

VACo Community, Economic, & Workforce Development Steering Committee

August 17, 2023

Update on 2023 General Assembly Actions



2023 Virginia General Assembly Review

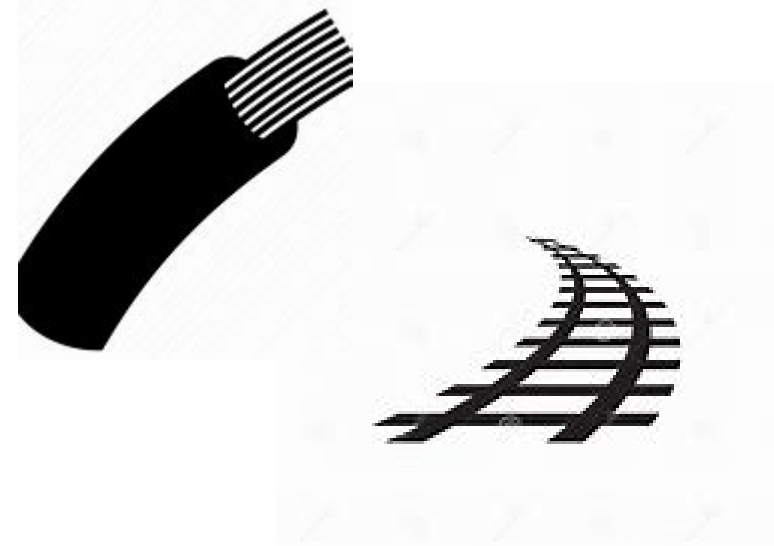
Broadband infrastructure at railroad crossings

Standardizes the process by which railroads permit the crossing of lines for the deployment of broadband infrastructure to expand access to the internet. Delays in reviews can stretch months at a time and require review fees in excess of \$20,000 per crossing.



The legislation:

- Sets a 35-day timeline to review a railroad crossing notice;
- Standardizes crossing fees; and
- Gives the SCC authority to adjudicate when parties disagree.



2023 Virginia General Assembly Review (cont.)



Virginia Business Ready Sites Acquisition Fund

Establishes an acquisition program to create and maintain portfolio of project-ready sites to promote economic development in the Commonwealth. The program includes (1) developing such sites to increase their marketability, and (2) entering into development agreements with private employers for large-scale economic development projects.

The legislation requires notice and right of first refusal provided to the locality in which a potential development site is located.

2023 Virginia General Assembly Review (cont.)

Workforce Development – Program & Policy Consolidation

Consolidates Virginia’s workforce programs and policies under the newly created “Department of Workforce Development and Advancement” and directs the Virginia Board of Workforce Development to conduct biennial evaluations of the program. The legislation also:

- Transfers administration of apprenticeship programs from the Dept of Labor and Industry (DOLI) to the new department;
- Directs State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV) to collaborate with the Department to grow and expand the Innovative Internship Fund and Program; and
- Directs the Secretary of Labor to conduct a comprehensive review of workforce programs and make recommendations to improve effectiveness and efficiency.



2023 Virginia General Assembly Review (cont.)

Virginia Residential Sites and Structures Locator Database

- Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to develop and operate a database to assist local governments in marketing land and building suitable for residential, mixed-use, or redevelopment; and
- To be included in the database the owner(s) of property must authorize the locality to market for development or redevelopment.



2023 Virginia General Assembly Review

FAILED LEGISLATION



VEDP eligibility for site development grant

Would have reduced from 100 acres to 50 acres the minimum number of contiguous acres required for a site that is not a brownfield to satisfy the acreage requirement to be considered eligible to receive a site development grant from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund by the Virginia Economic Development Authority.