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# **—ALERT—**

## **Capitol Contact**

Friday, February 10, 2023

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## **Oppose Bill That Creates New Liability and Financial Remedy against Localities**

**Bill could be heard on Monday, February 13 –  
Call Your Delegates Now to Oppose**

[SB 1495 \(Surovell\)](#) provides that any person aggrieved by an enforcement action by a locality, where the enforcement action was based upon a willful disregard for applicable law, regulation, or ordinance, shall be entitled to an award of compensatory damages and to an order remanding the matter to the locality with a direction to terminate such enforcement and may be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

SB 1495 passed the Senate and has been referred to the [House Courts of Justice Committee](#) and may be heard in subcommittee on Monday, February 13.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Contact your Delegate on the [House Courts of Justice Committee](#) to vote “NO” on SB 1495.

## **KEY POINTS**

- This bill would increase the number of legal claims brought against a local government.
- SB 1495 would create a financial remedy against localities that does not currently exist.
- Passage of this bill would have a chilling effect on the ability of local governments to pursue enforcement actions for violation of ordinances.

## **KEY CONTACTS**

**HOUSE COURTS OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE:** [Bell \(Chair\)](#), [Adams, L.R. \(Vice Chair\)](#), [Kilgore](#), [Leftwich](#), [Campbell, J.L.](#), [Ransone](#), [Freitas](#), [Ballard](#), [Williams](#), [Anderson](#), [Campbell, E.H.](#), [Watts](#), [Herring](#), [Hope](#), [Bourne](#), [Simon](#), [Sullivan](#), [Delaney](#), [Scott](#), [D.L.](#), [Maldonado](#)

**VACo Contacts:** [Phyllis Errico, Esq., CAE](#), and [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)