ([Item 130 #3c](#))
- Provides \$250,000 GF per year for the Enterprise Zone Grant program in order to reduce proration of the Real Property Improvement Grant program. ([Item 115 #1c](#))
- Reverts \$12.7 million in unused FY 2018 and FY 2019 balances for competitive GO Virginia grant funds and reduces GO Virginia funding by \$4.5 million GF in FY 2022. Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to report quarterly on grant awards and expenditures from the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund. ([Item 3-1.01 #2c in the caboose](#), [Item 114 #1c](#) and [Item 114 #5c](#) in the biennium)
- Increases funding for the Industrial Revitalization Fund by \$500,000 GF per year. ([Item 114 #6c](#))
- Consolidates the Innovation Entrepreneurship Investment Authority (IEIA) and the Virginia Research Investment Council (VRIC) into one newly created entity, the Virginia Innovative Partnership Authority (VIPA), pursuant to [HB 1017/SB 576](#). Funding for VIPA includes proceeds from the sale of the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) building, including \$10.0 million from the non-general fund allocated to the Commonwealth Commercialization Fund and \$10.0 million from the non-general fund allocated to the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative. ([Item 135 #1c](#))

Broadband

- Retains Governor's proposal for additional appropriations to the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) of \$16 million GF per year, for total funding levels of \$35 million per year; sets aside additional \$275,000 per year from this appropriation for administrative costs. ([Item 114 #2c](#))
- Includes language specifying that language specifying that appropriate levels of investment from private sector partners are to be part of the criteria for making Virginia Telecommunication Initiative awards. ([Item 114 #2c](#))

Housing Trust Fund

- Reduces proposed deposit to the Housing Trust Fund by \$10 million, which would result in a total deposit of \$30 million in each year. Adds the expansion of permanent supportive housing as a priority in awarding grants from the Trust Fund. ([Item 113 #4c](#), [Item 113 #2c](#))

Aid to Local Public Libraries

- Provides \$1 million GF per year in additional aid to local public libraries. Eliminates \$500,000 per year set-aside for the Eastern Shore Public Library. ([Item 247 #1c](#))

Children's Services Act

- Removes two percent cap on growth in rates for private special education day placements in FY 2022. Moves funding for a second round of data collection for the rate study that was partially completed in 2019 from the second year of the biennium to the first year and directs the Office of Children's Services to implement statewide rate-setting, effective July 1, 2021. ([Item 292 #2c](#), [Item 293 #1c](#))

Behavioral Health

- Eliminates proposed supplemental payment to incentivize private hospitals to accept more individuals under Temporary Detention Orders (TDOs) and instead provides \$7.5 million GF per year for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to fund pilot projects to reduce census pressures on state hospitals. Provides \$150,000 GF per year for a pilot project to provide for the transportation costs of patients discharged from a state hospital. Authorizes DBHDS to accept proposals from private providers for a pilot project for acquisition of housing options for individuals ready to leave state hospitals or to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. Removes funding in the introduced budget for additional beds at Catawba Hospital; provides up to \$5 million in special funds for transition costs. ([Item 313 #34c](#), [Item 320 #5c](#), [Item 321 #3c](#), [Item 321 #2c](#), [Item 326 #1c](#))
- Funds an additional 250 Family and Individual Support Medicaid waiver slots in FY 2022. Requires DBHDS to report quarterly on the allocation of waiver slots by Community Services Board ([Item 313 #15c](#), [Item 320 #10c](#))
- Directs DBHDS to develop a plan to convert Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Centers (CITACs) to 24-hour, seven-day operations and move toward regional CITAC sites. ([Item 320 #9c](#))
- Eliminates language in the introduced budget allowing DBHDS to establish up to 20 new child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds at a state hospital if alternatives are not developed by September 1, 2020. Directs DBHDS to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters to dedicate a

BUDGET Continued from page 14

portion of future bed capacity of a 60-bed mental health hospital for use in treating children who might otherwise be admitted to the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents ([Item 321 #5c](#), [Item 320 #13c](#))

- Provides \$5.6 million GF in FY 2021 and \$11.4 million GF in FY 2022 for permanent supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness. ([Item 322 #1c](#))
- Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to review the reimbursement of services provided by local education agencies to Medicaid-eligible children, including evaluating options to allow school divisions to draw down additional federal resources. ([Item 313 #38c](#))

Social Services

- Reduces proposed funding for salary increases for staff in local departments of social services by \$3.4 million GF per year and \$3.5 million NGF per year, leaving \$2.2 million GF and \$2.2 million NGF per year to provide a pay band minimum increase in FY 2021 of 20 percent for family services positions and 15 percent for benefit program services, self-sufficiency services, and administration positions, as well as \$3.4 million GF and \$3.5 million GF per year for a 1.5 percent salary increase in FY 2021 for all positions in local departments. State-supported local employees in local departments are eligible for the FY 2021 bonus and FY 2022 salary increase discussed in the “Compensation and Retirement” section earlier. ([Item 351 #1c](#))
- Reduces funding in the introduced budget that was included to assist local departments of social services in hiring staff to create prevention departments as part of the changes to federal foster care funding included in the Family First Prevention Services Act. The conference report reduces proposed funding by approximately \$20 million GF and \$6.4 million NGF over the biennium, leaving funding of \$30 million GF and \$9.4 million NGF over the biennium. ([Item 351 #2c](#))
- Requires the Commissioner of Social Services to establish a five-year plan to prevent child abuse and neglect. ([Item 354 #7c](#))
- Directs the Department of Social Services to develop a plan to provide access statewide to a Kinship Navigator Program to help support kinship caregivers. Provides \$75,000 GF per year for the development of an emergency approval process for kinship caregivers and the development of foster home certification standards for kinship caregivers. ([Item 354 #1c](#), [Item 354 #3c](#))
- Provides \$1.5 million in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funding per year for a third round of competitive grants for community employment and training programs. ([Item 356 #2c](#))

Natural Resources

- Provides \$50 million for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF). ([Item C-70 #1c](#))
- Provides \$231,000 GF in FY 2021 and \$231,000 GF in FY 2022 for regional water resource planning activities at DEQ, pursuant to [HB 542 \(Carr\)](#). ([Item 377 #3c](#))
- Directs DEQ to convene a workgroup to review the assumptions used in estimating the effluent nutrient concentrations and trends of wastewater facilities and to identify cost-effective options to achieve wastewater nutrient load levels with reasonable assurance consistent with the needs of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). ([Item 377 #6c](#))
- Directs DEQ to assess alternative reimbursement models and reimbursement amounts for nutrient removal grants provided to projects serving a locality or localities with: (i) high fiscal stress as defined by the Composite Fiscal Stress Index; (ii) median household incomes below the Commonwealth’s average; and (iii) the capacity of ratepayers to absorb the additional costs of financing nutrient removal projects. ([Item 377 #5c](#))
- Directs DEQ to analyze current provisions of the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Act, Storm Water Management Act, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and identify any areas of inconsistency, conflict, and duplication within and among the existing administrative regulations across the three regulatory programs and assess the impact on locally administered programs for MS4 permit localities under the Virginia Stormwater Management Act. ([Item 377 #2c](#))

Transportation

- Directs the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Natural Resources to evaluate the issue of drainage outfalls originating from VDOT-maintained roads without an assigned maintaining entity and recommend cost-effective funding solutions. VACo requested this study language. ([Item 430 #3c](#))
- Provides \$47.1 million NGF in FY 2021 and \$51.4 million NGF in FY 2022 pursuant to the passage of [HB 1541 \(McQuinn\)](#) which creates the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, composed of the counties and cities located in Planning District 15, which will administer transportation funding generated through an additional regional sales and use tax and wholesale gas tax. ([Item 440 #1c](#)).

BUDGET Continued from page 15

Reserves

- Corrects amount appropriated for a voluntary deposit to the Revenue Reserve Fund to reflect a reduction in the deposit of \$74 million in FY 2020. ([Item 266 #1c in caboose](#))
- Deposits an additional \$182 million to the Revenue Reserve Fund in FY 2020, which may be used for any mandatory deposit to the Revenue Stabilization Fund if necessary. When added to the deposits proposed in the 2019 Appropriations Act and the Governor's introduced budget, a total of \$601.2 million would be deposited in the Revenue Cash Reserve. ([Item 266 #2c](#))

Other

- Directs the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of Administration to convene a workgroup to study collective bargaining for state employees and report by November 1, 2020. ([Item 264 #1c](#))
- Directs the Secretary of Finance to convene a workgroup to examine procedures and requirements necessary for entities with the authority to issue state tax-supported debt to report to the Debt Capacity Advisory Committee prior to issuing such debt. ([Item 264 #2c](#))
- Provides \$294,000 GF per year in additional support for Planning District Commissions ([Item 114 #7c](#))
- Provides \$78,000 in GF each year for the Line of Duty Act premiums to reflect the passage of [HB 169 \(Tyler\)](#) / [SB 345 \(Bell\)](#), [HB 783 \(Askew\)](#) / [SB 9 \(Saslaw\)](#), and [HB 438 \(Heretick\)](#) / [SB 561 \(Vogel\)](#), legislation related to workers' compensation.
- Provides \$418,000 in GF each year for increased Workers' Compensation Claims related to Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder to reflect passage of [HB 438 \(Heretick\)](#) / [SB 561 \(Vogel\)](#).
- Provides \$1.3 million in GF in FY 2021 and \$4.6 million in FY 2022 to fund the impact on state agencies from the increase in the minimum wage. ([Item 477 #4c](#)).

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#); [Jeremy Bennett](#); [Chris McDonald, Esq.](#); [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)



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SAVE THE DATE

Commonwealth Connect Broadband Forum

Thursday, June 4, 2020

9 am - 5 pm

Albemarle County Office Building
401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902

The forum will feature speakers from localities, broadband providers, and the Commonwealth Connect team about a range of topics to help achieve universal broadband coverage in Virginia. General sessions, breakout discussions, and ample networking opportunities will allow localities and broadband providers to connect and share best practices.

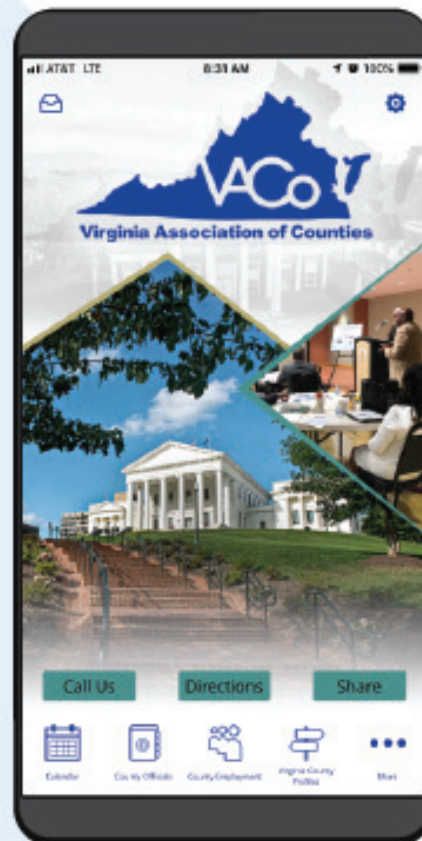
The forum is free, open to the public, and lunch will be provided. Full agenda and registration to follow. Local leaders and broadband providers are encouraged to attend.

Summit Partners

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, Center for Innovation and Technology (CIT), Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), Virginia Municipal League (VML), Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC), VCTA the Broadband Association, Virginia's Electric Cooperatives, and Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association.

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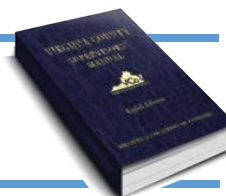


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