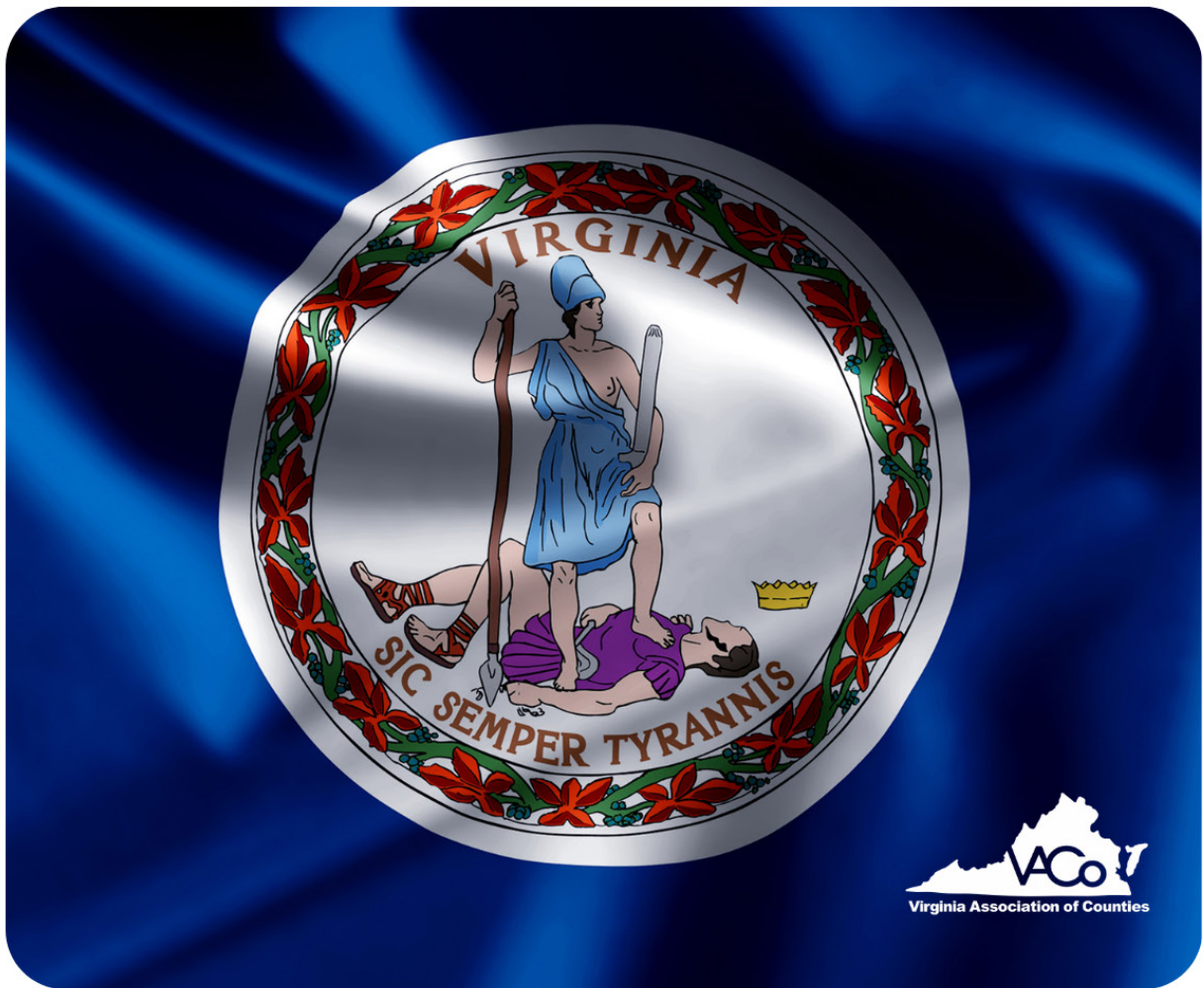


VACo LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



2024 Edition

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Vital Statistics from the 2024 Session

| | Introduced | Passed | Failed | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| House Bills | 1,547 | 736 | 664 | 126 |
| House Joint Resolutions | 428 | 383 | 21 | 0 |
| House Resolutions | 452 | 442 | 10 | 0 |
| Senate Bills | 737 | 390 | 204 | 75 |
| Senate Joint Resolutions | 246 | 228 | 7 | 0 |
| Senate Resolutions | 185 | 182 | 3 | 0 |
| General Assembly Totals | 3,595 | 2,281 | 909 | 201 |

This document was revised on May 21, 2024.

2024 Legislative Priorities

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Farm and Forestland Preservation

VACo supports increasing state allocations to the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) locality matching funds program. VACo also supports increasing allocations to the newly established Forest Sustainability Fund, created as an incentive for the establishment and maintenance of local forest land use valuation programs. Such programs preserve prime soils for food production and protect important forest land and environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth.

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 funding to counties to build the necessary telecommunications infrastructure to deploy universal affordable access to the internet for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas, and streamline the application process for Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants. Additionally, VACo supports legislation that provides additional tools for counties to finance, build and operate open access networks in partnership with commercial internet service providers. VACo also supports efforts to streamline the permitting of broadband infrastructure in the VDOT right-of-way, at railroad crossings, and within utility easements.

Affordable and Workforce Housing

VACo supports increasing federal and state funding and appropriate incentives to assist localities in fostering affordable housing, as well as workforce housing for employees such as teachers, and first responders, and for business growth.

EDUCATION

Education Funding

VACo supports full state funding for public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC), as expeditiously as possible. As long as these recommendations coincide with prevailing local practice, VACo supports targeted incentive programs, capital, and maintenance support, and teacher salaries. Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of state public education budgets or to other core services.

VACo supports additional state resources and additional statewide funding options for localities for capital and school construction costs, including expanding dedicated local sales and use tax authority first given to select counties by the General Assembly in 2019 as well as continuing to fund the School Construction Grant Program and School Construction Assistance Program.

VACo supports state incentives that encourage localities to increase teacher salaries to reflect the national average in compensation, as long as this is done without a required minimum local match. The state share of compensation for the base rate of salaries should reflect the actual average salary as determined by prevailing local practice.

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. New sources of potential energy generation should include a range of technologies such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, hydrogen, and nuclear, including small modular nuclear reactors. Such policies should allow for responsible coal and natural gas extraction, processing, and transport while protecting agricultural interests and natural resources.

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.

VACo appreciates the starting point that the discussions in the 2022 legislative session took regarding adjustments to sales taxes on food purchased for human consumption and essential personal hygiene products -- that any local revenue losses would be replaced. VACo believes that the compromise forged in the budget negotiations in 2022 protects local K-12 revenue and respectfully requests that no further changes be made that would negatively affect this important local funding source.

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. When funding for a mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full funding is restored. When legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the Commonwealth, and the legislation should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not binding on localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided.

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.

VACo supports resources necessary for behavioral health and mental health facilities to ensure the protection of residents' and staff health and safety, such as appropriate staff qualifications, training, compensation, and condition of the facilities.

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 that will ensure that all state hospitals have the capacity to receive admissions of individuals subject to temporary detention orders without delays. VACo supports competitive salaries and training for state hospital direct care staff. In addition, ongoing efforts to support community-based crisis services must continue.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Funding

VACo remains dedicated to advocating for transportation funding policies that empower counties to address their evolving infrastructure needs effectively. VACo is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure the continued growth, safety, and prosperity of Virginia's counties and their residents. For more information, see Page 25 of the 2024 VACo Legislative Program regarding VACo's transportation funding priorities.

State Budget Overview



A lengthy process of developing budget revisions for FY 2024 and a new budget for the upcoming biennium concluded on May 13 with the legislature’s overwhelming passage of new “caboose” and biennium spending bills, followed promptly by the Governor signing both bills into law. The approved spending plans removed the sales tax policy changes included in the budget passed by the legislature in March, instead directing the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy to “explore efforts to modernize the Commonwealth’s income and sales and use taxes during the 2024 interim,” to include examining long-term revenue growth and the state’s ability to sustain core government services.

Key items of interest to local governments in the approved caboose and biennium budgets include the following:

K-12 Education: Restoration of Hold-Harmless for Elimination of State Portion of Grocery Tax: Includes \$243 million over the biennium in General Fund payments provided in lieu of the K-12 dedicated sales tax on grocery and personal hygiene products that would have been collected had the state portion of the tax not been eliminated effective January 1, 2023.

K-12 Education: Support Cap: Retains current staffing standard of 24 support positions per 1,000 ADM, as funded in the budget approved in September 2023.

K-12 Education: Teacher Retirement: Includes \$150 million GF in FY 2025 for teacher retirement contributions; directs \$150 million from the Literary Fund for this purpose in FY 2026.

K-12 Education: School Capital: Authorizes the Department of Education to offer up to \$250 million in school construction loans from the Literary Fund over the biennium. Appropriates \$80 million per year to the School Construction Assistance Program from casino gaming proceeds.

K-12 Education: At-Risk Add-On: Provides \$186.7 million in FY 2025 and \$184.6 million in FY 2026 to consolidate the SOQ Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation and At-Risk Add-On programs into one At-Risk Add-On program; use federal Identified Student Percentage rates rather than federal free-lunch rates to estimate the number of At-Risk students (with a multiplier of 1.25, plus one-quarter of English learner students); distribute an 11 percent basic aid add-on per estimated at-risk student; and provide an add-on percentage ranging from 0 to 37 percent, depending on each school division's relative concentration of at-risk students.

K-12 Education: English Learners: Provides \$37.9 million in FY 2025 and \$34.2 million in FY 2026 for the state's share of additional English Learner teachers, based on student proficiency. Language allows for staffing in the first year to equate to the number of teachers required during the 2023-2024 school year, plus one-half of the additional positions that would otherwise be required.

K-12 Education: School-Based Mental Health

- Includes language directing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter into a statewide contract with one or more telehealth providers to provide mental health care to public school students and authorizing school divisions to purchase services from this contract.
- Directs the Department of Education to work with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) on a plan for a new program to deliver flexible mental health funding to school divisions.
- Includes \$15 million per year for technical assistance to school divisions for the implementation and expansion of school-based mental health services (providing for the ongoing General Fund (GF) costs of the appropriation made in the September 2023 budget) and specifies that this funding is to be used to provide grants to contract with federally qualified health centers or other health care organizations to establish school-based health clinics to provide mental health services and primary medical care to students and their families, as well as school staff.

K-12: Additional Items

- Includes \$969 million over the biennium for rebenchmarking and related technical updates, in addition to several smaller additional technical updates that total a reduction of \$1.9 million per year.
- Provides \$30.5 million in FY 2025 and \$30.7 million in FY 2026 for the state share of reading specialist positions in accordance with legislation passed in 2023. Provides an additional \$4.2 million in FY 2025 and \$2.2 million in FY 2026 in net increases for literacy screening, coaching, technical assistance, and professional development.
- Provides \$100,000 in FY 2025 to the Commission on Youth for a review of the state's special education dispute resolution system.
- Transfers \$25 million from the College Partnership Lab Schools Fund to the General Fund in the caboose budget. Does not provide new funding for College Partnership Lab Schools in the biennium budget. Reinserts language defining a college partnership laboratory school; adds language in the caboose and biennium budgets outlining a process

for ineligible institutions to partner with eligible institutions and requiring that college partnership laboratory schools reach financial sustainability by the end of their initial approval period.

- Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter into a statewide contract for assistance to school divisions with outreach and support for disengaged, chronically absent, or struggling students.
- Provides \$2.2 million per year for regional special education family support centers, professional development, and special education coaching.
- Restores \$1.9 million per year that was proposed to be eliminated in the introduced budget for the Office of School Quality.
- Provides \$300,000 per year to support the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding.
- Provides an additional \$1.75 million per year for supplemental support for Accomack and Northampton County school divisions for teacher recruitment and retention efforts.

Compensation: K-12 Instructional and Support Positions

- Provides for the state's share of a 3 percent salary increase in each year for SOQ-recognized instructional and support positions, effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025. A local match is required. The state's share will be pro-rated for divisions providing less than an average 3 percent increase, but in order to draw down the state funds, school divisions must provide at least an average 1.5 percent increase in the first year, and at least an additional average 1.5 percent increase in the second year. School divisions providing an average increase of more than 3 percent in the first year can credit the excess portion of the increase toward the second year.

Compensation: State and State-Supported Local Employees

- Provides for a 3 percent salary increase in each year of the biennium, effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025.

Judiciary/Public Safety: Compensation for Court-Appointed Counsel

Provides \$6.5 million in FY 2025 and \$13 million in FY 2026 to increase compensation for court-appointed counsel in accordance with legislation passed in 2024 ([HB 102 \(Reaser\)](#) and [SB 356 \(Perry\)](#)).

Judiciary/Public Safety: Aid to Localities with Police Departments ("HB 599"): Provides an increase of \$10 million per year in base funding for the HB 599 program.

Judiciary/Public Safety – Fire and EMS Funding: Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to assess the sufficiency of fire and emergency medical services funding in the Commonwealth. VACo is named as a participant in the stakeholder group that is directed to be convened as part of the review. Provides \$150,000 in FY 2025 for procurement of technical expertise to complete the review.

Judiciary/Public Safety – Juvenile Justice

- Extends the moratorium on additional state funds for construction or renovation of local or regional detention centers, group homes, or related facilities (with exceptions for emergency maintenance projects) until June 30, 2026.
- Directs the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to evaluate its rehabilitative programming to ensure programs align with evidence-based practices and that the Department has

sufficient staffing to support this programming.

- Directs the Office of the Executive Secretary to contract with the National Center for State Courts to study juvenile restitution practices in Virginia and provides \$75,000 in FY 2025 for this purpose.

Judiciary/Public Safety – Other Items

- Directs the Secretary of Public Safety to evaluate the establishment of statutory authority for local civilian-led units to handle calls for services related to minor traffic accidents and other duties as assigned. Budget language calls for VACo's assistance in developing the report, along with the participation of VML, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and other appropriate stakeholders.
- Authorizes the Virginia State Crime Commission to access records and facilities of state entities and political subdivisions in order to carry out its duties.
- Provides \$46,000 in FY 2025 for the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court to contract with the National Center for State Courts and collaborate with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to study existing statewide jail diversion programs and initiatives for individuals with a serious mental illness, and the feasibility of implementing an expedited process to divert individuals with a serious mental illness to court-supervised mental health treatment.
- Provides an additional \$750,000 per year to support specialty dockets.
- Captures savings from proposed closures of Department of Corrections facilities; also includes language directing the Department of Corrections to assess its use of staffing posts and facility space in light of lower inmate populations.
- Directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to convene a workgroup to make recommendations on requiring a local court-appointed special advocate program to be available in every judicial district.
- Includes \$10 million per year for the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund; bars funding from being provided to state agencies and bars grant funding for law enforcement equipment, with the exception of forensic and analytical equipment.
- Funds School Resource Officer Incentive Grants at \$23.1 million in FY 2025 and \$20.4 million in FY 2026 (a reduction of \$4.1 million in FY 2025 and \$6.8 million in FY 2026 from the September 2023 budget spending levels, which were maintained in the December 2023 introduced budget). Eliminates language that would have waived matching requirements in FY 2025.
- Provides an additional \$8.5 million over the biennium for the Victim-Witness Grant Program. Provides an additional \$2.1 million in FY 2025 and \$5.6 million in FY 2026 for sexual assault crisis centers and domestic violence programs to return grantees to FY 2023 levels. Provides \$1.5 million in FY 2025 and \$2.5 million in FY 2026 for the Victim Services Grant Program to offset expected declines in federal funding.
- Provides an additional \$2 million in FY 2025 for grants to combat hate crimes; adds language directing DCJS to disseminate information to stakeholders about the grant opportunity and allowing localities in partnerships with institutions or nonprofits that have been targets of hate crimes, or are at risk of being targets, to be eligible to apply.

Administration: Compensation Board – Constitutional Officers

- Directs the Compensation Board to report on the allocation and effectiveness of funds from 2022 to increase compensation for sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, as well as on retention for deputies with law enforcement duties compared to deputies without law enforcement duties, including information on local salary supplements.

- Provides \$752,147 in FY 2025 and \$828,042 in FY 2026 for 18 paralegal positions in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices and \$2.2 million in FY 2025 and \$2.5 million in FY 2026 for an additional 29 assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys positions.
- Allows the Compensation Board to take into account the staffing capacity of a circuit court clerk's office when determining whether or not to withhold statewide salary increases from Circuit Court Clerks who fail to take corrective action for any internal control matters identified by the Auditor of Public Accounts. Under current budget language, the Compensation Board must withhold salary increases from a Clerk in these circumstances.
- Extends the validity of subdivision plats that were unable to be recorded prior to the commencement of the 2020 judicial emergency to December 31, 2024.
- Directs a study of staffing standards for Circuit Court Clerks and provides \$400,000 in FY 2025 for a contract with the National Center for State Courts for a time study as to Clerks' duties.
- Moves \$9.4 million in projected vacancy savings in FY 2025 to a reserve fund to be used in FY 2026 to reimburse expenses incurred within established budgets for Constitutional officers if vacancy levels are reduced and vacant positions are filled.
- Provides \$159,889 per year to adjust the salaries of Constitutional officers whose localities met a population-based threshold.

Administration: Compensation Board – Jails

- Provides \$2 million in FY 2025 in opioid settlement funding for the Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund. VACo supported the creation of this Fund in 2023.
- Captures \$15 million per year (in FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026) in per diem payment savings based on inmate population reductions and projected growth in jail populations over the next biennium.
- Includes \$32,401 in FY 2025 in the introduced budget for the state's share of improvements to the Franklin County jail; adds language revising the process for review of local or regional jail capital projects to which the state provides funding.

Administration: Elections

- Redirects \$2.8 million in ARPA funds to the Department of Elections to assist localities in implementing electronic pollbooks and ballot-on-demand systems. These funds were originally provided to the Department of Social Services for Medicaid eligibility redeterminations. The Department of Elections will develop a process for distributing these funds.
- Provides three additional days for local electoral boards to certify election results after the November 2024 election and provides that a risk-limiting audit for the Presidential election will not be conducted.
- Funds a list maintenance position at the Department of Elections (\$148,991 in FY 2025 and \$161,397 in FY 2026).

Agriculture and Forestry

- Reduces the deposit to the Farmland Preservation Fund by \$437,500 each year (relative to funding levels in the budget passed in September 2023). Transfers the Office of Farmland Preservation from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to the Department of Forestry.
- Provides for an additional deposit of \$1 million to the Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund in FY 2025.

- Provides \$250,000 in FY 2026 for the Blue Catfish Processing, Flash Freezing, and Infrastructure Grant Program to level-fund the program in the second year.
- Provides \$292,525 per year for the cooperative agreement between VDACS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for technical assistance to landowners with wildlife depredation under the Wildlife Damage Cooperative Program.
- Provides \$266,130 per year from the General Fund, along with matching non-general funds, for inspectors at slaughter and meat processing facilities. Also provides \$25,000 per year for the Virginia Verified Meat certification process established in 2024 legislation.
- Provides \$2.5 million in FY 2025 for the Forest Sustainability Fund.

Agriculture and Forestry/Natural and Historic Resources – Invasive Species Management

- Includes a series of spending items providing funding for invasive species management: \$485,000 per year for VDACS; \$940,000/year for the Department of Forestry; \$250,000 per year for the Department of Conservation and Recreation; and \$775,000 per year for the Department of Wildlife Resources.
- Provides \$500,000 in FY 2025 for cyanobacteria mitigation and remediation at Lake Anna and \$150,000 in FY 2025 for the Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a study of harmful algal blooms at Smith Mountain Lake.

Economic Development: Business Sites

- Provides \$20 million per year for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program.
- Adjusts eligibility criteria for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program to allow sites of at least 50 acres to qualify (current budget language allows these sites to qualify only in certain regions), as well as sites that may be bisected by a roadway or other utility related infrastructure.

Economic Development: Inland Port

- Provides \$2.5 million in FY 2026 for the development of an inland port in the Mount Rogers Planning District.

Broadband

- Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to add layers to the state’s broadband map to reflect broadband availability on prime farmland and in rural areas.
- Includes language requiring DHCD to provide a reason for a project’s delay when reporting on Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) projects at risk for incompletion or underperformance; requires quarterly (rather than annual) performance reports on VATI grant projects.
- Provides \$10 million per year for base funding for VATI.
- Provides \$30 million in FY 2025 to supplement current VATI grant projects for “make ready” costs, with funding to be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that are at risk of incompletion by December 31, 2026.
- Outlines a process for ARPA-funded projects that are determined by DHCD to be at risk of incompletion; allows units of government to surrender projects, transfer projects, or redesign projects, among other options, in order to ensure that locations are available for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) subgrantee selection process.
- Outlines uses for BEAD funds.

Housing

- Deposits an additional \$87.5 million per year to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund.
- Directs \$5 million in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) balances to a pilot DHCD program to assist residents of manufactured home parks or nonprofits to acquire the manufactured home parks.
- Directs \$5 million from RGGI balances for a pilot program to provide down payment assistance.
- Provides an additional \$150,000 per year for the Virginia Eviction Reduction Program, which provides grant funding to local and regional eviction prevention programs.
- Provides an additional \$675,000 per year in formula grants to Continuum of Care lead agencies to enhance capacity to serve Virginians at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Community Development

- Provides an additional \$525,000 per year for planning district commission operations (to provide each PDC an additional \$25,000 per year).
- Provides an additional \$125,000 in FY 2026 to the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority for telehealth and telemedicine needs in Planning Districts 1 and 2; this action partially restores the introduced budget's action to reduce supplemental funding for the Lenowisco Planning District Commission and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission and redirect funds to the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority.
- Provides an additional \$375,000 per year for the Center for Rural Virginia.
- Requires DHCD to develop a public-facing performance dashboard for GO Virginia projects.
- Reduces funding to the Enterprise Zone grant program by \$500,000 in FY 2025 and \$1.5 million relative to the September 2023 budget; adds language allowing enterprise zone real property investment grants to be used to support the inclusion of rooftop solar or solar canopies for parking lots as a component of a real property project.
- Provides an increase of \$4 million per year for industrial site revitalization; earmarks \$1.5 million in FY 2025 for a project in Charles City County and \$2 million in FY 2026 for a project in the City of Danville. Directs use of funds to support the inclusion of solar panels or solar canopies on parking lots as a component of a real property project (this stipulation does not apply to projects in specified cities or in Charles City County).
- Directs the Department of Energy to pursue federal or other non-general funds for waste coal and garbage of bituminous coal remediation.

Child Care/Early Childhood

- Provides an additional \$456.8 million over the biennium to maintain Child Care Subsidy and Mixed Delivery slots after the expiration of federal funding. Maintains the 0.5000 cap on the Local Composite Index for the Virginia Preschool Initiative but applies historical nonparticipation rates for VPI. Consolidates all early childhood programs into one Early Childhood Care and Education section in the budget.
- Eliminates \$24 million of the proposed \$25 million included in the introduced budget for an early learning capital incentives fund. Uses the remaining \$1 million for DHCD to enter into an MOU with Reynolds Community College to establish a child care facility for state employees.
- Requires that the first \$3 million in ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars that are to be returned if not obligated by specified dates are to be redirected to the Virginia Tourism Authority; the next \$169.9 million would be redirected to the Child Care Subsidy Program. Requires school boards to obligate any ARPA-funded ventilation improvement grants by July 1, 2024

Aid to Local Public Libraries: Provides an additional \$2.5 million per year to increase state aid to local public libraries.

Finance – Bank Franchise Tax Electronic Filing System: Provides \$546,540 in FY 2024, \$488,494 in FY 2025, and \$76,348 in FY 2026 for the Department of Taxation to implement electronic filing for bank franchise tax returns, as required by legislation passed in 2023.

Finance: Local Audits

- Directs the Auditor of Public Accounts to include review of use of opioid settlement funds and compliance with Opioid Abatement Authority guidelines, procedures, and criteria as part of annual local audit specifications for local auditors.

HHR: Children’s Services Act: Includes \$48.5 million per year for the CSA forecast, as well as \$1.2 million per year in anticipated costs of services provided to children served through the kinship care and parental agreement program established in 2024 legislation.

HHR: Health

- Exempts the Office of Emergency Medical Services from making an otherwise required transfer of \$12.5 million to the General Fund in FY 2024 or FY 2025.
- Extends the Joint Subcommittee to Examine the Commonwealth’s Pandemic Response until December 1, 2024.
- Provides \$405,260 per year to create a statewide registry of sickle cell disease patients in accordance with 2024 legislation; provides \$145,000 per year to increase access to pediatric treatment for sickle cell disease; and provides \$75,000 per year to increase access to treatment for adults with sickle cell disease, with this funding intended to allow expansion of services in the Tidewater area.
- Includes \$3.2 million per year to support Community Health Worker positions in local health districts, with priority to be given to districts serving localities with the highest rates of maternal mortality.
- Provides an additional \$171,120 per year for rent costs for increases in rent costs for local health departments.
- Provides an additional \$1.3 million per year for the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority to support the Area Health Education Center Programs and health workforce responsibilities of the Authority, pursuant to legislation passed by the 2024 General Assembly.
- Includes \$500,000 for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to conduct a cost analysis of implementing pending federal Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) regulations for Virginia local water systems and pending federal Environmental Protection Agency Copper Rules for water system lead service lines.
- Directs VDH to review the financial and operational status of each program area within the agency, to include budget, fiscal, procurement, human resources, and grant management functions, and directs a quarterly review of each program area to ensure that projected spending is in line with appropriations. Also directs VDH to inventory all fees collected by the agency and report on whether the fee is sufficient to cover the costs of the activity for which it is collected and recommend an appropriate fee amount.

HHR: Behavioral Health – Community Services Board (CSB) Oversight and Compensation

- Includes \$7.5 million per year for CSB workforce initiatives, such as paid internships, scholarships, clinical supervision hours, or loan repayment.

- Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to report annually on CSBs' performance in improving consumer functioning levels. Directs DBHDS to identify documentation and reporting requirements and eliminate duplicative or conflicting requirements. Directs DBHDS to review performance measures in performance contracts with CSBs and ensure they are designed to measure outcomes for each service. Stipulates that performance contracts shall also require that any funding appropriated by the General Assembly to CSBs for staff compensation shall only be used for staff compensation, and that CSBs report annually to DBHDS on any staff compensation actions taken during the prior fiscal year. Directs DMAS to review the extent to which CSBs are billing for Medicaid-eligible services and determine if technical assistance is needed. Directs DBHDS to report annually on salaries and vacancy rates across CSBs.
- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to report on plans to implement the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model in the Commonwealth.

HHR: Behavioral Health – STEP-VA

- Directs DBHDS to report on changes to STEP-VA performance measures and benchmarks expected to be included in CSB performance contracts that will take effect July 1, 2025.
- Directs DBHDS to conduct a needs assessment for each component of STEP-VA and estimate costs for meeting the unmet needs.
- Provides \$4.5 million each year in additional funding for STEP-VA to address inflation and other needs.

HHR – Behavioral Health – Crisis Services, Temporary Detention Orders, and State Facilities

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to report on how funds appropriated during the 2023 and 2024 sessions will be expended to expand and modernize the crisis services system.
- Provides an additional \$10 million in FY 2025 for mobile crisis teams, and an increase of \$3.6 million in FY 2025 and \$4.2 million in FY 2026 for crisis co-responder programs.
- Provides an additional \$4.7 million per year to expand alternative transportation and custody to individuals under involuntary commitment orders and language combining funding for alternative transportation and alternative custody.
- Provides \$2.6 million per year for crisis training for first responders and hospital personnel.
- Provides an additional \$25 million in FY 2025 and \$2.6 million in FY 2026 for crisis receiving centers and crisis stabilization units; earmarks \$2.3 million per year for the Prince William County Youth Crisis Receiving Center. Provides an additional \$2.5 million per year for CSBs to hire additional staff for crisis stabilization units with underutilized bed capacity.
- Provides an additional \$6 million per year for discharge assistance planning to increase community capacity to serve individuals on the Extraordinary Barriers List.
- Earmarks \$1.5 million per year of the existing funding for alternative options to state hospital care for a pilot program to support the discharge of private hospital patients at risk of transfer to state hospitals, as well as earmarking \$5 million per year for alternative options for forensic patients.
- Broadens the use of funds previously provided for dementia behavioral specialists to be used for geriatric behavioral specialists, as well as broadening language associated with pilot programs for individuals with dementia who may otherwise be admitted to a state facility to allow this funding to be used for geriatric individuals.

- Provides \$7.9 million per year for salary increases for food and environmental services staff at state hospitals, as well as \$10.4 million per year for clinical staff.
- Includes approximately \$1.5 million over the biennium for partnerships between academic institutions and state hospitals and \$715,301 in FY 2025 for workforce development at state hospitals.
- Directs DBHDS to identify and develop alternative placements for youth who would otherwise be admitted to the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. This is a recommendation from JLARC's 2023 study of state psychiatric hospitals.
- Provides \$500,000 in FY 2025 for maintenance of the Central Virginia Training Center (CVTC) property. Allows the \$6 million appropriated in FY 2024 as an incentive for the sale of the CVTC property to be carried forward and reappropriated; authorizes VDOT to use up to \$200,000 in Commonwealth Transportation Funds for a cost study of building a connector road from CVTC to Route 210.

HHR – Additional Behavioral Health Items

- Provides an additional \$2.6 million per year for Early Intervention/Part C.
- Provides an additional \$3 million per year for permanent supportive housing.
- Increases funding for children's mental health services by \$1.2 million per year and provides more flexibility in use of the funds.
- Provides an additional \$1 million per year for the State Rental Assistance Program (which helps individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live independently in the community).
- Directs \$500,000 per year in state opioid settlement funding to the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth for a comprehensive youth opioid prevention effort.
- Directs the Secretary of Administration to conduct a needs assessment of implementing an opioid data analytics platform, to include a review of existing state software and data sets. If it is determined that such a platform is necessary and cost-effective, VITA and the Office of Data Governance and Analytics are authorized to pursue funding from the Opioid Abatement Authority. Allocates \$3 million in FY 2025 and \$1 million in FY 2026 from state opioid settlement funding to procure a cloud-based data analytics platform.
- Provides \$1.1 million in FY 2025 and \$210,000 in FY 2026 for high-intensity inpatient services for youth and adolescents with serious mental illness or substance use disorder who may otherwise require inpatient hospitalization, as well as \$400,000 in FY 2026 for clinical support to the Chesterfield Recovery Academy. Provides \$1 million in FY 2025 and \$500,000 in FY 2026 to support recovery high schools in Loudoun County and Virginia Beach.
- Allocates \$5.5 million in state opioid settlement funding for the purchase and distribution of opioid reversal agents and test kits and for tracking software, and earmarks \$1 million per year of these funds for the purchase and distribution of 8 milligram naloxone nasal spray; also sets aside \$400,000 in state opioid settlement funding for VDH to conduct a one-year demonstration project for wastewater surveillance for fentanyl and norfentanyl in up to three geographically diverse localities. Provides \$100,000 in opioid settlement funding in FY 2026 for VDH to purchase and distribute opioid reversal agent to local school divisions. Dedicates \$8 million per year in state opioid settlement funding to establish a public-private partnership to manufacture opioid reversal nasal spray.
- Provides an additional \$250,000 per year for grants to members of the Virginia Association of Recovery Residences; requires the Association to comply with agreements with DBHDS and authorizes DBHDS to initiate a bidding process to expand the buildout of recovery residences statewide.

- Increases funding to the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program by \$4.25 million per year; adds child and adolescent psychiatry fellows to the list of eligible practitioners, as well as certain other behavioral health providers; and adds academic medical centers as an eligible practice site.

HHR – Medicaid

- Includes approximately \$745 million over the biennium required to fund the Medicaid and children’s health insurance forecast. Provides approximately \$484 million from the General Fund over the biennium for the Virginia Health Care Fund (which is used as part of the state’s Medicaid match) to offset revenue declines; captures \$24.2 million in newly-recognized revenue from an increase to the tax on liquid nicotine, which takes effect July 1, 2024, in accordance with new language in Part 3 of the budget. Sets aside \$95 million in FY 2025 as contingency funding for higher-than-expected enrollment in Medicaid.
- Adds 3,440 Medicaid waiver slots over the biennium; phases in the additional slots on a quarterly basis, and provides a 3 percent rate increase in each year for certain developmental disability waiver services. Also provides 2 percent rate increases each year for agency- and consumer-directed personal care, respite and companion services in the home and community-based services waivers and Early Periodic Screening, and Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program.
- Directs DMAS to inventory all proposed changes to the state’s managed care contract to be included in the contract reprourement, to include any fiscal impact, and report to the money committee chairs, among others, by June 1, 2024. Modifies language in the introduced budget setting out certain requirements for the reprocured managed care contracts to require legislative approval of certain initiatives.
- Adds language defining public entities that are able to transfer funds to DMAS to cover the non-federal share of Medicaid matching dollars for supplemental payments to private acute care hospitals; this definition includes local governments.
- Provides \$1.9 million GF per year to allow local government-owned nursing facilities to draw down additional Medicaid payments.
- Sets out the methodology for inflation adjustments for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities.
- Provides \$206,889 GF in FY 2025 and \$3.1 million GF in FY 2026 for DMAS to contract with a vendor to assist in timely and accurate Medicaid eligibility determinations and redeterminations. Provides \$500,000 GF in FY 2025 for a consultant to evaluate the Medicaid eligibility determination process in Virginia. Extends the deadline for the Department of Social Services to expend ARPA funds for redetermination efforts from 12 to 17 months following the end of the federal continuous coverage requirement.
- Provides \$2.1 million GF in FY 2025 and \$4.1 million GF in FY 2026 for DMAS to contract with a vendor to handle incoming mail directed to local departments of social services, including Medicaid benefit applications and renewal notices.

HHR – Social Services

- Clarifies that local administrative costs for the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP) are to be reimbursed from the PIPP Fund; VACo worked with advocacy partners to request this clarification so that a local match would not be required for this program, which is funded by utility ratepayers.
- Provides \$844,524 GF in FY 2025 and \$2.2 million GF in FY 2026 for a centralized training academy model for local departments of social services.

- Provides \$3.5 million in FY 2025 and \$350,000 in FY 2026 to replace CommonHelp and VaCMS (the state's public-facing and internal systems used for benefits eligibility).
- Takes several actions to address concerns about structural balance in the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant, including replacing \$4 million in TANF dollars with a like amount from the General Fund for long-acting reversible contraceptives in FY 2026; replacing \$2.4 million per year in TANF dollars for Families Forward with a like amount from the General Fund; replacing \$1 million per year in TANF dollars for Resource Mothers with a like amount from the General Fund; replacing \$600,000 per year in TANF support for Early Impact Virginia with a like amount of General Fund support; replacing \$9 million from TANF for Community Employment and Training programs with a like amount of General Fund support in FY 2026, and removing TANF support for three nonprofits (Family Restoration Services in Hampton, Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, and Menchville House). Also provides an additional \$1.1 million in TANF funding for the Two-Generation/whole Family Pilot Project in FY 2026 (the introduced budget proposed to end the program after FY 2025).
- Provides approximately an additional \$8.5 million in FY 2025 and \$8.4 million in FY 2026 for kinship care initiatives, including relative maintenance payments.
- Includes \$5.4 million over the biennium for administrative costs for the new permanent summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program for children.
- Includes funding to provide background checks for all local departments of social services employees, contractors, and candidates for employment so that the federal Income Eligibility Verification System can be used to determine Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program eligibility.

Labor – Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)

- Sets an administrative fee of .05 percent of taxable wages and reduces employer tax rates accordingly; authorizes a treasury loan for administrative functions and processes that cannot be covered due to declining federal funding until revenues from the administrative fee are sufficient to support these functions.
- Authorizes a Treasury loan for the VEC for the start-up costs associated with the implementation of a paid family and medical leave program as contemplated in legislation that passed the General Assembly (but was subsequently vetoed). Directs the VEC to update its 2021 study on paid family and medical leave to assess the budgetary impacts of expanding benefits to state employees, Constitutional officers and their employees, and school division employees.

Labor – Workers Compensation

- Directs the Department of Human Resource Management to gather data from localities concerning Workers Compensation claims regarding post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters.

Natural and Historic Resources – Water Quality

- Makes a \$201 million deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund for nonpoint source pollution programs, including Agriculture BMPs and related technical assistance.
- Provides \$200 million in bond proceeds each year to advance mandated and other water treatment facility projects in support of the Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase III) and 2025 Chesapeake Bay TMDL goals. This funding was a top budget

priority for VACo. Earmarks \$400 million from surplus FY 2024 revenues (after any Constitutionally-mandated deposits and \$175 million for I-81 are set aside) to offset bond authorizations.

- Stipulates that any ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars unobligated on June 30, 2024, and returned to the State and Local Recovery Fund, after the first \$3 million (which is to be directed to the Virginia Tourism Authority) and the next \$169.9 million (which is to be used to supplement Child Care Subsidy Funding), are to be used to support the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty program.
- Allows flexibility in the use of ARPA funding for wastewater projects so that funds provided to individual facilities listed in the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty Program may be used to reimburse such facilities for costs incurred for nutrient removal and other wastewater treatment facility improvements approved by the Department of Environmental Quality as within the allowed scope of wastewater infrastructure projects.
- Eliminates language in the introduced budget which would have removed the requirement that 15 percent of mandatory Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) deposits be directed to the WQIF Reserve if the balance of the Reserve exceeds \$100.0 million. Adopted language would require the deposit to be made unless otherwise specified.
- Restores the \$1 million per year proposed to be reduced in the introduced budget for the WQIF Reserve from watercraft fuel sales taxes.
- Provides \$20 million in FY 2025 for a pay-for-outcomes pilot program for nonpoint source pollution reduction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Provides \$380,160 per year for PFAS monitoring and reporting.

Natural and Historic Resources – Other Items

- Provides \$100 million in FY 2025 for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Provides \$750,000 per year to establish a mitigation trading platform and wetland in-lieu fee mitigation program.
- Provides \$10 million in FY 2025 to establish the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank to finance climate initiatives.
- Provides \$25 million for the Coastal Storm Risk Management Project in the City of Norfolk, \$26.5 million for the proposed Bristol landfill remediation project, and \$50 million for the City of Richmond’s Combined Sewer Overflow project.
- Provides \$20 million for a grant program for capital improvements at historic sites for the semiquincentennial celebration.

Transportation – Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

- Provides \$60.2 million in FY 2025 and \$84.5 million in FY 2026 for WMATA; suspends the statutory cap on growth in the annual Virginia operating assistance for WMATA; directs WMATA to complete a comparison of its total costs and overhead costs against the cost of similar transit systems.
- Provides \$25,000 in FY 2025 for a legislative joint subcommittee to study long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding and cost-containment controls and strategies to ensure WMATA and other Northern Virginia transit systems meet the growing needs of public transit in the region.

Transportation – I-81

- Provides \$70 million in FY 2025 for the I-81 Corridor Improvement program; allows for the widening of both the northbound and southbound lanes to happen concurrently.
- Allows projects in the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program to move forward even if all of

the funding is not included for the completion of the project in the six-year improvement plan.

- Earmarks up to an additional \$175 million from revenue surpluses in FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026 for the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program (after deposits to the Rainy Day Fund and Water Quality Improvement Fund).

Transportation – Other Items

- Authorizes the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation District Commission to enter into contracts and agreements with adjacent localities and planning districts to promote commuter transit services within the region.
- Directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board to provide up to \$90 million to the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF) out of Commonwealth Transportation Fund revenues for the FY 2025-FY 2030 Six-Year Financial Plan, with no more than \$15 million to be provided in any individual year. Requires approval from the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission for use of TPOF in excess of \$20 million for any one project or \$50 million in cumulative use over the biennium.
- Provides \$77 million in FY 2025 and \$24 million in FY 2026 from the general fund for additional toll relief to eligible drivers in certain localities who earn less than \$50,000 per year.
- Provides \$7.5 million in FY 2025 for certain municipal dredging projects and modifies language specifying eligibility for funding from the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund.
- Provides \$350,000 to study the implementation of emerging technologies in aviation, and provides \$1 million from the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund in FY 2025 to support an Advanced Air Aviation Test Site.

Tax policy

- Clarifies that the Virginia Housing Opportunity Tax Credit expires at the end of 2025.
- Increases the individual taxpayer cap on the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit from \$5 million to \$7.5 million.
- Increases the tobacco products tax on liquid nicotine from \$0.066 per milliliter to \$0.11 per milliliter and incorporates language defining certain heated tobacco products as cigarettes to parallel legislation passed this session. Also provides \$403,000 in FY 2025 and \$297,000 in FY 2026 for the Department of Taxation to implement the heated tobacco products legislation.
- Restores the per-taxpayer cap of \$20,000 for the Land Preservation Tax Credit.
- Extends the sunset date for the sales and use tax exemption for certain equipment used for the extraction and processing of natural gas or oil until July 1, 2025.
- Extends provisions of 2019 legislation increasing Education Improvement Scholarship amounts for certain students and broadening the definition of disability to January 1, 2028.
- Includes language stating that in any pending or future administrative or judicial proceeding in which the validity of a tax assessment is an issue, the participation of the Department of Taxation is to be considered a collection effort; also includes language stipulating that this provision is declarative of existing law.
- Directs the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy to explore efforts to modernize the Commonwealth's income and sales and use taxes during the 2024 interim, to include evaluating existing sales and use tax exemptions; applying sales and use tax to digital goods and services, including transactions involving businesses; and evaluating efforts to increase the progressivity of the income tax, as well as long-term revenue growth to

maintain core government services.

- Clarifies that “sales tax revenues” to which certain public facilities located in certain specified localities are entitled under Va. Code § 58.1-608.3 means the revenue generated by the 2.025 percent unrestricted sales and use tax.
- Establishes a legislative workgroup to review the rate and distribution of pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering on historic horse racing at satellite facilities; directs the workgroup to assess trends in pari-mutuel pools generated by historic horse racing wagering at satellite facilities, including the corresponding distribution of revenues to localities, and make recommendations regarding future distributions of such revenues.

Reserves

- Transfers \$129.4 million in FY 2025 and \$675.7 million in FY 2026 from the Revenue Reserve Fund; sets the combined limit on balances at 20 percent.

Establishment of Independent Agencies

- Establishes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority as an independent agency.
- Establishes the Opioid Abatement Authority as an independent agency.
- Establishes the Cannabis Control Authority as an independent agency.

Summary of Legislation Affecting Counties

Unless otherwise stated, all legislation from the 2024 General Assembly Session takes effect on July 1, 2024.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

PASSED LEGISLATION

HB 62 / SB 93 Local animal cruelty registries; any locality may establish, etc., a computerized registry. *(Chief patrons: Campbell and Stanley)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 9 of Chapter 65 of Title 3.2 a section numbered 3.2-6573.1, to allow any locality to establish an animal cruelty registry for public access on the website of such locality or its local police department. The bill provides that such registry may include the names and relevant information of persons convicted of certain felony offenses for animal cruelty and that a person on such registry may request removal of his name after 15 years, provided that he has no additional felony convictions of an animal cruelty offense. The bill directs that all costs relating to a locality's animal cruelty registry shall be borne by such locality.

HB 223 / SB 11 Cruelty to animals; possession and ownership of animals. *(Chief patrons: Orrock and Favola)*

Amends § 3.2-6570 of the Code of Virginia to provide that any person convicted of felony cruelty to animals may be prohibited by the court from possession or ownership of companion or equine animals for life and any person convicted of misdemeanor cruelty to animals may be prohibited by the court from possession or ownership of such animals

for a period of up to five years. The bill also specifies that a court may order that any animal possessed or owned by such person may be disposed of by a local governing body or delivered to another person with a right of property in the animal. The bill further provides that any person who has his rights to possession or ownership of companion or equine animals prohibited pursuant to a felony conviction may petition the court where such conviction occurred for a restoration of his rights after five years from the date of conviction.

HB 299 License tax; retired police or military dogs, exemption. *(Chief patron: Ballard)*

Amends § 3.2-6528 of the Code of Virginia, to allow a locality by ordinance to exempt any dog that served as a police or law-enforcement dog or military working dog from the license tax on the ownership of dogs. Such ordinance must include a verification process for the vaccination records of such a dog.

HB 320 Pesticide control exemptions; herbicide applications by unpaid volunteers. *(Chief patron: Bulova)*

Amends § 3.2-3931 of the Code of Virginia, to exempt from the provisions of state pesticide laws and regulations any unpaid volunteer who uses any nonrestricted herbicide with the express authorization of a local political subdivision for the sole purpose of controlling invasive plants or noxious weeds on properties owned by such local political subdivision. The bill provides that such unpaid volunteers shall use such herbicide under the direct supervision of a certified commercial applicator. The local political subdivision shall provide instruction by a certified commercial applicator to the unpaid volunteer prior to application on various aspects of and surrounding the application of the herbicide as outlined in the bill.

HB 870 Sewage sludge regulations; relief from administrative requirements, adverse and unusual weather. *(Chief patron: Bulova)*

Amends § 62.1-44.19:3 of the Code of Virginia, to require the State Water Control Board, with the assistance of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Health, to adopt regulations that include procedures for addressing administrative, staging, signage, and additional on-site and alternative storage site requirements when routine and on-site storage facility capacity and holding times are anticipated to be exceeded for the purpose of protecting against the release of sewage sludge into state waters and to account for increased intensity, frequency, and duration of storm events. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Quality to form a regulatory advisory panel consisting of certain stakeholders for the purpose of assisting the Board in developing the regulations as required by the bill.

HB 892 / SB 616 Farmland Preservation, Office of; transfers Office to Dept. of Forestry. *(Chief patrons: Bulova and Pillion)*

Amends various sections of the Code to transfer from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to the Department of Forestry the Office of Farmland Preservation and its powers and duties and reporting requirements, the Virginia Farm Link Program, the Century Farm Program, and the Virginia Farmland and Forestland Preservation Fund. The bill renames the Office as the Office of Working Lands Preservation. The bill makes technical amendments to effectuate the transfer and requires the Department of Environmental Quality to report to the Department of Forestry by July 1 of each year certain enumerated information about nonpoint source nutrient credits certified in the previous year that involve land use conversion.

HB 944 / SB 129 Forest Sustainability Fund; fund allocation. *(Chief patrons: Lopez and Ruff)*
Amends § 58.1-3242.1 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that moneys from the

Forest Sustainability Fund must be allocated proportionally among localities that forgo tax revenues as a result of the use value assessment and taxation for real estate devoted for forest use. The bill specifies that no locality shall receive an allocation of more than four percent or less than one-half of one percent of available funds from the Fund.

HB 1015 Agricultural best management practices & agricultural equipment purchase tax credits; sunset date. *(Chief patron: Wilt)*

Amends §§ 58.1-337, 58.1-339.3, 58.1-436, and 58.1-439.5 of the Code of Virginia, to extend from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2030, the sunset date of the individual and corporate agricultural best management practices income tax credit and extends from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030, the sunset date of the individual and corporate income tax credit for the purchase of conservation tillage and precision agricultural application equipment.

HB 1025 Deer, bear, turkey, or elk; claiming after struck by motor vehicle. *(Chief patron: Wilt)*

Amends § 29.1-539 of the Code of Virginia, to allow any deer, bear, turkey, or elk that appears to have been killed in a collision with a motor vehicle to be claimed by and awarded to any person. Current law allows a deer or bear to only be claimed by and awarded to the driver of a motor vehicle who collides with such animal.

HB 1053 Abandoned watercraft; destruction and disposal by localities and state agencies. *(Chief patron: Knight)*

Amends § 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia, to allow localities and state agencies to apply, under certain conditions, to the Department of Wildlife Resources for an authorization to destroy and dispose of an abandoned watercraft.

HB 1377 Soybean Board; assessment from sale of soybeans. *(Chief patron: Webert)*
Amends §§ 3.2-2307 and 3.2-2312 of the

Code of Virginia, which changes the amount of the assessment for research, education, publicity, and the promotion of the sale and use of soybeans, currently at \$0.02 per bushel, to a rate of one half of one percent of the net market price per bushel.

[HB 1381](#) / [SB 704](#) Rural Virginia, Center for; renames Center the Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia. (*Chief patrons: Runion and Brankley Mulchi*)
Amends §§ 2.2-2699.3, 2.2-2720, and 3.2-3103 of the Code of Virginia, to rename the Center for Rural Virginia as the Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia.

[HB 1460](#) Virginia Verified Meat; certification, labeling of product. (*Chief patron: Webert*)
Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 34 of Title 3.2 a section numbered 3.2-3403, which prohibits any person from labeling any product as Virginia Verified Meat if it does not meet the definition of that term in the bill and allows any person not employed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to be eligible to certify Virginia Verified Meat claims if approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

[SB 297](#) Agricultural best management practices tax credit; extends sunset date. (*Chief patron: French*)
Amends §§ 58.1-339.3 and 58.1-439.5 of the Code of Virginia, to extend the sunset date of the individual and corporate agricultural best management practices tax credit from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2030.

[SB 298](#) Conservation tillage and precision agricultural application equipment; tax credit for purchase. (*Chief patron: French*)
Amends §§ 58.1-337 and 58.1-436 of the Code of Virginia, to extend the sunset date of the individual and corporate tax credit for purchase of conservation tillage and precision agricultural application equipment from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030.

[SB 412](#) Rabies clinics; animal vaccination and microchip services. (*Chief patron: Boysko*)
Amends § 3.2-6521 of the Code of Virginia, to allow rabies clinics approved by local health departments and governing bodies to offer microchipping and additional animal health vaccines at the discretion of the licensed veterinarian or veterinarians participating in the clinic. The bill requires local health departments to submit a report to the Department of Health no later than December 31 of each year that includes (i) the number and location of rabies clinics approved and (ii) the number and type of vaccinations administered, the number of microchips administered, and the number of veterinarians and veterinary technicians in attendance at each clinic to determine the type of service utilized.

[SJ 15](#) Large animal veterinarians; Board of Veterinary Medicine, et al., to study shortage. (*Chief Patron: Hackworth*)
Directs the Board of Veterinary Medicine, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, to complete a two-year study of the shortage of large animal veterinarians, with technical assistance provided by relevant stakeholders, including a member of the House of Delegates and a member of the Senate of Virginia.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

[HB 9](#) / [SB 266](#) Animal control officers; additional training. (*Chief patrons: Ennis and DeSteph*)
Would have amended § [3.2-6556](#) of the Code of Virginia, to increase the number of hours of required additional training in animal control and protection from 15 to 24 every three years for all animal control officers and deputy animal control officers employed by a locality.
(HB 9 was continued to 2025 session in House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources, SB 266 failed)

HB 47 / SB 306 Invasive plant species; requirements for retail sales. *(Chief patrons: Seibold and Azlan Salim)*

Would have amended § 10.1-104.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, requiring that for the retail sale of any invasive plant species for outdoor use on a list established by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, a retail establishment must post in a conspicuous manner on the property located in proximity to each invasive plant display signage identifying such plant as invasive, educating consumers regarding invasive plant species, and encouraging consumers to ask about alternatives. The bill would have required the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to designate the format, size, and content of such signage no later than October 1, 2024, and required 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 would have required 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. Any retail establishment that violated the provisions of the bill would be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500. **(VETOED)**

HB 1167 Local prohibition on the sale of English ivy; civil penalty. *(Chief patron: Krizek)*

Would have authorized any locality to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the sale of English ivy, with violations punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed \$50 for a first violation and not to exceed \$200 for a subsequent violation within 12 months. **(VETOED)**

SB 329 Compost and other products containing organic soil amendments infrastructure; civil penalty. *(Chief patron: Surovell)*

Would have allowed a locality by ordinance to require certain generators, as defined in the bill, of large quantities of organic waste to separate the organic waste from other solid waste and ensure that the organic waste is diverted from final disposal in a refuse disposal system. The bill would have allowed a locality to establish civil penalties for violations of such ordinance but required the locality to issue a warning to a generator that violates the ordinance prior to collecting such a civil penalty. Finally, the bill would have expressed that it is the intent of the General Assembly that new public school buildings and facilities and improvements and renovations to existing public school buildings and facilities include waste disposal infrastructure, as defined in the bill. **(VETOED)**

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PASSED LEGISLATION

[HB 59](#) Virginia Regional Industrial Facilities Act; Planning Districts 13 and 14. (Chief patron: Wright)

Amends § 15.2-6402 of the Code of Virginia by adding Planning Districts 13 (Southside) and 14 (Commonwealth Regional Council) to the list of areas where localities may create a regional industrial facility authority that contains a town and only one city or county rather than at least two cities or counties.

[HB 61](#) Enterprise zones; renewal periods. (Chief patron: Wright)

Amends § 59.1-542 of the Code of Virginia by authorizing the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, to renew enterprise zones for up to four five-year renewal periods for zones designated on or after July 1, 2005, and for up to two five-year renewal periods for zones designated before July 1, 2005. Under current law, zones designated on or after July 1, 2005, may be renewed for up to three such periods and zones designated before July 1, 2005, may be renewed for up to one such period.

[HB 233](#) / [SB 135](#) Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority; eligible site for site development grant. (Chief patrons: Campbell and Head)

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 50 contiguous acres

to be an eligible site if such site meets certain criteria provided in the bill to receive a site development grant from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund.

[HB 237](#) Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board; increases membership. (Chief patron: Austin)

Amends §§ 2.2-2485 and 2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia to modify aspects of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board by adding a fourth Secretary to the Board's membership, to be appointed by the Governor, and providing that the Secretary of Labor may be one of the Secretaries appointed to the Board. The bill also reduces the amount of matching funds required for any grant awarded from the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund by requiring such funds to be equal to at least half of the grant awarded until July 1, 2028.

[HB 478](#) / [SB 49](#) Community revitalization fund; expanding use for all localities. (Chief patrons: Coyner and Locke)

Amends § 15.2-958.5 of the Code of Virginia to expand the current provisions of law allowing for the establishment of a community revitalization fund for the purpose of preventing neighborhood deterioration to apply to all localities. Currently, only the City of Richmond is authorized to establish such a fund. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Housing Commission.

[HB 596](#) / [SB 464](#) Fisheries Innovation for Sustainable Harvest Fund; established. (Chief patrons: Askew and Stuart)

Amends §§ 28.2-208.1 and 28.2-1208 of the Code of Virginia and establishes in code the Fisheries Innovation for Sustainable Harvest Fund for the purposes of supporting and promoting the economic growth and development of Virginia's seafood economy. The Fund shall be administered by the Marine Resources Commission for the sole purpose of supporting and promoting the economic growth and development of Virginia's seafood economy while enhancing the sustainability of Virginia's marine fisheries resources through

the awarding of grants, revolving loans, or other financial tools. The bill provides that the Commercial Fishing Advisory Board shall advise the Commission on expenditures from the Fund.

[HB 619](#) / [SB 343](#) Military centered community zones; localities may establish, by ordinance, one or more zones. (*Chief patrons: Price and Rouse*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 38 of Title 58.1 an article numbered 12.1, consisting of a section numbered 58.1-3853.1, relating to local military centered community zones. Specifically, the legislation allows localities to establish, by ordinance, one or more military centered community zones, defined in the bill as a community that has a significant presence of military personnel living or working in the designated area and where such presence drives, or has the potential to drive, significant economic activity. The bill provides that a locality, or another political subdivision acting on behalf of the locality, may offer unique benefits to businesses looking to locate within a zone for the purpose of serving the needs of the military personnel, including reduction of certain fees and taxes. In addition, the bill provides that local governing bodies are authorized to enter into agreements for the payment of economic development incentive grants to such businesses. The bill also allows a governing body to provide for certain regulatory flexibility and incentives and provides that the establishment of a military centered community zone shall not preclude the area from also being designated as an enterprise zone or from receiving support under the Virginia Military Community Infrastructure Grant Program.

[HB 914](#) Local historic district; locality that establishes district may provide tax incentive. (*Chief patron: Shin*)

Amends § 15.2-2306 of the Code of Virginia. Allows a locality that establishes a local historic district to provide tax incentives, to include tax rebates to the extent allowed by the Virginia Constitution, for the conservation

and renovation of historic structures in such district.

[HB 1083](#) VA Longitudinal Data System & VA Workforce Data Trust; work group to review current capabilities. (*Chief patron: Coyner*)

Directs the Secretary of Education to convene a work group to review the current capabilities and future needs of the Virginia Longitudinal Data System and the Virginia Workforce Data Trust and, based on the results of such review, develop a work plan for improving the Virginia Longitudinal Data System.

[HB 1087](#) / [SB 627](#) College and Career Ready Virginia Program and Fund; established and created. (*Chief patrons: Coyner and Lucas*)

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to establish the College and Career Ready Virginia Fund and requires the Department of Education and the Virginia Community College System to establish the College and Career Ready Virginia Program whereby each school board is required to offer each qualified high school student in the local school division access at the high school to the dual enrollment courses that are sufficient to complete the Passport Program and the Uniform Certificate of General Studies Program at a public institution of higher education at no cost to such students. The bill establishes several enumerated duties for the Department and the System in the administration of the College and Career Ready Virginia Program, including the establishment of a work group to make recommendations no later than November 1, 2024, on the incorporation of a career and technical education program of coursework into the College and Career Ready Virginia Program.

[HB 1125](#) / [SB 217](#) Virginia Business Ready Expedited Permitting Program; created. (*Chief patrons: Carr and Locke*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-2240.2:2 to establish the Virginia Business Ready Expedited Permitting Program and directs the Virginia

Economic Development Partnership Authority to designate up to two sites and four projects for participation in the Program. Sites and projects eligible for the Program shall include only (i) sites eligible for a site development grant under the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program or (ii) projects with significant local, regional, or statewide economic impact that the governing body of the locality in which the project is located has either (a) approved following a public meeting or hearing or (b) submitted, by resolution, for consideration to be included in the Program. No more than two eligible sites or projects shall be designated as part of the Program within any locality annually. The Authority shall complete a review process within 45 days of designating a site to reduce permitting conflicts and provide relevant guidance to applicants. The bill also provides that no project shall be considered eligible to enter the Program after December 31, 2027, and requires annual reporting from the Authority. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025, and expires on June 30, 2028.

HB 1135 / SB 402 Blue catfish; DACS, et al., to review efforts to create a market. (*Chief patrons: Hodges and Stuart*)

Directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders in order to support and encourage coordination regarding efforts to create a robust and resilient market for blue catfish. The work group shall (i) review past and ongoing efforts to promote the creation of a market for blue catfish, (ii) identify and explore potential sectors for the blue catfish market, and (iii) identify any actions that the Commonwealth can take to promote and expand the market for blue catfish. The Department shall submit a report of the findings and recommendations of the work group to the Governor, the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, and relevant committees of the General Assembly no later than September 1, 2025.

HB 1357 Advanced Learning and Research, Institute for; powers and duties. (*Chief patron: Marshall*)

Amends §§ 23.1-3107, 23.1-3109, and 23.1-3118 of the Code of Virginia to require the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research to encourage and coordinate the development and delivery of noncredit courses with a focus on statewide and regional critical shortage areas and the needs of industry that include needed adult education and workforce training. The bill requires the board of trustees of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research and the Roanoke Higher Education Authority to seek opportunities to collaborate with local comprehensive community colleges to meet specialized noncredit workforce training needs identified by industry but provides that if local comprehensive community colleges are unable to meet identified industry needs, then the board of trustees may seek to collaborate with other education providers or other public or private organizations to provide, or itself may provide, specialized noncredit workforce training independent of local comprehensive community colleges. The bill's directives are subject to the availability of funding other than from general funds.

HB 1397 Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; manufactured home park, notice of sale and relocation expenses. (*Chief patron: Krizek*)

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to require a manufactured home park owner to provide notice to the Department of Housing and Community Development and each manufactured home park tenant 90 days prior to unconditionally accepting an offer to purchase a manufactured home park. The bill permits an entity of tenants to negotiate for purchase of the manufactured home park. The bill also requires the manufactured home park owner provide notice to the locality in which the manufactured home park is located if the locality delivers a proposed purchase agreement with substantially similar terms and conditions as the entity of tenants to the

manufactured home park owner. The bill provides an additional 60-day period for an entity to obtain financing for the purchase of a manufactured home park. The bill requires that its provisions be liberally construed to preserve affordable housing and expand the opportunities for owners of manufactured homes to purchase a manufactured home park. The bill provides for \$5,000 in relocation expenses for a manufactured home owner if a rental agreement is terminated due to the sale of the manufactured home park to a buyer that is going to redevelop the park and change its use. The provisions of the bill do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

HB 1457 Virginia Investment Performance Grant; economic development incentive grants. *(Chief patron: Carr)*

Amends §§ 2.2-5101 and 2.2-5102.1 of the Code of Virginia to require that, for any Virginia investment performance grant award determination that includes a job creation requirement, an eligible manufacturer or research and development service to pay an average wage, excluding fringe benefits, that is no less than the prevailing average wage for such new jobs. Under the bill, beginning July 1, 2024, (i) the aggregate amount of Virginia investment performance grants payable to all grant recipients in any fiscal year shall not exceed \$7 million and (ii) grants shall be payable in amounts up to \$5 million per eligible manufacturer or research and development service in five equal, annual installments of up to \$1 million, beginning in the first year after verification of capital investment and pledged employment. The bill also provides that eligible companies shall be eligible to receive Virginia economic development incentive grants in the first year after verification that requirements applicable to such grant are satisfied. The bill contains an enactment clause clarifying that no existing agreement entered into prior to the effective date of the bill shall be impacted by the bill.

HB 1538 Manufactured home; conversion to real property. *(Chief patron: Kilgore)*

Amends § 46.2-653.1 of the Code of Virginia to establish a process whereby a manufactured home owner who is not listed as the owner of such manufactured home on its title may detitle such manufactured home in order to convert the home to real property.

SB 17 Motor sports facilities; local incentives. *(Chief patron: Stanley)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 59.1-542.1 to allow a locality that is home to a motor sports facility, as defined in relevant law, in the Commonwealth to propose local incentives that address the economic conditions within such locality and will help stimulate real property improvements and new job creation. The bill allows a locality to establish eligibility criteria for local incentives that are different from the current criteria required by relevant law.

SB 436 Workforce Development and Advancement, Department of; changes title of Director to Commissioner. *(Chief patron: Suetterlein)*

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to change the title of the Director of the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement to the Commissioner of Workforce Development and Advancement. Additionally, the bill makes the Department, in consultation with the Governor, responsible for developing the formula for providing for 30 percent of WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds. Current law provides that the Virginia Community College System develops such formula in consultation with the Governor. The bill also makes the Office of Education and Labor Market Alignment, in consultation with the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, responsible for establishing the high-demand fields for which noncredit workforce training programs may be offered by eligible educational institutions.

SB 489 VA residential development infrastructure fund; feasibility of establishing, report. *(Chief patron: Carroll Foy)*

Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to convene a work group (including representatives from local government) to assess the feasibility of and options for establishing a Virginia residential development infrastructure fund. The bill directs the work group to submit a report of its assessment to the General Assembly no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session.

SB 496 Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board; Virginia investment performance grants. *(Chief patron: Carroll Foy)*

Amends §§ 2.2-2485, 2.2-2489, 2.2-5101, and 2.2-5102.1 of the Code of Virginia to reduce the local funding match requirement for GO Virginia grants from being equal to the grant amount to being at least equal to half of the grant amount until July 1, 2028. The bill adds the Secretary of Labor to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board. The bill also requires, for a Virginia investment performance grant award determination that includes a job creation requirement, an eligible manufacturer or research and development service to pay an average wage, excluding fringe benefits, that is no less than the prevailing average wage for such new jobs. Under the bill, beginning July 1, 2024, (i) the aggregate amount of Virginia investment performance grants payable to all grant recipients in any fiscal year shall not exceed \$7 million and (ii) grants shall be payable in amounts up to \$5 million per eligible manufacturer or research and development service in five equal, annual installments of up to \$1 million, beginning in the first year after verification of capital investment and pledged employment. The bill also provides that eligible companies shall be eligible to receive Virginia economic development incentive grants in the first year after verification that requirements applicable to such grant are satisfied. The bill contains an enactment clause clarifying that no existing agreement entered into prior to the

effective date of the bill shall be impacted by the bill.

SB 679 Enterprise zones; extension. *(Chief patron: Head)*

Amends § 59.1-542 of the Code of Virginia to provide that any enterprise zone in existence as of June 30, 2024, shall be extended for a period of four years in addition to any renewal periods currently authorized by law and authorizes the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, to renew enterprise zones for up to four five-year renewal periods for zones designated on or after July 1, 2005, and for up to two five-year renewal periods for zones designated before July 1, 2005.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 1398 Affordable housing; creates framework for localities to preserve housing. *(Chief patron: Bennett-Parker)*

Would have created a framework for localities to preserve affordable housing by exercising a right of first refusal on publicly supported housing, defined in the bill. The bill authorizes localities to implement an ordinance that requires an owner to accept a right of first refusal offer by the locality or qualified designee, defined in the bill, in order to preserve affordable housing for a period of not less than 15 years. The bill requires that any locality adopting such an ordinance to preserve affordable housing submit an annual report to the Department of Housing and Community Development by December 31. ***(VETOED)***

SB 212 Skill Game Machines - Virginia Small Business Economic Development Act; established. *(Chief patron: Rouse)*

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to establish the Virginia Small Business Economic Development Act for the purpose of providing a regulatory and registration scheme for skill game machines

in the Commonwealth. The bill authorizes and specifies the registration requirements for the distribution, operation, hosting, and play of skill game machines, as defined in the bill. The bill imposes a 25 percent tax on the gross receipts from the play of each skill game machine from each distributor and provides for the use of such tax proceeds, with most being deposited into the PreK-12 Priority Fund, established in the bill. The bill directs the Virginia Lottery Board to promulgate regulations no later than January 1, 2027, to implement the provisions of the bill and authorizes the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority to grant a provisional registration, beginning July 1, 2024, to any entity that provides a laboratory certification from a laboratory approved by the Authority that the game being distributed, operated, or placed in an establishment meets the definition and requirements of a skill game machine. Governor proposed substantive amendments to the legislation that would have effectively prohibited the location and operation of skill games throughout much of the Commonwealth. One such amendment would allow a locality to prohibit their use through an affirmative referendum vote. The legislature rejected the Governor's amendments. **(VETOED)**

[SB 597](#) Affordable housing; local zoning ordinance authority, comprehensive plan.

(Chief patron: McPike)

Would have authorized any locality in the Commonwealth to provide for an affordable housing dwelling unit program by amending the zoning ordinance of such locality. Current law restricts such authorization to counties with an urban county executive form of government or county manager plan of government and certain other localities. This bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025. **(VETOED)**

EDUCATION

PASSED LEGISLATION

HB 66 Public schools; fire drills, timing and frequency. *(Chief patron: Campbell)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-137 of the Code of Virginia to require every public school to hold fire drills during the school session in accordance with the requirements of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. Current law requires such fire drills to be conducted at least twice during the first 20 school days of each school session and at least twice more during the remainder of the school session.

HB 134 Opioids; DOE to develop education materials concerning risks. *(Chief patron: Convirs-Fowler)*

Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with such stakeholders and experts as it deems necessary or appropriate, to develop and distribute to each school board age-appropriate and evidence-based education materials concerning the risks to health and safety that are posed by opioids.

HB 419 / SB 54 Early childhood care and education system; need- and demand-based funding. *(Chief patrons: Bulova and Locke)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-289.03 of the Code of Virginia, to require, for the purpose of addressing family demand and preferences for affordable, high-quality early childhood care and education services, state general funds to be provided to support the provision of services to families for early childhood care and education, as specified in the general appropriations act. The bill requires the Department of Education to report each year by November 15 on the projected general funds needed for the upcoming two fiscal years based on cost of quality rate per child in order to (i) maintain the current number of slots at early childhood care and education programs, (ii) increase the number of slots using a projected growth report, and (iii) increase the number

of slots to fully accommodate parent demand and eliminate waitlists. The bill requires such projected general funds to be based on the annual per-child cost, determined as set forth in the bill, for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, the Mixed Delivery Program, and the Child Care Subsidy Program, the current eligibility criteria for such programs, and maximization of certain regularly recurring federal funds. The bill requires each regional entity established by the Board of Education pursuant to applicable law, each local school division, and each locality to annually indicate the number of slots needed, respectively, in the region for the Mixed Delivery Program, the local school division for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, and the locality for the Child Care Subsidy Program. The bill requires the Department of Education to (a) reallocate by July 1 any slots with available funding from the Child Care Subsidy Program and the Mixed Delivery Program, (b) make adjustments based on family preferences following the fall enrollment periods, and (c) first expend all current-year state general funds in providing funding for slots.

HB 462 / SB 474 School Construction Fund and Program; definitions. *(Chief patrons: Runion and Obenshain)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-140.1 of the Code of Virginia, to clarify that, for the purposes of eligibility to receive grants through the School Construction Fund and Program, “local school division” includes any joint or regional school established in accordance with relevant law and “public school buildings and facilities” or “public school buildings” include any building or facility used for career and technical education programs provided at any such joint or regional school.

HB 508 Child day program employees and volunteers; background checks, dissemination of information. *(Chief patron: Cohen)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-289.035 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Department of Education, upon receiving a written request

for a written certification from an individual, to provide written certification to an entity designated by the Department that provides staffing for child day programs that such individual satisfies all requirements set forth in relevant law and is eligible to serve as an employee, temporary employee, or volunteer in a child day program, among other provisions.

HB 561 Annual school safety audits; items to be reviewed. *(Chief patron: Askew)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety to include specific technology systems in the list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in required annual school safety audits.

HB 583 Public elementary school teachers; length of daily lunch breaks. *(Chief patron: Simonds)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-291.1 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Department of Education to annually collect and present in the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions school-level and division-level data on the share of teachers that are provided each working day a lunch break of at least 30 minutes in length and unencumbered by any teaching or supervisory duties.

HB 599 School boards; unexpended local funds, capital reserve fund permitted. *(Chief patron: Simonds)*

Amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-100 and 22.1-100.1 of the Code of Virginia, to permit any school board, with the concurrence of the local governing body, to establish a capital reserve fund as a savings account into which it exclusively deposits the local operating funds that remain unexpended at the end of the year for future school division capital expenditures at no additional cost to local taxpayers, subject to certain conditions enumerated in the bill.

HB 603 Public elementary and secondary schools; programs of instruction on mental health education. *(Chief patron: Price)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-207 of the Code

of Virginia, to require health instruction provided to elementary and secondary school students to include certain topics relating to mental health that are enumerated in the bill, including (i) general themes of social and emotional learning, including self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness; (ii) signs and symptoms of common mental health challenges; and (iii) mental health wellness and healthy strategies for coping with stress and negative feelings, including conflict resolution skills.

HB 625 / SB 608 Community Schools, Office of; established within Department of Education, etc. *(Chief patrons: Rasoul and Aird)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-199.7 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Department of Education to establish the Office of Community Schools as an office within the Department for the purpose of supporting the development and growth of community schools throughout the Commonwealth in accordance with the Virginia Community School Framework by collaborating with the interagency task force established pursuant to subsection A; administering state funds provided to school divisions to develop and sustain community school models; assisting school leaders in the application for federal grant funds for their community school models; and providing technical assistance to school personnel and contracted coordinators regarding effective practices and models for community schools and capital considerations relating to community schools, including site acquisition and building construction, renovations, and additions.

HB 632 / SB 352 Teachers; changes to provisions relating to licensure and certification, reciprocity. *(Chief patrons: Rasoul and Peake)*

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-298.1, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, to establish universal licensure by reciprocity as a category of teacher licensure in the Commonwealth for teachers who hold a valid out-of-state teaching license with full

credentials and without deficiencies that has been in force and in use by the individual as an employed teacher in a non-virtual classroom setting at a public or private elementary or secondary school for at least three years prior to and is in force at the time of application and meet other provisions set forth in the bill. The bill also permits the division superintendent rather than the Board of Education, as in current law, to issue a career and technical education teacher a provisional license to allow time for the teacher to attain the industry certification credential required by law. Finally, the bill directs the Department of Education to compile, publicly post on its website, and update as necessary, data on teacher licensure standards and requirements for each state for the purposes of facilitating the determination of the compatibility of out-of-state teacher licenses with requirements for teacher licensure and licensure by reciprocity in the Commonwealth and increasing transparency of such licensure requirements.

[HB 647](#) / [SB 624](#) Public education; student literacy measures. (*Chief patrons: Coyner and Lucas*)

Amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-1, 22.1-253.13:1, and 22.1-253.13:6, as they shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, to clarify several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act (the Act), enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly and effective with the 2024-2025 school year, including (i) clarifying that the term “evidence-based literacy instruction” does not include practices that instruct students to gain meaning from print through the use of (a) three-cueing, which includes semantic, syntactic, and graphophonic cues; (b) meaning, structure, and visual cues; or (c) visual memory for word recognition; (ii) removing the option to use a literacy screener approved by the Department of Education for certain purposes enumerated in the Act; (iii) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade

five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research; and (iv) requiring each divisionwide literacy plan to address how the local school board will align (a) core reading and literacy curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade five and (b) screening, supplemental instruction, and interventions for students in kindergarten through grade eight with evidence-based literacy instruction practices aligned with science-based reading research.

[HB 731](#) Teachers; renewable licenses, requirements, assessments. (*Chief patron: Sewell*)

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-298.1, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, to require the Board of Education to eliminate the requirement for any individual to take and receive a passing score on the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment as a condition of the initial award or renewal of a renewable license as a teacher in the Commonwealth.

[HB 732](#) / [SB 726](#) Public schools; opioid antagonist administration, etc. (*Chief patrons: Sewell and Pillion*)

Amends and reenacts § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia and amends the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 22.1-206.01 and 22.1-274.4:1, to require each local school board to develop, in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Department of Health in collaboration with the Department of Education, plans, policies, and procedures for (i) providing at each public secondary school that includes grades nine through 12 a program of instruction on opioid overdose prevention and reversal and for encouraging each student to complete such program of instruction prior to graduation; (ii) the procurement, placement, and maintenance in each public elementary

and secondary school of a supply of opioid antagonists in an amount equivalent to at least two unexpired doses for the purposes of opioid overdose reversal; (iii) the possession and administration of an opioid antagonist by any employee of the school board who is authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of an opioid antagonist, including policies (a) requiring each public elementary and secondary school to ensure that at least one employee is authorized by a prescriber and trained and certified in the administration of an opioid antagonist, (b) for partnering with a program administered or approved by the Department of Health to provide such training and certification, and (c) for maintaining records of each such trained and certified employee, among other provisions.

HB 777 Students, certain; enrollment and provision of free public education. (*Chief patron: Callsen*)

Amends §§ 22.1-3 and 22.1-3.4 of the Code of Virginia to provide that in the event that a student in a kinship care arrangement moves into a different school division during the school year as a result of safely returning home, being emancipated, or transitioning to a new kinship care arrangement, such student shall be deemed to continue to reside in the previous school division of residence for the remainder of the school year for the purpose of tuition-free enrollment and attendance. The bill also provides that certain provisions of law relating to continuity of public school enrollment and attendance for students in foster care apply to a student who has transitioned out of foster care and whose custody has been transferred to the student's parent or prior legal guardian or who has been emancipated.

HB 937 Innovative alternative school transportation; school boards to implement low/no-cost alternatives. (*Chief patron: LeVere Bolling*)
States that the intent of the General

Assembly is that school boards encourage the implementation of innovative low-cost or no-cost alternatives to transporting students to and from school on school buses, including organizing or otherwise facilitating, encouraging, or supporting biking or walking school buses whereby groups of students ride bicycles or walk to and from school.

HB 1075 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Virginia Program; established, report, sunset date. (*Chief patron: Coyner*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 28, to establish Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Virginia Program for the purpose of promoting a comprehensive statewide initiative for encouraging preschool-age children to develop a love of reading and learning whereby one reading selection, as defined in the bill, is provided per month to each registered child from birth to age five in each participating county at no cost to the family of such child. The bill requires the Program to contribute to local programs a 50 percent match of funds, if available, required of such local programs participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in the Commonwealth. The bill requires a nonprofit entity dedicated to statewide early literacy advocacy to serve as the program administrator and be responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of the Program. The bill sunsets on January 1, 2029.

HB 1076 / SB 435 Education, Board of; through-year growth assessment system, alternatives during 2024-2026. (*Chief patrons: Rasoul and Suetterlein*)

Requires the Board of Education to permit school boards to administer, during the 2024-2026 school years, assessments as alternatives to the through-year growth assessment system established by the Board, provided that any such alternative assessment is aligned to the Standards of Learning.

HB 1089 / SB 220 Special education and related services; definitions, utilization of Virginia IEP. (*Chief patrons: Coyner and Favola*)

Amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-213, 22.1-214.4, 22.1-253.13:2, as it shall become effective, 22.1-253.13:4, 22.1-253.13:5, as it shall become effective, 22.1-289, and 23.1-902.1, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 22.1-214.5 and 22.1-214.6, to make several changes relating to special education and related services for children with disabilities in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth, including requiring (i) the Department of Education to (a) develop, establish, review and update as necessary at least once every five years, and make available to each local school board an IEP writing, facilitation, tracking, and transfer system to be referred to as the Virginia IEP that includes, at a minimum, an IEP template component and a data system component and (b) develop and publish a data dashboard for the annual public reporting of state-level, division-level, and school-level special education data; (ii) each local school board to designate a faculty member to serve as a special education parent/family liaison to be a resource to parents and families to understand and engage in the referral, evaluation, reevaluation, and eligibility process if they suspect that their child has a disability and in the IEP process; and (iii) the Parent Training and Information Center in the Commonwealth designated pursuant to relevant federal law to establish special education family support centers in eight distinct regions of the Commonwealth that shall each be staffed by a regional special education family liaison employed by such center, coordinate with the designated special education parent/family liaisons in the local school divisions in the region, develop and implement outreach and support to parents of children with disabilities in its region, and track and report to the State Parent Ombudsman for Special Education data on questions and concerns raised by parents.

HB 1247 / SB 272 Public school funding; ratios of instructional positions to English language learner students. (*Chief patrons: Maldonado and Hashmi*)

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-253.13:2, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, to require state funding to be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act to support ratios of instructional positions to English language learner students based on each such student's English proficiency level, as established in the general appropriation act.

HB 1277 Child care; background checks. (*Chief patron: Laufer*)

Amends and reenacts § 22.1-289.035 of the Code of Virginia, to allow applicants for employment and applicants to serve as volunteers to work in certain child day centers, family day homes, and family day systems pending the results of a full background check, provided that (i) the applicant has received qualifying results on a fingerprint-based background check through the Central Criminal Records Exchange or the Federal Bureau of Investigation and (ii) the applicant is supervised at all times by a person who received a qualifying result on a full background check within the past five years.

HB 1345 / SB 199 High school graduation requirements; satisfaction of elective course credits. (*Chief patrons: Anthony and Diggs*)

Amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-253.13:1, as it shall become effective, and 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Board of Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, Career and Technical Education directors, and industry partners, to develop and maintain a current, comprehensive, and uniform list of industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for certain units of credit required for graduation, including such credentials that are accepted as substitutes for electives credits and credentials completed outside of regular school hours, among other provisions.

HB 1362 School bus video-monitoring system; citations. *(Chief patron: Maldonado)*
Amends and reenacts § 46.2-844 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit a contract between a private vendor and a school division for the operation of school bus video-monitoring systems to capture passing stopped school bus violations from requiring a minimum quota of violations captured or citations issued for the video-monitoring system to be deployed.

HB 1451 Standards of Learning; assessments, eligibility for expedited retakes. *(Chief patron: Phillips)*
Requires the Board of Education to develop policies establishing that any student in grades three through 12 who scores in the 375 to 399 range on a Standards of Learning assessment shall be eligible to retake such assessment on an expedited basis and requires any student who is eligible to retake such assessment on an expedited basis to be offered intervention services after the student retakes the assessment.

HB 1477 Student instruction; local alternative instructional time models permitted. *(Chief patron: Rasoul)*
Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-200.3, to require the Board of Education to provide local school boards maximum flexibility to waive existing instructional clock hour requirements by developing alternative instructional time models in accordance with the Board's regulations and guidelines relating to instructional time waivers, among other provisions.

SB 5 STEM+C Competition Team Grant Program; created. *(Chief patron: Stanley)*
Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 28, to establish the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Computing (STEM+C) Competition Team Grant Program to encourage interest in STEM+C-related subject areas and support STEM+C-related extracurricular team-

building activities in public schools in the Commonwealth by providing grants for use in establishing or supporting STEM+C competition teams.

SB 142 Public school teachers; licensure requirements, issuance of a one-year local eligibility license. *(Chief patron: Ruff)*
Amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-298.1, as it shall become effective, and 22.1-299 of the Code of Virginia to require the Board of Education to include in its teacher licensure regulations provisions authorizing each school board, upon recommendation of the division superintendent or the school board and in accordance with the criteria set forth in the bill, to issue a one-year, nonrenewable local eligibility license that is only valid within the issuing school division to any individual who (i) received a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, (ii) has experience or training in a subject or content area as the school board and division superintendent may deem appropriate for the applicable teaching position or endorsement area, and (iii) is not seeking to provide instruction in special education or eligible for collegiate professional or postgraduate professional licensure, among other provisions.

SB 283 Free school meals; work group to study offering to students statewide. *(Chief patron: Roem)*
Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, to convene a stakeholder work group to study the estimated impact of offering free school meals to students statewide, identify options for reducing or eliminating student and school meal debt, and make recommendations on options for leveraging other programs funded at the state and federal levels for the provision of student school meals. The bill requires the work group to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding by November 1, 2024.

SB 572 School buses; increases maximum width of vehicles. (*Chief patron: Obenshain*)
Amends and reenacts § 46.2-1105 of the Code of Virginia, to increase from 100 inches to 102 inches the maximum total outside width permitted for school buses.

SB 707 Public middle schools and high schools; career and technical education organizations permitted. (*Chief patron: Subramanyam*)
Amends and reenacts § 22.1-227.1 of the Code of Virginia, to permit 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.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 187 / SB 104 Teachers; process and timeline for increasing salary. (*Chief patrons: Clark and Lucas*)
Would have required the Governor's introduced budget bills for the 2025, 2026, and 2027 Regular Sessions of the General Assembly to propose funding for, and state funding to be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act enacted during any regular or special session of the General Assembly during 2025, 2026, or 2027 to fund, the Commonwealth's share of compensation supplement incentives for Standards of Quality-funded instructional and support positions sufficient to increase the average teacher salary in the Commonwealth to at least the national average teacher salary by the end of the 2026–2028 biennium and established a detailed timeline and process for satisfying such requirement. **(VETOED)**

HB 359 Public School Funding; nonpersonal cost categories, federal fund method methodology. (*Chief patron: Simonds*).
Would have required the Department of Education, (i) in calculating nonpersonal costs in the Standards of Quality funding formula,

to include the costs associated with leased facilities and work-related employee travel and (ii) 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. The bill also would have required support services positions, which includes positions in each local school division that the school board deems necessary for the efficient and cost-effective operation and maintenance of its public schools, to be funded based on a calculation of prevailing costs and prohibits 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 local school division. **(Continued to the 2025 session in House Appropriations)**

HB 624 / SB 105 English language learner students; ratios of instructional positions, At-Risk Program established. (*Chief patrons: Rasoul and Lucas*)
Would have renamed the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund as the National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund, expanded eligibility for incentive grant awards from such Fund pursuant to such Program from solely teachers who have obtained national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to all public school staff who are candidates for initial national certification or maintenance of national certification to cover certain costs of obtaining or maintaining such certification and all public school staff who have successfully obtained or maintained such certification, and permitted certain teachers to apply for additional incentive grants pursuant to such Program and Fund. The bill also would have established the At-Risk Program for the purpose of supporting programs and services for students who are educationally

at risk, including prevention, intervention, or remediation activities required pursuant to relevant law, teacher recruitment programs and initiatives, programs for English language learners, the hiring of additional school counselors and other support staff, and other programs relating to increasing the success of disadvantaged students in completing a high school degree and providing opportunities to encourage further education and training. The bill also contained provisions relating to certain funding requirements for the At-Risk Program. Finally, the bill would have required state funding to be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act to support ratios of instructional positions to English language learner students based on each such student's English proficiency level, as established in the general appropriation act. **(VETOED)**

HB 667 Virginia Education Success Account Program; established, report. *(Chief patron: Freitas)*

Would have permitted the parents of qualified students, defined in the bill, to apply for a one-year, renewable Virginia Education Success Account that consists of an amount that is equivalent to a certain percentage of all applicable annual Standards of Quality per pupil state funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the school division in which the qualified student resides, including the per pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid and any per pupil share of state special education funding for which the qualified student is eligible. The bill would have permitted the parent of the qualified student to use the moneys in such account for certain qualified expenses of the qualified student, including tuition, deposits, fees, and required textbooks at a private elementary school or secondary school that is located in the Commonwealth, among other provisions.

HB 805 / SB 14 Sales and use tax, local; additional tax authorized in counties & cities to support schools. *(Chief patrons: Rasoul and McPike)*

Would have amended and reenacted §§ 58.1-602, 58.1-605, 58.1-605.1, and 58.1-606.1 of the Code of Virginia, to authorize 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 capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools if such levy is approved in a voter referendum. The bill would have 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 71](#) / [SB 372](#) Combined sewer overflow outfalls; compliance with regulations, Chesapeake Bay Watershed. (*Chief patrons: Bulova and Ebbin*)

Amends § 3 and 4 of Chapter 826 and §§ 3 and 4 of Chapter 827 of the Acts of Assembly of 2017 to extend from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026, the date by which certain combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls that discharge into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed must be in compliance with Virginia law, the federal Clean Water Act, and the Presumption Approach described in the EPA CSO Control Policy, unless a higher level of control is necessary to comply with a total maximum daily load.

[HB 85](#) Mineral mining and processing; use of cyanide or a cyanide compound prohibited. (*Chief patron: Simonds*)

Amends § 45.2-1105 of the Code of Virginia to prohibit any miner or other person from using cyanide or a cyanide compound in any mineral mining or processing operation.

[HB 106](#) / [SB 253](#) Shared solar programs; amends existing program provisions to apply to Dominion Energy Virginia. (*Chief patrons: Sullivan and Surovell*)

Amends § 56-594.3 of the Code of Virginia to amend the existing shared solar program provisions applicable to Dominion Energy Virginia. The bill provides that a customer's net bill for participation in the shared solar program means the resulting amount a customer must pay the utility after the bill credit, defined in relevant law, is deducted from the customer's monthly gross utility bill. The bill divides the shared solar program into

two parts, the first of which has an aggregate capacity of 200 megawatts. The bill provides that upon a determination that at least 90 percent of the megawatts of the aggregate capacity of part one of such program has been subscribed, as defined in the bill, and that project construction is substantially complete, the State Corporation Commission shall approve up to an additional 150 megawatts of capacity as part two of such program, 75 megawatts of which shall serve no more than 51 percent low-income customers, as defined in relevant law. The bill directs the Commission to initiate a proceeding to recalculate the minimum bill within 30 days of a final order in a proceeding establishing the value of a solar renewable energy certificate as required by relevant law. The bill specifies that the Commission shall update its shared solar program consistent with the requirements of the bill by March 1, 2025, and shall require each utility to file any associated tariffs, agreements, or forms necessary for implementing the program by December 1, 2025. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Energy to convene a stakeholder work group to determine the amounts and forms of certain project incentives and to submit a written report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Labor and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor no later than November 30, 2024.

[HB 108](#) / [SB 255](#) Shared solar programs; SCC to establish by regulation, etc. (*Chief patrons: Sullivan and Surovell*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-594.4 to require the State Corporation Commission to establish by regulation a shared solar program, as defined in the bill, through which customers of American Electric Power may purchase electric power through a subscription in a shared solar facility, as defined in the bill. The bill requires the Commission to establish a minimum bill, which shall include the costs of all utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service and administrative

costs of the shared solar program, taking into account certain considerations. The bill directs the Commission to initiate a proceeding to recalculate such minimum bill within 30 days of its final order in a proceeding establishing the value of a solar renewable energy certificate as required by relevant law. The bill specifies that the Commission shall establish the shared solar program consistent with the requirements of the bill by January 1, 2025, and shall require each utility to file any associated tariffs, agreements, or forms necessary for implementing the program by July 1, 2025. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Energy to convene a stakeholder work group to determine the amounts and forms of certain project incentives and to submit a written report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Labor and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor no later than November 30, 2024.

[HB 122](#) / [SB 580](#) Environmental Quality, Department of; review and authorization of small renewable energy projects (solar and wind) projects, hearing and appeal. (Chief patrons: Sullivan and Deeds)

Amends § 10.1-1197.7 of the Code of Virginia to allow any interested party seeking judicial review for the final decision of the Department of Environmental Quality for small renewable energy projects (solar and wind permit-by-rule or PBR) to seek judicial review of such decision by filing an action in the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond with 30 days after such decision in accordance with the Administrative Process Act. The bill requires the court to hear and decide such action as soon as practicable after the date of filing.

[HB 151](#) / [SB 245](#) Energy, Department of; building standards for certain local buildings.

(Chief patrons: Helmer and McPike)

Amends § 15.2-1804.1 of the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Energy, upon request, to provide technical assistance to localities, subject to available budgetary resources, as localities implement mandates

related to onsite renewable energy generation, energy storage, and resilience standards for construction or renovation of certain public buildings. The bill also makes several technical and clarifying changes to the existing statute, in part by defining or redefining existing terms found in the statute.

[HB 199](#) / [SB 25](#) Virginia Brownfield and Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund and Program; allocation of funds. (Chief patrons: Krizek and Hackworth)

Amends § 45.2-1725 of the Code of Virginia to remove the prohibition on the allocation of funds to the Virginia Brownfield and Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund and Program unless federal funds are available in an amount that would cover the entire cost of such an allocation.

[HB 220](#) Water facilities; staffing of licensed operators. (Chief patron: Orrock)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-172.1 and by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 a section numbered 62.1-44.19:3.5 to require sewage treatment works, classified waterworks, and classified water treatment facilities to employ a licensed operator. The bill establishes a protocol for responding to an unexpected vacancy of the licensed operator position. The bill also permits remote monitoring of the facility by the licensed operator upon a demonstration of sufficient technology for the remote operator to adequately monitor the waterworks or treatment facility and manage onsite operators.

[HB 258](#) Nonjudicial sale of tax delinquent real properties; unimproved properties w/in urban redevelopment. (Chief patron: Simonds)

Amends § 58.1-3975 of the Code of Virginia to allow the nonjudicial sale of tax delinquent property 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.

HB 275 Public utilities; delay of termination of service for certain residential customers, report. *(Chief patron: Helmer)*

Requires the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to conduct a proceeding to establish limitations on the authority of public utilities and cooperatives that provide electric, gas, or water or wastewater services to terminate service to any residential customer who provides certification that the customer has a serious medical condition or the customer resides with a family member with a serious medical condition. The bill directs the Commission to adopt regulations to implement such limitations after consulting with certain stakeholders. The bill requires the SCC to submit a report by November 1, 2026, and every three years thereafter, on the effectiveness of the serious medical condition policy after implementation of the regulations and include any suggested changes to such policy for residential utility and cooperative customers.

HB 281 / SB 13 Child day programs; use of office buildings, waiver of zoning requirements. *(Chief patrons: Reaser and Favola)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2292.2 to permit any locality to by ordinance provide for the waiver of any requirements for zoning permits for the operation of a child day program in an office building, as defined by the bill, provided that such facility satisfies the requirements for state licensure as a child day program.

HB 287 / SB 184 Geology; expands definition of the practice of geology. *(Chief patrons: Wiley and Rouse)*

Amends § 54.1-2200 of the Code of Virginia to expand the definition of the practice of geology to include the performance of any professional service or work wherein the principles and methods of geology are applied, including (i) investigating, evaluating, and consulting; (ii) geological mapping; (iii) describing the natural processes that act upon the earth's materials; (iv) predicting the probable occurrence of

natural processes; and (v) inspecting, planning, and performing and supervising geological work in order to enhance and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment. The bill also defines "geological mapping." The bill contains technical amendments.

HB 309 Forestland and Urban Tree Canopy Conservation Plan; Department of Forestry to establish. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-1103.1 to require the Department of Forestry, in coordination with a technical advisory committee composed of stakeholders, to develop a Forestland and Urban Tree Canopy Conservation Plan no later than November 1, 2026, and update such plan every five years thereafter. The bill requires the Department to post and maintain on its website the most recent version of the Plan and submit the Plan to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources no later than November 30, 2026, and November 30 every five years thereafter.

HB 368 / SB 195 Uniform Statewide Building Code; Board of HCD to convene advisory group to evaluate. *(Chief patrons: McClure and VanValkenburg)*

Directs the Board of Housing and Community Development (the Board) to convene a stakeholder advisory group to evaluate and recommend revisions to the Uniform Statewide Building Code to permit Group R-2 occupancies to be served by a single exit, provided that the building has not more than six stories above grade plane. The bill requires the stakeholder advisory group to submit its findings and recommendations to the Board and to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

[HB 459](#) / [SB 121](#) Trees; conservation during land development process in certain localities. (*Chief patrons: Sullivan and Subramanyam*)

Amends § 15.2-961.1 of the Code of Virginia to expand the authority of certain localities to adopt an ordinance providing for the planting and replacement of trees during the development process by allowing a tree canopy fund that currently applies to the planting of trees on public property to include maintenance of trees on public property and planting and maintenance of trees on private property. The bill removes a provision that requires that any funds collected for the purposes of the tree canopy fund be returned to the original contributor if not spent within five years but maintains the requirement that such funds be spent within five years. The bill also includes an expansion of the canopy credit.

[HB 467](#) / [SB 354](#) Real estate contract disclosures, certain; establishment by localities prohibited. *Chief patrons: Simon and Locke*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-983.1 to prohibit localities from establishing or enforcing a mandatory disclosure requirement for a real estate licensee, any party to a contract for the sale or listing of residential real property, or any authorized agent of such party. The bill provides that prohibited mandatory disclosures include mandatory notifications in contracts, contract amendments or addenda, advertising, other promotional materials, and subsequent deeds after the initial deed is recorded, related to the sale of residential real estate.

[HB 578](#) / [SB 538](#) Uniform Statewide Building Code; violations, increases fines. (*Chief patrons: McQuinn and Bagby*)

Amends § 36-106 of the Code of Virginia to increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000 the minimum amount and from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the maximum amount that any person, firm, or corporation shall be fined when convicted of

a third or subsequent offense of violating the provisions of the Building Code committed within 10 years of another such offense after having been at least twice previously convicted of such an offense. The bill also adds penalties for similar violations committed by owners of a blighted multifamily property.

[HB 634](#) / [SB 308](#) Residential dwelling units; rentals for 30 consecutive days or longer.

(*Chief patrons: Simon and McPike*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 5 of Chapter 9 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-987 to prohibit a locality from enacting or enforcing an ordinance that bans the rental of residential dwelling units for 30 consecutive days or longer. The bill allows a locality by ordinance to regulate such rental if such regulations (i) are reasonable and (ii) do not exceed the requirements for an owner-occupied residential property or a residential property rented for a lease term of 12 months or more in the same zoning district.

[HB 650](#) Zoning; residential and electrical generation projects; period of validity. (*Chief patron: Coyner*)

Amends §§ 15.2-2209.1:2 and 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the conditions of a special exception or special use permit may include a period of validity; however, in the case of a special exception or special use permit for residential and electrical generation projects, the period of validity shall be no fewer than three years. The bill provides that for so long as a special exception, special use permit, or conditional use permit remains valid, no change or amendment to any local ordinance, map, resolution, rule, regulation, policy, or plan adopted subsequent to the date of approval of the special exception, special use permit, or conditional use permit shall adversely affect the right of the developer or his successor in interest to commence and complete an approved development in accordance with the lawful terms of the special exception, special use permit, or conditional use permit

unless the change or amendment is required to comply with state law or there has been a mistake, fraud, or a change in circumstances substantially affecting the public health, safety, or welfare.

[HB 656](#) / [SB 365](#) Regulated land-disturbing activities; submission and approval of erosion and sediment control plan. (Chief patrons: Wiley and DeSteph)

Amends § 62.1-44.15:55 to prohibit a person from engaging in any land-disturbing activity until, where Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit coverage is required, the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program (VESCP) authority has obtained evidence of such permit coverage from the Department of Environmental Quality's online reporting system prior to issuing its land-disturbance approval. Current law requires the VESCP authority to obtain such evidence of VPDES permit coverage prior to approving an erosion and sediment control plan.

[HB 673](#) Resilient VA Revolving Fund; distributing loans or grants for projects. (Chief patron: Feggans)

Amends § 10.1-603.29 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the Department of Conservation and Recreation shall give additional weight to projects located in a locality designated as having a very low community resilience rating under a standard adopted by the Department.

[HB 746](#) / [SB 565](#) Energy efficiency programs; definitions, incremental annual savings. (Chief patrons: Webert and Deeds)

Amends §§ 56-576 and 56-596.2 of the Code of Virginia to provide that for the 2029 program year and all subsequent years, "in the public interest" for the purpose of assessing energy efficiency programs means that the State Corporation Commission determines that the program is cost-effective. The bill directs the Commission to promulgate regulations no later than September 30, 2025, establishing

a single, consistent cost-effectiveness test for use in evaluating proposed energy efficiency programs. The bill requires Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power Company to track, quantify, and report to the Commission the incremental annual savings, as defined in the bill, achieved by such utility's energy efficiency programs.

[HB 755](#) Industrial and commercial areas; civil penalties for certain local property violations. (Chief patron: Walker)

Amends § 15.2-901 of the Code of Virginia to allow localities by ordinance to charge enhanced civil penalties for certain local property violations on property that is zoned or utilized for industrial or commercial purposes.

[HB 800](#) / [SB 713](#) Public service companies; pole attachments to accommodate cable TV systems & telecommunications. (Chief patrons: Herring and Marsden)

Amends § 56-466.1 of the Code of Virginia to require a public utility, as defined in the bill, to establish and adhere to pole attachment practices and procedures that comply with certain requirements, including determining whether an attachment request is complete before reviewing such request on its merits, complying with certain timelines, and providing notice of a rearrangement to affected existing attachers. The bill provides that a public utility shall not apportion to a telecommunications service provider or cable television system the cost of replacing a red-tagged pole, as defined in the bill, provided that such utility may apportion to such provider or system the incremental cost of a taller or stronger pole that is necessitated solely by the new facilities of such provider or system. The bill authorizes the State Corporation Commission to enforce its provisions and requires the Commission to resolve disputes involving pole access within 90 days and concerning certain other matters within 120 days.

[HB 862](#) Electric utilities; integrated resource plans, grid-enhancing technologies and advanced conductors. (Chief patron: Hernandez)

Amends §§ 56-597 and 56-599 of the Code of Virginia to require an electric utility to include in an integrated resource plan (i) a comprehensive assessment of the potential application of grid-enhancing technologies and advanced conductors, as those terms are defined in the bill, in a manner that ensures grid reliability and safeguards the cybersecurity and physical security of the electric distribution grid and (ii) if applicable, a detailed explanation of why such technologies or conductors are not included in such plan.

[HB 906](#) / [SB 480](#) Public utilities; municipal utilities, disconnection of service, consumer protections. (Chief patrons: Shin and Aird)

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to suspend electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities, subject to the regulation of the State Corporation Commission (SCC), from disconnecting service to a residential customer for nonpayment of bills or fees during a state of emergency declared by the Governor and provides that such suspension lasts for 30 days after such declaration of the state of emergency. The bill suspends such electric and gas utilities from disconnecting service to a residential customer for nonpayment of bills or fees when the forecasted temperature low is at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit and suspends electric utilities from disconnecting any such customer from service when the forecasted temperature high is at or above 92 degrees Fahrenheit within the 24 hours following the scheduled disconnection. The bill further suspends electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities from disconnecting residential customers from service on Fridays, weekends, state holidays, and the day immediately preceding a state holiday. The bill requires each such utility to notify its residential customers of such utility's disconnection for nonpayment

policy and to deliver notice of nonpayment of bills or fees to such customers prior to disconnection.

[HB 947](#) Local government; regulation by ordinance for locations of tobacco products, etc. (Chief patron: Lopez)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-912.4 to allow a locality to regulate the retail sale locations of tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or hemp products intended for smoking for any such retail sale location and may prohibit a retail sale location on property within 1,000 linear feet of a child day center or a public, private, or parochial school.

[HB 985](#) High polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon; prohibits pavement sealants that contain, civil penalty. (Chief patron: Tran)

Amends § 10.1-2500 of the Code of Virginia, and adds in Chapter 20 of Title 62.1 a section numbered 62.1-196.1, to prohibit the sale or distribution of any pavement sealant that contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon concentrations greater than one percent by weight on or after July 1, 2024, except that a retailer may continue to sell any existing inventory that remains in stock on that date. The bill also prohibits the application or use of such sealants on or after July 1, 2025. Any person who violates either prohibition is subject to a civil penalty of \$250, to be paid into the Virginia Environmental Emergency Response Fund.

[HB 1062](#) / [SB 271](#) Net energy metering; eligible customer-generators and agricultural customer-generators. (Chief patrons: Willett and Subramanyam)

Amends §§ 56-594 and 56-594.02 of the Code of Virginia to provide that no contract, lease, or arrangement by which a third party owns, maintains, or operates an electrical generating facility on an eligible customer-generator's

property shall constitute the sale of electricity or cause the customer-generator or the third party to be considered an electric utility by virtue of participating in net energy metering. The bill prohibits an eligible customer-generator or eligible agricultural customer-generator from being required to provide proof of liability insurance or to purchase additional liability insurance as a condition of interconnection. The bill exempts eligible customer-generators and eligible agricultural customer-generators that operate a battery storage device of capacity commensurate with and equal to or greater than that of the electrical generating facility and in conjunction with the electrical generating facility from standby charges. The bill provides that any eligible customer-generator or eligible agricultural customer-generator may participate in demand response, energy efficiency, or peak reduction from dispatch of onsite battery service, provided that the compensation received is in exchange for a distinct service that is not already compensated by net metering credits for electricity exported to the electric distribution system or compensated by any other utility program or tariff.

HB 1085 / SB 243 PFAS Expert Advisory Committee; established, monitoring sources. (*Chief patrons: Rasoul and McPike*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 an article numbered 13, consisting of sections numbered 62.1-44.34:29 through 62.1-44.34:33, to require, for every public water system, as defined in the bill, the Department of Health (VDH) to assist the Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) by transferring to the Department quarterly all validated monitoring results available to VDH that indicate PFAS maximum containment level, as defined in the bill, exceedances. In such circumstances, the bill provides that the Department is required to develop and implement a plan to prioritize and conduct PFAS assessments for identifying

significant sources of PFAS in such public water system's raw water source or sources. The bill requires any facility, if deemed by the Department to be a potentially significant source of PFAS in the public water system's raw water source, (i) to perform and promptly report the results of quarterly discharge monitoring for one year and (ii) to report to the Department, within 90 days after being directed by the Department, its manufacture or use of PFAS. The bill establishes a PFAS Expert Advisory Committee to assist the Department and VDH in its PFAS-related efforts and requires the Committee to meet at least two times per year through June 30, 2027. The bill requires the Department to annually report certain information to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 1.

HB 1395 Historic preservation; filing of a historic designation application. (*Chief patron: Hope*)

Amends § 15.2-2306 of the Code of Virginia to provide that the filing of a building permit or demolition application shall stay a locality from issuing any permit to raze or demolish a historic landmark, building, or structure until 30 days after the rendering of the final decision of the governing body of the locality pursuant to a historic preservation ordinance.

HB 1431 Alternative onsite sewage systems; approval of treatment units. (*Chief patron: Hodges*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-164.10 to require the Department of Health to approve treatment units for alternative onsite sewage systems if they meet certain NSF/ANSI standards or certain testing requirements.

HB 1458 Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth; moves position under the Governor, etc. (*Chief patron: Hernandez*)

Amends various sections of the Code of Virginia to move the position of Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) from under the Secretary of Natural

and Historic Resources to under the Governor and creates an Office of Commonwealth Resilience to support the CRO in his functions and duties. The bill requires the CRO to convene an Interagency Resilience Working Group to support the coordination of planning and implementation of resilience efforts, eliminates the position of Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, and requires the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation to convene an Advisory Review Committee to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund. The bill also requires the Director to convene an Advisory Review Committee to assist in the distribution of loans and grants from the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund and adds the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources and the CRO to the list of those with whom the Virginia Resources Authority is required to consult in directing the distribution of loans or grants from the Fund. The bill requires, for the two Funds, the Department to (i) make available for public inspection at the office of the Department and on a publicly accessible website records of each application for grants and loans and the actions taken thereon and (ii) provide an opportunity for a 30-day public comment period prior to each new grant or loan offering to solicit feedback on proposed revisions to the Funds' manuals.

HB 1461 Short-term rental property; locality's ability to prohibit lessee or sublessee operator. (*Chief patron: Mundon King*)

Amends § 15.2-983 of the Code of Virginia to prohibit a locality from barring an operator, as defined in existing law, from offering such property as a short-term rental solely on the basis that the operator is a lessee or sublessee of such property, provided that the property owner has granted permission for its use as a short-term rental. The bill adds an attestation that the property owner has granted such permission if the operator is a lessee or

sublessee to the information that an operator must provide to annually register such short-term rental. The bill permits a locality to limit a lessee or sublessee to one short-term rental.

HB 1466 Mineral mines; farm pond construction or expansion. (*Chief patron: Bloxom*)

Amends § 45.2-1200 of the Code of Virginia to provide that, for laws relating to mineral mines, the definition of mining shall not be construed to limit a one-time construction or expansion of a farm pond for agricultural irrigation or provision of water for livestock to beneficially reuse the soil or sand, provided that such pond construction or expansion project (i) is a one-time activity on that parcel of land, (ii) is completed within six months, (iii) results in a pond that is less than three acres in total, and (iv) has all necessary permits and local approvals in place before such activity begins.

HB 1486 / SB 48 Vacant buildings; registration. (*Chief patrons: Thomas and Locke*)

Amends § 15.2-1127 of the Code of Virginia to permit any county, city, or town to require, by ordinance, the owner of any building that has been vacant for at least 12 months and (i) that meets the definition of "derelict building" in relevant law, (ii) that meets the definition of "criminal blight" in relevant law, or (iii) in which a locality has determined a person is living without the authority of the owner to register such building annually. Under current law, any city and certain towns are permitted to require the owner of any building that has been vacant for at least 12 months and meets the definition of "derelict building" in relevant law to register such building annually. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Housing Commission.

HB 1491 Phase I Utility; recovery of development costs associated with small modular nuclear facility. (*Chief patron: O'Quinn*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a

section numbered 56-585.1:14 to permit American Electric Power, and its subsidiary Appalachian Power Company (APCo), prior to the filing of an application for a certificate to construct a small modular nuclear facility, to request the State Corporation Commission to review such utility's decision to incur project development costs, as defined in the bill. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2034.

SB 296 Local planning commission; action on proposed plats, site plans, and development plans. *(Chief patron: VanValkenburg)*

Amends §§ 15.2-2259 and 15.2-2260 of the Code of Virginia to require local planning commissions to use the same approval process for residential development projects as is currently required for commercial development projects.

SB 337 Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area; continued withdrawal permit for residential well. *(Chief patron: Stuart)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 62.1-262.2 to direct the State Water Control Board to waive the expiration of any ground water withdrawal permit for a well that serves exclusively residential users, is located in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area north of the Occoquan River, and is located within five miles of any commercial or industrial permitted ground water withdrawal. The bill provides that such waiver shall continue in force until the commercial or industrial permitted ground water withdrawals have been halted for five years. The Department of Environmental Quality shall then assess whether the termination of the commercial or industrial permitted ground water withdrawals has substantially mitigated the stress upon the aquifer and redetermine whether the permit for the residential well shall be renewed.

SB 339 Blockchain technology, digital asset mining, etc.; Jt. Commission on Technology & Science to study. *(Chief patron: Salim)*
Directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science to conduct an analysis of and make recommendations regarding the use of blockchain technology, digital asset mining, and cryptocurrency in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Commission to submit its findings to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Communications, Technology and Innovation and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

SB 342 Virginia Waste Management Board; open burning of solid wastes, transportation of vegetative waste. *(Chief patron: Stuart)*
Requires the Virginia Waste Management Board to amend regulations to allow for vegetative waste to be transported to another location for open burning if it is impractical or unsafe to destroy such waste on the premises of private property.

SB 439 Blockchain and cryptocurrency; Joint Commission on Technology & Science to examine use, etc. *(Chief patron: Salim)*
Directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) to conduct an analysis of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in the Commonwealth and the creation of a Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Commission. JCOTS shall submit a report of its findings to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Communications, Technology and Innovation and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

SB 454 Electric utilities; recovery of development costs associated with small modular reactor. *(Chief patron: Marsden)*
Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a

section numbered 56-585.1:14 to permit Dominion Energy Virginia to petition the State Corporation Commission (SCC) at any time for the approval of a rate adjustment clause for the recovery of small modular reactor project development costs for up to one small modular reactor facility. The bill also permits the utility to petition the SCC for project development cost recovery along separate development phases. The bill has an expiration date of December 31, 2029.

SB 461 Forestland and Urban Tree Canopy Conservation Plan; Department of Forestry to establish. *(Chief patron: Marsden)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-1103.1, to require the Department of Forestry, in coordination with a Technical Advisory Committee composed of stakeholders, to develop a Forestland and Urban Tree Canopy Conservation Plan no later than November 1, 2026, and update such plan at least once every five years thereafter. The bill requires the Department to post and maintain on its website the most recent version of the Plan and to submit the Plan to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources no later than November 30, 2026, and following any update to such plan.

SB 508 Renewable energy portfolio standard; geothermal heating and cooling systems. *(Chief patron: Surovell)*

Amends §§ 56-576 and 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia to provide that geothermal heating and cooling systems, as defined in the bill, located in the Commonwealth are eligible for compliance with renewable energy portfolio standard requirements. The bill also requires the State Corporation Commission (the Commission) to convene a stakeholder work group to examine the feasibility of establishing renewable energy portfolio standard program (RPS program) requirements that require each Phase I and Phase II Utility to procure and retire renewable

energy certificates (RECs) from geothermal heating and cooling systems placed in service after August 16, 2022, as a percentage of the number of RECs used for RPS program compliance. The work group shall include representatives from the geothermal industry, Phase I and Phase II Utilities, the Department of Energy, environmental advocacy organizations, environmental justice organizations, consumer advocates, and other interested stakeholders. The Commission is required to report the findings and recommendations of the work group to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, the House Committee on Labor and Commerce, and the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation no later than December 1, 2024. Portions of the bill have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

SB 544 Short-term rental property; locality's ability to prohibit use of accessory dwelling unit. *(Chief patron: Bagby)*

Amends § 15.2-983 of the Code of Virginia to prohibit a locality from barring the use of or requiring that a special exception, special use, or conditional use permit be obtained for the use of a residential dwelling as a short-term rental where the dwelling unit is also legally occupied by the property owner as his primary residence.

SB 554 Licenses or certificates; reciprocal licensing for neighboring states. *(Chief patron: Jordan)*

Amends § 54.1-205 of the Code of Virginia to require the Real Estate Appraiser Board, the Real Estate Board, the Board for Waste Management Facility Operators, and the Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals, upon application, to recognize current and valid licenses or certificates issued by a neighboring state, defined in the bill, as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure in the Commonwealth if there are no pending investigations or complaints, no disqualifying criminal records, and no discipline imposed by another state.

SB 581 Environmental Quality, Department of; groundwater and surface water withdrawal permits. *(Chief patron: Stuart)*

Amends §§ 62.1-44.15:22 and 62.1-263 of the Code of Virginia to authorize the Department of Environmental Quality to utilize and incorporate comprehensive groundwater, surface water, and aquifer data in its decision-making processes related to the issuance and renewal of groundwater withdrawal permits and surface water withdrawal permits. Such data may include information relating to water levels, flow rates, and water quality.

SB 674 Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative; changes references relating to coastal resilience policy. *(Chief patron: McDougle)*

Amends §§ 10.1-659, 10.1-660, and 62.1-223.2 of the Code of Virginia to change references relating to coastal resilience policy from the Coastal Policy Center at William and Mary School of Law to the Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative at The College of William and Mary in Virginia to reflect the dissolution of the Coastal Policy Center. The bill also adds the Collaborative to the list of entities with whom the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources may seek input and consultation in setting coastal resilience policies.

SB 701 Vested rights; building permits. *(Chief patron: French)*

Amends § 15.2-2307 of the Code of Virginia to provide that if a locality has issued a building permit, despite nonconformance with the zoning ordinance, and a property owner, relying in good faith on the issuance of the building permit, incurs extensive obligations or substantial expenses in diligent pursuit of a building project that is in conformance with the building permit and the Uniform Statewide Building Code, the locality shall not treat such building as an illegal use but rather as a legal nonconforming use. Current law requires that

such project be completed, and a certificate of occupancy issued in order to receive such protection.

SB 737 Electric utilities; energy efficiency programs, on-bill tariff program. *(Chief patron: Surovell)*

Amends §§ 56-576 and 56-585.7 of the Code of Virginia to provide that, for the purposes of the Virginia Electric Utility Regulation Act, energy efficiency programs include electrification, including measures that electrify space heating, water heating, cooling, drying, cooking, industrial processes, and other building and industrial end uses that would otherwise be served by onsite, nonelectric fuels, provided that the electrification measures reduce site energy consumption and that, to the maximum extent practical, seek to combine with federally authorized customer rebates for heat pump technology. The bill provides that electricity consumption increases that result from State Corporation Commission-approved electrification measures shall not be considered as a reduction in energy savings under the energy savings requirements and that utilities may apply verified total site energy reductions that are attributable to Commission-approved electrification measures to the energy savings requirements. The bill specifies that energy efficiency programs and energy efficiency measures do not include electrification of any process or activity primarily fueled by natural gas.

HJ 30 Investor-owned electric utilities; SCC to study performance-based regulatory tools. *(Chief Patron: Sullivan)*

Requests the State Corporation Commission, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to study performance-based regulatory tools for investor-owned electric utilities, and the impact of competitive service providers in the Commonwealth.

SL 25 Groundwater supply in the Commonwealth; Department of Environmental Quality to study. *(Chief Patron: Stuart)*

Requests that the Department of Environmental Quality complete a one-year study of the groundwater supply in the Commonwealth with technical assistance provided by the State Water Control Board. The Department shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2024, and submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SL 47 Investor-owned electric utilities; SCC to study performance-based regulatory tools. *(Chief Patron: Scott A. Surovell)*

Requests the State Corporation Commission, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to study performance-based regulatory tools for investor-owned electric utilities and competitive service providers in the Commonwealth.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 405 Electric vehicle charging facilities; infrastructure necessary to support installation. *(Chief patron: McClure)*

Would have directed the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation (CEUR) to evaluate the design and deployment of the electrical distribution infrastructure necessary to support the installation of electric vehicle charging facilities in new developments consisting of single-family and multifamily residential units. The bill would have required the CEUR to engage representatives from the residential and commercial development industries, private sector utility consultants, and other stakeholders. **(VETOED)**

HB 529 Trees; conservation and replacement during development process. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Would have amended § 15.2-961 of the Code of Virginia to expand certain existing local government authority to conserve or replace trees during the development process by expanding such authority statewide. The bill would have allowed localities to establish higher tree canopy replacement percentages based on density per acre. The bill also would have altered the current process for granting exceptions to a local ordinance by altering a provision that requires the granting of an exception when strict application of the ordinance would result in unnecessary or unreasonable hardship to the developer and replacing it with a requirement that the locality concur with such determination. The bill would have permitted localities to monitor and assess the condition and coverage of tree canopies at development sites during the time period up to 20 years' maturity of the planted trees. The bill made numerous technical amendments. **(VETOED)**

HB 576 Contractors, Board for; required regulations and disclosures on rooftop solar installations. *(Chief patron: Glass)*

Would have required the Board for Contractors to adopt regulations requiring (i) all Class A, B, and C residential contractors to use legible written contracts and (ii) that in transactions involving door-to-door solicitations a statement of protections be provided by the contractor to the homeowner, consumer, or buyer. Under current law, the Board is authorized but not required to promulgate such regulations. The bill also would have required the Board to promulgate regulations for certain disclosures in transactions involving certain rooftop solar facilities. The bill had a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025. Governor proposed substitute bill to require Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) to convene a stakeholder workgroup to develop recommendations for any additional consumer

protections regarding the sale, lease, or installation of a solar energy facility with a generating capacity of 25 kilowatts or less (rooftop installations). The legislature rejected the Governor's substitute. **(VETOED)**

[HB 597](#) / [SB 479](#) Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; enforcement by localities. *(Chief patrons: Price and Aird)*

Would have provided that if a condition exists in a rental dwelling unit that constitutes a material noncompliance by the landlord with the rental agreement or with any provision of law that, if not promptly corrected, constitutes a fire hazard or serious threat to the life, health, or safety of tenants or occupants of the premises, a locality may institute an action for injunction and damages to enforce the landlord's duty to maintain the rental dwelling unit in a fit and habitable condition, provided that (i) the property where the violation occurred is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the locality and (ii) the locality has notified the landlord who owns the property, either directly or through the managing agent, of the nature of the violation and the landlord has failed to remedy the violation to the satisfaction of the locality within a reasonable time after receiving such notice. Governor proposed an amendment to require the legislation shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly. The legislature rejected the Governor's amendment. **(VETOED)**

[HB 636](#) / [SB 567](#) Siting of energy facilities; approval by State Corporation Commission. *(Chief Patrons: Sullivan and Deeds)*
Would have given the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) the authority to override local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances for the siting of utility-scale solar, wind and battery storage facilities. The legislation would have set up the process for applicants to essentially bypass local planning commissions and boards of supervisors when seeking approval for the siting and operations of solar projects with a rated generation capacity 50 megawatts (MW) or

more, wind projects of 100 MW or more, and energy storage facilities of 50 MW or more. VACo opposed the legislation. ***(HB 636 was continued to 2025 session in House Labor and Commerce; SB 567 was continued to 2025 session in Senate Commerce and Labor)***

[HB 900](#) / [SB 304](#) Zoning; development and use of accessory dwelling units. *(Chief Patrons: Srinivasan and Salim)*

Would have required a locality to include in its zoning ordinances for single-family residential zoning districts accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, as defined in the bill, as a permitted accessory use. The bill would have required a person to seek a permit for an ADU from the locality, required the locality to issue such permit if the person meets certain requirements enumerated in the bill, and restricted the fee for such permit to \$100 or less. The bill would have prohibited the locality from requiring (i) dedicated parking for the ADU; (ii) lot sizes or setbacks for the ADU greater than that of the primary dwelling; (iii) consanguinity or affinity between the occupants of the ADU and the primary dwelling; and (iv) redundant water, sewer, or septic capacity for the ADU. The bill had a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025. VACo opposed the legislation. ***(HB 900 and SB 304 were continued to 2025 session in House Counties, Cities, and Towns)***

[HB 950](#) Uniform Statewide Building Code; temporarily prohibit modifications to Code. *(Chief patron: Lopez)*

Would have provided that neither the Governor nor the Board of Housing and Community Development shall modify any regulation in the Uniform Statewide Building Code prior to the conclusion of the Commonwealth's next triennial code development process. Governor proposed a substitute bill striking this provision and replacing it with a requirement that any legislation to amend the Uniform Statewide Building Code shall be reviewed by the Board of Housing and Community Development. The legislature rejected the Governor's substitute. **(VETOED)**

[HB 1124](#) / [SB 233](#) Faith in Housing for the Commonwealth Act; construction of affordable housing. (Chief Patrons: Hashmi and Carr)

Would have permitted a religious organization to construct affordable housing on real estate owned by such religious organization, regardless of whether the proposed development is consistent with a locality's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. The legislation specifically stated that "... If the locality's zoning does not permit residential uses, the housing development shall be allowed a density of 40 units per acre and a height of one story or 15 feet above the maximum height otherwise applicable to the parcel." VACo opposed the legislation. **(HB 1124 was continued to 2025 session in House General Laws; SB 233 was continued to 2025 session in Senate General Laws and Technology)**

[HB 1472](#) Water certificates or permits; compliance with water quality standards. (Chief patron: Gardner)

Would have required the State Water Control Board to ensure all activities allowed under any water certificate or permit are in compliance with the water quality standards promulgated by the Board.

[SB 430](#) Residential development in certain areas; affordable housing. (Chief Patron: Van Valkenburg)

Would have provided that any type of residential use that is permitted in a locality shall be considered a conforming residential use on any parcel other than parcels zoned for (i) agriculture, (ii) conservation, or (iii) a different residential use. The bill stated that no local ordinance shall require that a special exception, special use, or conditional use permit be obtained for a conforming residential use and that rights under existing zoning shall be considered vested pursuant to existing vesting provisions. The bill further would have provided that any residential development pursuant to the authority granted in the bill shall dedicate a minimum of 10 percent of

the total number of housing units to housing affordable to households making at or below 120 percent of the area median income. VACo opposed the legislation. **(Continued to 2025 session in Senate Local Government)**

[SB 673](#) State Water Control Board; prioritization of water for human consumption and food production. (Chief patron: Stuart)

Would have directed the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Water Control Board to prioritize the preservation of water for human consumption and food production in all permitting and regulatory processes related to groundwater and surface water resources.

[SB 697](#) Solar and energy facilities; local regulation. (Chief Patron: Van Valkenburg)

Would have mandated that any local ordinance adopted pursuant [§ 15.2-2288.7](#) of the Code of Virginia (local regulation of solar facilities) shall not "... include limits on the total amount, density, or size of any ground mounted solar facility or energy facility unless the total panel area exceeds 4% of the total area within the county." VACo opposed the legislation. **(Continued to 2025 session in House Counties, Cities, and Towns)**

[SB 729](#) Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank; created, report. (Chief patron: Surovell)

Would have created the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank to finance clean energy projects, greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects, and other qualified projects through the strategic deployment of public funds in the form of grants, loans, credit enhancements, and other financing mechanisms. The Bank is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors, consisting of nine nonlegislative citizen members and three ex officio members with voting privileges, who include the Director of the Department of Energy, the Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority, and the State Treasurer or their designees. The

bill provides that the nonlegislative citizen members are to be appointed as follows: four members by the Senate Committee on Rules, four members by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and one member by the Governor, each of whom are required to have expertise in real estate, finance, or project development or legal expertise in zero-emission or low-emission energy generation, infrastructure, transportation, agriculture, storm water management, or housing. The bill contains provisions for (i) the appointment of a president and the hiring of staff, (ii) the powers and duties of the Bank, (iii) lending practices, (iv) a strategic plan, (v) an investment strategy, (vi) public outreach requirements, (vii) audits, (viii) exemptions from taxes and from personnel and procurement procedures, and (ix) reporting requirements. Governor proposed an amendment to require the legislation shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly. The legislature rejected the Governor's amendment. ***(VETOED)***

FINANCE AND ELECTIONS

PASSED LEGISLATION

Taxation and Finance

[HB 25](#) / [SB 116](#) Retail sales and use tax holiday; establishes an annual tax holiday that takes place in August. *(Chief patrons: Reid and Lucas)*

Adds § 58.1-639.1 to the Code of Virginia to establish an annual retail sales and use tax holiday on the first full weekend in August, beginning on July 1, 2025, through July 1, 2030. During such weekend, retail sales and use tax will not apply to certain (i) school supplies, (ii) clothing and footwear, (iii) qualified products designated as Energy Star or WaterSense, (iv) portable generators, or (v) hurricane preparedness equipment.

[HB 356](#) / [SB 510](#) Investment of public funds; qualified public entity allowed to invest in asset-backed securities. *(Chief patrons: Fowler and Stanley)*

Amends § 2.2-4511 of the Code of Virginia; allows any qualified public entity of the Commonwealth to invest in asset-backed securities that are guaranteed by the United States or any agency thereof.

[HB 464](#) Retail Sales and Use Tax; exemptions for nonprofit entities. *(Chief patron: Runion)*

Amends § 58.1-609.11 of the Code of Virginia; increases from \$1 million to \$1.5 million the minimum threshold for gross revenue of a nonprofit entity that allows the Department of Taxation to require such entity to provide a financial audit to qualify for a retail sales and use tax exemption.

[HB 574](#) Recordation tax; value of interest conveyed. *(Chief patron: Thomas)*

Amends § 58.1-801 of the Code of Virginia. Provides that for purposes of recordation taxes, the value of a property interest conveyed shall be the most recent property tax assessment for such property at the time the property is conveyed.

[HB 639](#) / [SB 677](#) Real property tax; notice of rate and assessment changes. *(Chief patrons: Sullivan and Durant)*

Amends § 58.1-3330 of the Code of Virginia. Clarifies similar legislation passed in 2023; provides that in certain localities, in the event that the total assessed value of real property would result in an increase of one percent or more in the total real property tax levied, the notice of assessment changes shall state the tax rate that would levy the same amount of real estate tax as the previous year when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate.

[HB 790](#) / [SB 582](#) Tobacco products retailers; purchase, possession, and sale of retail tobacco products. *(Chief patrons: Hope and Ebbin)*

Amends §§ 18.2-246.8, 18.2-371.2, 22.1-79.5, and 22.1-206, among other sections of the Code of Virginia and adds several new sections. Prohibits internet sales of liquid nicotine or nicotine vapor products, except to a retail dealer, and prohibits the sale of retail tobacco products from vending machines. The bill updates, for the purpose of the crime of selling or distributing tobacco products to a person younger than 21 years of age, the definition of “retail tobacco products” by including in such definition products currently defined as “nicotine vapor products” or “alternative nicotine vapor products.” The bill sets out penalties for a retail dealer that sells, gives, or furnishes a tobacco product to a person younger than 21 years of age or to a person who does not demonstrate that such person is at least 21 years of age. The bill requires the Department of Taxation, in collaboration

with the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority and local law enforcement, to conduct a compliance check every 24 months on any retailer selling retail tobacco products and to use a person younger than 21 years of age to conduct such checks. The bill also imposes a tax upon liquid nicotine in closed systems, as defined in the bill, at the rate of \$0.066 per milliliter and upon liquid nicotine in open systems, as defined in the bill, at the rate of 10 percent of the wholesale price for purchases on and after July 1, 2024. The bill applies licensing requirements to manufacturers, distributors, and retail dealers of liquid nicotine and creates new safety requirements related to the advertising, packaging, and labeling of liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products.

HB 960 / SB 556 Historic rehabilitation; maximum amount of tax credit. (*Chief patrons: Lopez and Williams Graves*)

Amends § 58.1-339.2 of the Code of Virginia. Beginning in taxable year 2025, increases from \$5 million to \$7.5 million the maximum amount of the historic rehabilitation tax credit, including amounts carried over from prior taxable years, that may be claimed by a taxpayer in any taxable year.

HB 1069 / SB 550 Liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products; certification and directory, penalties. (*Chief patrons: Willett and Deeds*)

Amends §§ 59.1-200 and 59.1-293.10 of the Code of Virginia and adds §§ 59.1-293.12 through 59.1-293.19. Bans the sale of liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products that are not certified to the Attorney General as authorized for marketing by the Food and Drug Administration (or meeting certain other requirements as spelled out in the bill), beginning December 31, 2025. Requires the Attorney General to establish and maintain a directory that lists all liquid nicotine or nicotine vapor product manufacturers and liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products for which current and accurate certification

forms have been submitted. The bill requires that any such products that are removed from the list be sold or removed from retail sale within 30 days or become subject to seizure and requires a manufacturer, wholesaler, or retail dealer to notify each purchaser of a removed product that it has been removed from the directory at the time of delivery of such product. The bill entitles such a purchaser to a refund of the purchase price and creates a cause of action to recover such refund. The bill provides for a civil penalty of \$1,000 per day for each product offered for sale in violation of the bill's provisions until the offending product is removed from the market or until the offending product is properly listed on the directory. The bill authorizes any attorney for the Commonwealth, or the attorney for any city, county, or town to cause an action to enjoin any violation of the provisions of the bill; authorizes recovery of reasonable costs of investigation, the costs of the action, and attorney fees, and provides that any civil penalties assessed in an action brought in the name of a locality shall be paid into the locality's general fund. Under the bill, any retailer and wholesaler that sells or distributes any liquid nicotine or nicotine vapor product in the Commonwealth is subject to scheduled or unscheduled compliance checks carried out by the Attorney General, or an agent thereof, for enforcement purposes.

HB 1099 Cigarettes intended to be heated; heated tobacco products; taxation. (*Chief patron: Kilgore*)

Amends §§ 58.1-1000, 58.1-1001, and 58.1-1021.01 of the Code of Virginia. Redefines "cigarette" for state cigarette tax purposes to include "cigarettes intended to be heated" as defined in the bill and distinguished from "heated tobacco products." The bill also subjects cigarettes intended to be heated to an excise tax of 2.25 cents per stick on and after July 1, 2024, and codifies the excise tax on other cigarettes of three cents on and after July 1, 2020.

[HB 1429](#) / [SB 483](#) Tangible personal property tax; indoor agriculture equipment and machinery. *(Chief patrons: Laufer and Aird)*

Amends § 58.1-3505 of the Code of Virginia to add certain farm machinery, farm equipment, and farm implements used by an indoor, closed, controlled-environment commercial agricultural facility to the list of separate classes of tangible personal property that a locality may exempt from taxation.

[HB 1502](#) / [SB 194](#) Tangible personal property tax; classification of certain vehicles, removes sunset date. *(Chief patrons: Willett and VanValkenburg)*

Amends the second enactment of Chapter 30 and the second enactment of Chapter 578 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022. Removes the sunset on authorization for localities to assign a rate of tax or assessment different from the general tangible personal property rate on certain motor vehicles. Under current law, such authorization is limited to taxable years 2022 through 2024.

[HB 1503](#) Omitted taxes; installment agreements. *(Chief patron: Jones)*

Amends § 58.1-3916 of the Code of Virginia to allow a governing body to provide by resolution that the treasurer or other officer responsible for the collection of taxes may enter into an agreement with any taxpayer who has been assessed with omitted taxes, including penalties and interest with respect to such taxes, for the payment of the taxes, penalties, and interest over a reasonable period, not to exceed 72 months.

[HB 1508](#) / [SB 709](#) Assessment of omitted taxes; erroneous payments. *(Chief patrons: Wilt and Obenshain)*

Amends § 58.1-1812 of the Code of Virginia; provides that any retail sales tax payment erroneously remitted by a taxpayer to the Department of Taxation with respect to a transaction by a contractor for which a use tax has been assessed shall be applied to the taxpayer's delinquent use tax accounts.

The taxpayer must provide evidence of the erroneous sales tax collected and remitted. The provisions of this bill do not apply in the case of (i) the taxpayer already applying for and receiving the relief described in this bill or (ii) a false or fraudulent action by the taxpayer with the intention of evading the payment of the tax. Further, the taxpayer must show that the erroneous retail sales tax has been refunded to the purchaser or credited to the purchaser's account prior to receiving a refund.

[SB 9](#) Orange County; authorization to establish department of real estate assessment, etc. *(Chief patron: Reeves)*

Amends § 58.1-3274 of the Code of Virginia; authorizes Orange County to establish a department of real estate assessment and to enter into an agreement with a contiguous county or city to establish a joint department of real estate assessment. Under current law, real estate assessments are made by the commissioner of the revenue, except in Accomack, Goochland, James City, and Powhatan Counties, and among those, only James City and Powhatan Counties may enter into an agreement to establish a joint department of real estate assessment.

[SB 564](#) Distressed localities, certain; TAX, et al., to assess tax relief. *(Chief patron: Hackworth)*

Directs the Department of Taxation and the Commission on Local Government to assess the need for income tax relief in double distressed localities (as defined in the bill) in the Commonwealth that have experienced significant loss of population since 2013. The Department and the Commission must report on their recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committees on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2024.

[SB 645](#) Local fiscal distress; determination by Auditor of Public Accounts, state intervention. *(Chief patron: Aird)*

Amends § 15.2-2903 and adds § 15.2-2512.1

to the Code of Virginia; sets out a procedure for determining when localities are in fiscal distress, as defined in the bill, and for state intervention under certain circumstances. The bill requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to develop criteria for a preliminary determination that a locality may be in fiscal distress, to be used in a regular process of reviewing local financial reports to monitor localities for indicators of fiscal distress. The bill also authorizes the Governor to reappropriate up to \$750,000 from amounts remaining unexpended in the state budget as of June 30 of each year, which constitute state aid to local governments, to establish a component of fund balance that may be used to provide state assistance, oversight, and intervention actions for localities deemed to be fiscally distressed where the Auditor of Public Accounts determines that state action is needed. The bill provides for the Commission on Local Government to determine whether a locality has taken appropriate action to address its fiscal distress; if it concludes that a locality located in Planning District 19 is either unwilling or unable to comply with the conditions necessary to address its fiscal distress, the Commission must appoint an emergency fiscal manager and implement a remediation plan. The plan must specify the purpose of remediation efforts, the roles and responsibilities of the local governing body and chief executive officer, and the benchmarks that will allow the locality to exit the remediation plan. The plan must be approved by the Commission after public notice and an opportunity for public input, and the Commission will determine when the locality has met the benchmarks.

Constitutional Amendments

HJ 45/ SJ 3 Constitutional amendment; property tax exemption for certain surviving spouses (second reference). *(Chief patrons: Tran and McPike)*
Contingent on approval by voters in November 2024, expands the current real property tax

exemption available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the U.S. Department of Defense.

HB 558 / SB 4 Constitutional amendment; property tax exemption for certain surviving spouses (voter referendum).

(Chief patrons: Hernandez and McPike)

Provides for a referendum at the November 5, 2024, election to approve or reject an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia that would expand the real property tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action to be available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the U.S. Department of Defense.

SB 240 Property tax; exemption for surviving spouses of armed forces members who died in the line of duty. *(Chief patron: McPike)*

Amends §§ 58.1-3219.9 and 58.1-3219.10 of the Code of Virginia; expands the real property tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the U.S. Department of Defense. This bill takes effect January 1, 2025, contingent on voter approval at the November 5, 2024, election.

Jails

HB 103 Local and Regional Jails, State Board of; powers and duties. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Amends § 53.1-5 of the Code of Virginia to require the State Board of Local and Regional Jails, when promulgating regulations and adopting any policy or guidance document related to the enforcement of any minimum standards applicable to local, regional, or community correctional facilities, to include such items in its published agenda for meetings

of the Board or any of its subcommittees. The bill also requires the Board, when developing and implementing policies and procedures for the review of the death of any inmate or when establishing minimum standards for health care services, to adhere to procedures of the Administrative Process Act.

HB 912 Correctional facilities, local; stores and telephone systems, fees. *(Chief patron: Shin)*

Amends §§ 53.1-115.2, 53.1-127.1, and 53.1-127.2 of the Code of Virginia. Provides that the net profits from the operation of stores and telephonic communication systems in local correctional facilities shall be used for educational, recreational, or medical purposes for the benefit of the inmates.

Elections

HB 55 / SB 131 Primary elections; candidates for nomination, withdrawal of candidacy.

(Chief patrons: Wright and Ruff/Mulchi)

Amends § 24.2-612.2 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 24.2-538.1. Provides that if a person who is a candidate for nomination by a political party at a primary election and who appears on the ballot for such election withdraws his candidacy on or after the forty-fourth day before but prior to the Tuesday immediately preceding the primary election, and the result of such withdrawal is one remaining candidate who is now unopposed, the remaining candidate will be declared the party's nominee for the office sought and the primary election will be canceled. The bill sets out requirements for the notice of withdrawal and the process for notification of the local electoral board and the State Board of Elections. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

HB 90 / SB 109 Candidates; declaration of candidacy for primary. *(Chief patrons: McNamara and Suetterlein)*
Amends § 24.2-520 of the Code of Virginia;

provides that the declaration of candidacy must include a statement that if the signer's name appears on the primary ballot and he is not nominated, then his name is not to be printed on the ballots for that office in the succeeding general election.

HB 111 President and Vice President; binding of electors, filling vacancies. *(Chief patron: Sullivan)*

Amends §§ 24.2-311 and 24.2-614 of the Code of Virginia, adds several sections to the Code of Virginia, and repeals other sections. Provides that an elector who is selected by the state convention of any political party and who, at the convening of the electors after the election, refuses to present a ballot, presents an unmarked ballot, or presents a ballot marked in violation of his oath, is deemed to vacate the office of elector. The bill provides that the other electors present shall immediately fill such vacancy in the same manner as a vacancy due to an elector's death or failure or inability to attend. The bill applies the same provisions to electors who are named in a petition of qualified voters not constituting a political party.

HB 441 / SB 605 Polling place; assistance for certain voters, clarifies definition of "person with a disability." *(Chief patrons: Bennett-Parker and Subramanyam)*

Amends §§ 24.2-101 and 24.2-649.1 of the Code of Virginia. Amends the definition of "person with a disability" for purposes of the Elections title to mean any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of his major life activities or who has a record of such impairment. The bill provides that any qualified voter who is a person with a disability shall be eligible for assistance outside of the polling place. Current law allows voting outside the polling place for voters with a temporary or permanent physical disability, or an injury. The bill requires all officers of election to receive training on voting outside of a polling place and directs the Department of Elections

to incorporate into guidance documents for election officials the processes and procedures for voting outside of the polling place, including best practices for providing assistance for voters with disabilities.

HB 730 / SB 692 Campaign finance; independent expenditure reports, electronic filing required. (*Chief patrons: Sickles and Perry*)

Amends § 24.2-945.2 of the Code of Virginia; requires independent expenditure reports to be filed electronically, effective July 1, 2025. Current law allows such reports to be filed either electronically or in writing.

HB 940 Elections administration; change to location of polling place, additional notice requirement. (*Chief patron: Shin*)

Amends § 24.2-306 of the Code of Virginia; requires notice of a change in the location of a polling place to be posted, to the extent practicable, at the location last used for such polling place on the day of the first primary election and first general election conducted in the new location. This notice is required to include information on how voters may find their polling place.

HB 943 Voter registration; protected voter status, elections officials. (*Chief patron: Shin*)

Amends §§ 24.2-106, 24.2-110, 24.2-112, 24.2-115, and 24.2-418 of the Code of Virginia. Adds to the list of protected voters any person serving as a member of a local electoral board, a general registrar, a deputy registrar or employee in an office of a general registrar, or an officer of election. Protected voters are permitted by law to provide on the application for voter registration a post office box address located within the Commonwealth to be included in lieu of a street address on (i) lists of registered voters and persons who voted, (ii) voter registration records made available for public inspection, and (iii) lists of absentee voter applicants.

HB 989 Elections administration; duties of Dept. of Elections, required election and voter participation. (*Chief patron: Tran*)
Amends § 24.2-105.1 of the Code of Virginia. Requires the Department of Elections to provide information for voters on its website, including (i) the role of and contact information for the State Board of Elections, the Department of Elections, local electoral boards, and general registrars and (ii) information about absentee voting, polling hours, Virginia's voter identification requirements and acceptable forms of identification, the casting of ballots, and a means for voters to find their polling place. The bill requires such website to allow a voter to review his current voter registration information and voting history. The bill also requires that the Department provide a version of its website in which all parts are translated into any language that is spoken by a language minority group covered under state statutes governing minority language accessibility, including pages linked to a translated page.

HB 998 Conduct of elections; electoral board to meet and ascertain results. (*Chief patron: Anthony*)

Amends §§ 24.2-653.01, 24.2-671, and 24.2-678 of the Code of Virginia. Extends the deadline for local electoral boards to meet after an election for the purpose of certifying the election results and submitting the abstract of results to the State Board of Elections from seven days after the date of the election to 10 days after such date.

HB 1003 Precincts and polling places; notice of changes mailed at least 30 days prior to election. (*Chief patron: Anthony*)

Amends § 24.2-306 of the Code of Virginia. Requires notice of any adopted change in an election district, precinct, or polling place to be mailed to all registered voters subject to such change at least 30 days prior to the next election. Currently, such notice must be mailed at least 15 days in advance.

HB 1330 Absentee voting; persons confined awaiting trial or for conviction of a misdemeanor. *(Chief patron: Ward)*

Amends §§ 24.2-701 and 24.2-1005.2 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 24.2-700.1. Provides that any registered voter who is confined while awaiting trial or for having been convicted of a misdemeanor may vote by absentee ballot and requires the institution or facility in which such voter is confined to (i) provide the means and opportunity for such voter to complete and submit a timely application for an absentee ballot and to properly mark his absentee ballot and (ii) ensure such voter's marked absentee ballot is returned in accordance with law.

HB 1346 / SB 577 Campaign finance; exemption for candidates for certain directors. *(Chief patrons: Bloxom and Obenshain)*

Amends §§ 24.2-948.1 and 24.2-948.2 of the Code of Virginia. Provides that a candidate for director of a soil and water conservation district may seek an exemption from the requirement that he designate a separate campaign depository by certifying that (i) he has not and will not contribute any money to his own campaign and (ii) he has not and will not expend any money in the course of the campaign. The bill also provides that an exemption from the filing requirements pertaining to certain large pre-election contributions may now be covered by a general exemption from filing campaign finance disclosure reports allowed for a candidate for local office or for director of a soil and water conservation district who requests the exemption and meets certain criteria.

SB 165 Candidates for office; petition of qualified voters, start date. *(Chief patron: Reeves)*

Amends §§ 24.2-506 and 24.2-521 of the Code of Virginia. Clarifies the date from which valid signatures for petitions of qualified voters can be collected for persons seeking to become candidates in certain elections.

SB 364 Elections; protection of electors and election officials, penalty, civil action. *(Chief patron: Ebbin)*

Amends §§ 24.2-418 and 24.2-1000 of the Code of Virginia. Adds to the list of protected voters (who may provide a post office box in lieu of a street address for certain public election information) any current or former elector for President and Vice President of the United States, member of the State Board of Elections, Commissioner of Elections, employee in the Department of Elections, local electoral board member, general registrar or employee, or officer of election. The bill also makes it a Class 5 felony to, by bribery, intimidation, threats, coercion, or other means in violation of election laws, willfully and intentionally, hinder or prevent an election official or employee of an election official from administering elections. Under current law, it is only a Class 5 felony to hinder or prevent an officer of election at a location being used for voting from holding an election.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 4 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 based on the local sales tax distribution formula for appropriations to towns. **(VETOED)**

HB 465 / SB 147 Election administration; recommended number of deputy general registrars. *(Chief patrons: Runion and Head)*

Would have required the State Board of Elections to adopt guidance for the recommended number of deputy registrars and prohibited a local electoral board from exceeding that number without approval of the governing body. The bills also would have required the convening of a work group to develop the guidance. **HB 1530** *(Chief patron: Cordoza)* would have required all localities to

have a chief deputy registrar; for localities with populations of greater than 10,000, the chief deputy registrar would serve full-time, and for smaller localities, the general registrar would determine whether the chief deputy registrar served on a part-time or full-time basis. The bill would have required that full-time chief deputy registrars be paid not less than 60 percent of the general registrar's salary.

HB 254 Candidates in elections; party identification of candidates on ballot. *(Chief patron: Sullivan)*

Would have required that any candidate nominated by a political party or at a primary election be identified on the ballot by the name of his political party. **HB 176** *(Chief patron: Gardner)* would have required party identification on the ballot for any candidate for a constitutional office nominated by a political party or at a primary election.

HB 265 Removal of public officers from office; petition requirements, procedure. *(Chief patron: Simon)*

Would have made a series of amendments to the statutes dealing with removal of officers, including requiring that all signatures for the petition of registered voters to the circuit court that starts the removal process be collected within 90 days; providing that the attorney for the Commonwealth shall request that the court dismiss a petition, and that the court must do so, if the factual or legal allegations in the petition are not materially different than the allegations in a previously filed petition, or that were litigated in a trial resulting from a previously filed petition that was against the same officer and that was dismissed with prejudice or that did not result in the subject's removal from office; providing for the appointment of an alternate attorney for the Commonwealth in certain circumstances; and prohibiting discovery in removal proceedings prior to notification of the circuit court that the petition presents valid grounds for removal. **(VETOED)**

HB 417 Vacancies in elected local offices; timeliness of special election to fill vacancy.

(Chief patron: Convirs-Fowler)

Would have required that when a vacancy occurs in an elected local office that is subject to a ward-based or district-based residency requirement, the election to fill such vacancy shall be ordered and held within 365 days of the vacancy.

HB 568 / SB 517 Tax exemptions; Confederacy organizations. *(Chief patrons: Askew and Williams Graves)*

Would have eliminated the exemption from recordation taxes for the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and 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, and the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Incorporated. **(VETOED)**

HB 623 Rights of voters; covered practices, civil cause of action, standing, jurisdiction, and venue. *(Chief patron: Price)*

Would have provided that any organization whose membership includes voters who are members of a protected class or any organization whose mission is to ensure voting access shall be entitled to institute a civil cause of action for alleged violations of certain laws related to the rights of voters; under the bill, the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond would have jurisdiction over such actions. The bill would have allowed the governing body of any county or city to establish, by ordinance, a plan each year for the number and location of voter satellite offices and the dates and hours of operation of such satellite offices for all elections to be held in the county or city that year, and added to the definition of "covered practice" in the Virginia Voting Rights Act any change that reduced the number of voter satellite offices in a locality or reduced the number of days or the hours of operation

of a voter satellite office in a locality or that deviated from the annual plan established by the governing body. **(VETOED)**

HB 695 Short-term rentals; Department of Taxation to establish a registry, civil penalty. *(Chief patron: Ware)*

Would have directed the Department of Taxation to establish a registry of short-term rental properties and require accommodations providers and intermediaries to register and provide certain information specified in the bill, including information regarding receipts and taxes paid; the commissioner of the revenue for each locality would have been provided access to the registry.

HB 904 / SB 300 Voter registration; list maintenance activities, cancellation procedures, required record matches. *(Chief patrons: Price and Rouse)*

Would have required the Department of Elections, upon receiving voter registration list maintenance information, to compare the information with the list of registered voters and determine the confidence score for any match, based on a point system outlined in the bill, and to transmit matches with a confidence score of at least 80 to the appropriate general registrars. The bills would have prohibited the use of voter data received from another state or through a list comparison for list maintenance purposes when the data file does not include a unique identifier for each individual whose information is contained in the data file. The bills would have specified information to be provided from the Central Criminal Records Exchange, the clerks of the circuit court, and the Department of Vital Records, and required the Department of Elections to annually review and report on all sources of data utilized for list maintenance activities. The bills would have required the general registrars to send notice prior to cancelling a voter's record, and clarified that a cancellation record, which would be a public record, must be created for each voter whose registration is canceled. **(VETOED)**

HB 1036 Local tax authority; nicotine vapor products. *(Chief patron: Bloxom)*

Would have authorized localities to impose a tax on the sale or use of nicotine vapor products.

HB 1177 / SB 606 Voter registration; list maintenance, data sharing. *(Chief patrons: Sickles and VanValkenburg)*

Would have required the Commonwealth to rejoin the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). **(VETOED)**

HB 1408 Voter satellite offices; standards and guidelines for determining number and location. *(Chief patron: Srinivasan)*

Would have directed the Department of Elections to develop standards and guidelines for local governing bodies to utilize when determining the number of voter satellite offices to be established for a general election and the relative locations of such satellite offices. **(VETOED)** **HB 941** *(Chief patron: Shin)* would have required at least one voter satellite office for any general election to be established on the campus of any baccalaureate public institution of higher education with more than 3,000 enrolled students; this bill was continued to 2025 in House Privileges and Elections.

HB 1446 Real property tax; assessment of real property used for affordable housing. *(Chief patron: Coyner)*

Would have required the duly authorized real estate assessor of a locality to appraise affordable rental housing solely using the income approach, as described by the bill; the bill also required the assessor to provide property owners access to materials used at arriving in assessments, and also contained provisions requiring the locality to reimburse the owner for attorney fees and costs if the assessor failed or refused to make appropriate efforts in accordance with generally accepted appraisal practices to obtain materials necessary to arrive at the assessment of affordable rental housing, and the owner prevailed in an appeal to a board of

review, board of equalization, or circuit court.
(Continued to 2025 session in House Finance)

[SB 188](#) Election of certain governing bodies; conversion to single-member districts.

(Chief patron: Rouse)

Would have allowed the governing body of a locality that has been subject to a court order imposing a remedial election system under voting rights laws to adopt an ordinance to convert one or more at-large seats to single-member districts. The bill provided that members of such governing body in office on the effective date of such ordinance shall complete their terms of office. **(VETOED)**

[SB 196](#) Voter registration; list maintenance data standards, challenges to a voter's registration. *(Chief patron: VanValkenburg)*

Would have prohibited the use of voter data received from another state or through a list comparison for list maintenance purposes when the data file does not include a unique identifier for each individual whose information is contained in the data file. required the Department of Elections to annually review and report on all sources of data utilized for list maintenance activities, and removed provisions allowing general registrars to adjudicate challenges to a voter's registration, reserving such process to the courts. **(VETOED)**

[SB 428](#) Elections; ranked choice voting, locally elected offices. *(Chief patron: VanValkenburg)*

Would have set out administrative requirements for conducting elections using ranked choice voting. The bill also would have directed the Department to review the testing and approval framework for voting equipment in the Commonwealth and to submit a report of such review no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly. **(VETOED)** [HB 658](#) *(Chief patron: Cole)* and [HB 841](#) *(Chief patron: Hope)*, as introduced, would have allowed elections for any local or constitutional office to be conducted by ranked

choice voting. ***(HB 658 was continued to 2025 session in House Privileges and Elections)***

[SB 270](#) *(Chief patron: Subramanyam)* which would have allowed for presidential primaries to be conducted via ranked-choice voting, at the option of the political party, subject to a feasibility determination by the state, was continued to the 2025 Session in House Privileges and Elections.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PASSED LEGISLATION

HB 69 Vacancies in elected local offices; interim appointments, notice requirement. *(Chief patron: Bulova)*

Amends § 24.2-228 of the Code of Virginia. Requires the local governing body or elected school board making an interim appointment to fill a vacancy in its membership to hold a public meeting at least seven days prior to making such appointment. The bill specifies that at such meeting, the body or board shall announce the names of all persons being proposed for the interim appointment and shall make available for inspection each person's resume and any other materials required by the body or board.

HB 70 / SB 458 Virginia Retirement System; plan credits and accounts. *(Chief patrons: Bulova and Marsden)*

Amends and reenacts §§ 51.1-142.2 and 55.1-2544 of the Code of Virginia, to allow members of the Virginia Retirement System to purchase service credit for prior full-time active duty military service of at least 180 consecutive days in any federally established branch of the armed services, among other provisions.

HB 149 / SB 391 Employee protections; medicinal use of cannabis oil. *(Chief patrons: Helmer and Pekarsky)*

Amends and reenacts § 40.1-27.4 of the Code of Virginia, to amend the provision that prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee for such employee's lawful use of medical cannabis oil, with certain exceptions, by specifying that such use must conform to the laws of the Commonwealth and by including the employees, other than law-enforcement officers, of the Commonwealth and other public bodies in such protections.

HB 205 Workers' compensation; prompt payment, limitation on claims. *(Chief patron: Simonds)*

Amends and reenacts § 65.2-605.1 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit an employer or workers' compensation carrier from seeking recovery of a payment made to a health care provider for health care services rendered to a claimant unless such recovery is sought less than one year from the date payment was made to the health care provider, among other provisions. Under current law, such prohibition only applies to services rendered after July 1, 2014.

HB 242 / SB 242 Virginia Public Procurement Act; competitive negotiation, exceptions to contractual terms. *(Chief patrons: Bulova and McPike)*

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-4302.2 of the Code of Virginia, to remove the prohibition on a public body from requiring an offeror to state in a proposal any exception to any liability provisions contained in a Request for Proposal for information technology. The bill also requires an offeror to state any exception to any contractual terms or conditions in writing at the time of responding to such Request for Proposal, if so requested by the public body, which exception shall be considered during negotiations, but prohibits the public body from basing the scoring or evaluation on such exceptions when selecting offerors for negotiations. Current law only prohibits a public body from requiring an offeror to state in a proposal any exception to the liability provisions of the Request for Proposal. As introduced, the bill was a recommendation of the Public Body Procurement Work Group.

HB 264 / SB 157 Legal notices and publications; online-only news publications, requirements. *(Chief patrons: Hope and Boysko)*

Amends and reenacts § 8.01-324 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that, where any ordinance, resolution, notice, or advertisement is required by law to be published in a newspaper, such ordinance, resolution, notice,

or advertisement instead may be published in an online-only news publication subject to certain requirements specified in the bill. The bill sets out a process by which an online-only news publication shall petition the circuit court of the appropriate jurisdiction to publish such ordinances, resolutions, notices, or advertisements and authorizes the court to grant such online-only news publication the authority to publish such ordinances, resolutions, notices, or advertisements for a period of one year. The bill also describes the process by which an online-only news publication may continue renewing such authority to publish in each successive year.

[HB 279](#) / [SB 401](#) Military leaves of absence for employees of the Commonwealth, etc.; includes prof. firefighters. (Chief patrons: Helmer and Durant)

Amends and reenacts §§ 44-93 and 44-204 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that any person who is employed by the Commonwealth or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth as a professional firefighter shall receive paid leaves of absence for up to 388 work hours that a leave of absence is required, regardless of whether such amount of work hours exceeds 21 workdays per federal fiscal year, 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. Under current law, employees of the Commonwealth or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth are limited to an eight-hour, 21-workday cap, which equates to seven workdays for such employees working in 24-hour shifts. The 388-work-hour cap would provide leave for a little over 16 workdays for such employees working in 24-hour shifts.

[HB 306](#) Public defenders; appointment of counsel, caseload exception. (Chief patron: Ballard)

Amends and reenacts §§ 19.2-159 and 19.2-163.4 of the Code of Virginia, to exempt the public defender, in counties and cities where public defender offices are established, from providing defense services for indigent clients

if the public defender, with the concurrence of the executive director of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission or his designee, determines that the public defender's current active caseload would preclude the public defender from providing adequate representation to new clients.

[HB 311](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; submissions of bids or proposals on electronic procurement system. (Chief patron: Hope)

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-4303 of the Code of Virginia, to mandate that all local public bodies provide an option to submit bids or proposals for procurement contracts through the Commonwealth's statewide electronic procurement system, known as eVA, or other electronic means. Current law only encourages local public bodies to use eVA for such submissions. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

[HB 321](#) / [SB 649](#) Line of Duty Act; increases payment of benefits. (Chief patrons: McQuinn and Salim)

Amends and reenacts § 9.1-402 of the Code of Virginia, to increase from \$25,000 to \$75,000 the death benefit payout under the Virginia Line of Duty Act for a death caused by occupational cancer, respiratory disease, or hypertension or heart disease for those deaths that will occur on or after January 1, 2025.

[HB 444](#) / [SB 169](#) Virginia Rap Back Service; criminal history record monitoring. (Chief patrons: Williams and Reeves)

Amends and reenacts § 52-46 of the Code of Virginia, to change the time frame for which a participating entity in the Virginia Record of Arrest and Prosecution (Rap) Back Service is required to disenroll any individual who is deceased or no longer qualifies as an individual for the purposes of the Virginia Rap Back Service from within 30 days to within five business days. The bill also removes the provision stating that an individual who moves from one participating entity in the Virginia Rap Back Service to another need not be refingerprinted.

HB 586 Law-enforcement officers; training standards. (*Chief patron: McClure*)

Amends and reenacts § 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia, to require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish training standards and publish and periodically update model policies for law-enforcement personnel on the use of naloxone or other opioid antagonists to prevent opioid overdose deaths, in coordination with statewide naloxone training programs developed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Virginia Department of Health.

HB 816 / SB 244 FOIA; meetings held through electronic communication during declared states of emergency. (*Chief patrons: Cherry and McPike*)

Amends and reenacts the third enactment of Chapter 597 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, to provide that the provisions for conducting a meeting by electronic means due to a state of emergency stated in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are declarative of existing law since March 20, 2020, with respect to the Governor's declared state of emergency due to COVID-19. Under the bill, any meeting by a public body using electronic communication means occurring from that date until July 1, 2021, and any otherwise lawful action taken at it is validated with respect to FOIA if the body provided public notice, public access, and public comment commensurate with the requirements of existing FOIA provisions regarding electronic and closed meetings. The bill is a response to the case Berry v. Bd. of Supervisors (Va. 2023) and is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

HB 818 / SB 36 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; amends definition of meeting, provisions of Act. (*Chief patrons: Cherry and Locke*)

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-3701 of the Code of Virginia, to amend the definition of "meeting" as it relates to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to clarify that a

gathering of two or more members of a public body is not a meeting if there is no discussion or transaction of any public business by the members of the public body and that certain educational trainings are not meetings subject to FOIA. The bill is in response to the decision of the Supreme Court of Virginia in Gloss v. Wheeler (2023) and is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

HB 852 Local government ordinances related to fire departments; billing on behalf of volunteer fire depts. (*Chief patron: Williams*)

Amends and reenacts § 27-14 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that the governing body of any county, city, or town in which a fire department or fire company is established may make such ordinances in relation to the powers and duties of such fire departments or fire companies as it deems proper, including billing on behalf of volunteer fire departments for the provision of emergency medical services.

HB 933 Alzheimer's disease and dementia; training for dispatchers, firefighters, etc. (*Chief patron: LeVere Bolling*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 9.1-203.2 and 32.1-111.5:2, to require certain agencies in the Commonwealth to develop curricula and provide training related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia to dispatchers employed by or in any local or state government agency, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission and the Commonwealth Council on Aging.

HB 1022 / SB 207 Law-enforcement officers, certain; universal certification, necessary training. (*Chief patrons: Wilt and Diggs*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 9.1-116.01, to provide that any sworn law-enforcement officer with at least one year of experience (i) whose

training qualifications meet or exceed current training standards established by the Board of Criminal Justice Services and who is in compliance with the minimum qualifications, (ii) who has not had a break in service of more than 24 months, and (iii) is leaving the transferring agency in good standing with no pending investigations or disciplinary actions shall be eligible for employment at any law-enforcement agency within the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions. Prior to any conditional offer of employment, the bill requires the hiring law-enforcement agency to request certain specified information from all prior law-enforcement agencies and to employ all reasonable means to obtain personnel records for law-enforcement officers transferring from an out-of-state or federal law-enforcement agency. The bill provides that no law-enforcement officer shall be eligible for employment until the requested information is received by the hiring law-enforcement agency.

[HB 1108](#) / [SB 18](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-build contracting. (*Chief patrons: Carr and Locke*)

Amends and reenacts §§ 2.2-4378 through 2.2-4383 of the Code of Virginia, to require state public bodies, covered institutions, and local public bodies to provide documentation of the processes used for the final selection of a construction contract to all the unsuccessful applicants upon request. The bill adds certain requirements for covered institutions, including posting all documents that are open to public inspection exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA. The bill requires approval by a majority vote of the covered institution's board of visitors or governing board if the covered institution chooses to proceed with construction management or design-build against the recommendation of the Department when the project is funded (i) by funds other than those provided from the state general

fund or (ii) if the project is over \$65 million and funded in whole or in part from state general funds. For projects under \$65 million, funded in whole or in part by state general funds, the covered institution shall obtain approval from the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, or their designees, and a representative of the Department. The bill requires a local public body to adopt a resolution or motion to use construction management or design-build, if required by its local governing body, prior to issuing a Request for Qualifications and to publish notice of such resolution or motion on its website or eVA. The bill provides that the Department shall report annually, for any construction management or design-build project, on the qualifications that made such project complex. Finally, the bill requires the Department, with the assistance of staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, to assess implementation of construction management and design-build projects and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2029.

[HB 1116](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; methods of procurement, certain construction projects. (*Chief patron: Carr*)

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-4303 of the Code of Virginia, to allow a public body to establish purchase procedures, if adopted in writing, not requiring competitive sealed bids or competitive negotiation for single or term contracts for non-transportation-related construction projects if the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$300,000. Current law places the limit at \$200,000.

[HB 1246](#) / [SB 547](#) Law-enforcement training; communication with individuals with autism spectrum disorder. (*Chief patrons: Willett and Bagby*)

Amends and reenacts § 9.1-102 of the Code of

Virginia, to require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish compulsory minimum and in-service training standards for law-enforcement officers on communicating with individuals with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability, such as autism spectrum disorder, among other provisions.

[HB 1338](#) Courthouses; website posting of notices. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Amends and reenacts § 1-211.1, as it is currently effective, of the Code of Virginia and to repeal Chapter 683 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022 and Chapter 598 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, to provide if any notice, summons, order, or other official document of any type is required to be posted pursuant to a provision of the Code on or at the front door of a courthouse or on a public bulletin board at a courthouse, it shall constitute compliance with this requirement if such document is (i) posted on the public government website of the locality served by the court or the website of any court, court clerk, sheriff, or commissioner of accounts of the locality or (ii) posted with such other documents at or near the principal public entrance to the courthouse in a location that is conspicuous to the public and approved by the chief judge of the circuit in which the courthouse is situated. Under current law, the document must be posted on either the public government website of the locality served by the court or the website of the circuit court clerk.

[HB 1361](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; Virginia resident preference. *(Chief patron: Feggans)*

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-4324 of the Code of Virginia, to provide preference as it relates to procurement for a bidder who is a resident of Virginia and then a bidder whose goods are produced in the United States. The bill gives the next lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is a resident of Virginia the option to match the price of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is a resident of another state. The bill exempts a public body from the provisions of the bill if such public body is

rendered ineligible to receive federal funding due to the provisions of the bill. The provisions of the bill do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

[HB 1412](#) Virginia Freedom of Information Act; exemption for complainant personal contact information. *(Chief patron: Cherry)*

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-3705.3 of the Code of Virginia, to amend an existing exemption from mandatory disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for names, addresses, and phone numbers of complainants furnished in confidence with respect to an investigation of individual zoning enforcement complaints or complaints relating to the Uniform Statewide Building Code or the Statewide Fire Prevention Code made to a local governing body to exempt personal contact information of such complainants as defined in the bill.

[HB 1433](#) Line of Duty Act; clarifies definition of eligible dependent. *(Chief patron: Hodges)*

Amends and reenacts § 9.1-400 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that for purposes of continued health insurance pursuant to the Line of Duty Act, an eligible dependent includes a child that was born or adopted prior to the employee's claim approval date. Under current law, an eligible dependent includes a child born or adopted prior to the time of the employee's death or disability.

[HB 1488](#) / [SB 413](#) Local government; standardization of public notice requirements for certain meetings, hearings, etc. *(Chief patrons: Henson and Head)*

Amends and reenacts §§ 15.2-107, 15.2-201, 15.2-202, 15.2-301, 15.2-503, 15.2-603, 15.2-716, 15.2-749, 15.2-903, 15.2-907.2, 15.2-909, 15.2-958.3, 15.2-958.6, 15.2-1201, 15.2-1301, 15.2-1427, 15.2-1702, 15.2-1703, 15.2-1719, 15.2-2006, 15.2-2101, 15.2-2105, 15.2-2108.7, 15.2-2108.21, 15.2-2114, 15.2-2204, 15.2-2270, 15.2-2271, 15.2-2272, 15.2-2316.2, 15.2-2321, 15.2-2400, 15.2-2401, 15.2-2409, 15.2-2506, 15.2-2507, 15.2-2606, 15.2-2610, 15.2-2652, 15.2-2653, 15.2-3236, 15.2-3242,

15.2-3400, 15.2-3401, 15.2-3504, 15.2-3600, 15.2-3805, 15.2-3913, 15.2-4311, 15.2-4313, 15.2-4405, 15.2-5136, 15.2-5156, 15.2-5403, 15.2-5431.25, 15.2-5704, 15.2-5806, 15.2-7502, 21-114, 21-117.1, 21-146, 21-229, 21-393, 21-420, 22.1-37, 30-140, 33.2-331, 33.2-723, 33.2-909, 33.2-2001, 33.2-2101, 33.2-2701, 58.1-3245.2, 58.1-3245.8, 58.1-3321, and 62.1-44.15:33, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, to standardize the frequency with which and length of time in which notices of certain meetings, hearings, and other intended actions of localities must be published. The notice provisions included in the bill are organized into three groups: (i) publication required at least seven days before the meeting, hearing, or intended action; (ii) publication required twice, with the first notice appearing no more than 28 days before and the second notice appearing no less than seven days before the meeting, hearing, or intended action; and (iii) publication required three times, with the first notice appearing no more than 35 days before and the third notice appearing no less than seven days before the meeting, hearing, or intended action. The bill also standardizes descriptive information in such notices related to (a) proposing, amending, or repealing ordinances; (b) local budget adoption; and (c) zoning ordinances and planning-related actions.

[HB 1496](#) Surveillance technology; reporting by state & local law-enforcement agencies, etc. *(Chief patron: Rasoul)*

Amends and reenacts the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-116.9, to require localities to provide to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (the Department) a list of surveillance technologies, defined in the bill, used by law-enforcement agencies of the locality and requires the Department to provide such information to the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (the Commission). The bill requires the Commission to conduct

a study, in consultation with a representative from the Virginia State Crime Commission, on the use of each such surveillance technology and the implications of its use, susceptibility to misuse or cyberattack, and cost.

[SB 215](#) FOIA; removal of Virginia residency requirement for access to certain criminal investigation files. *(Chief patron: Perry)*

Amends and reenacts §§ 2.2-3706.1 and 8.01-622.2 of the Code of Virginia, to remove the requirement that persons to whom non-ongoing criminal investigation files shall otherwise be disclosed be citizens of the Commonwealth. Current law limits disclosure of public records to individuals who are citizens of the Commonwealth unless a clear exception applies.

[SB 222](#) Commonwealth information security; definitions, requirements. *(Chief patron: McGuire)*

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-5514 of the Code of Virginia, to exempt cybersecurity information, defined in the bill, from the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act while in possession of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA). The bill requires VITA to keep such cybersecurity information confidential unless the Chief Information Officer or his designee authorizes publication or disclosure of reports or aggregate cybersecurity information.

[SB 241](#) Workers' compensation; notice of right to dispute claim. *(Chief patron: McPike)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 65.2-601.3, to require that when an employee's workers' compensation claim is denied, an employer or insurer shall include in its letter denying benefits a notice that the employee has a right to dispute the claim denial through the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

SB 260 Virginia Public Procurement Act; preference for goods produced in Virginia, etc. (Chief patron: DeSteph)

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-4324 of the Code of Virginia, to provide first preference for goods produced in Virginia and then provides for preference to goods produced in the United States before a tie bid is decided by lot in determining the award for any contract for goods, services, or construction under the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

SB 324 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; charges for production of public records. (Chief patron: Roem)

Amends and reenacts § 2.2-3704 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit a public body from charging a requester for any costs incurred during the first hour spent accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching for records requested in conjunction with the requester's first request. The bill provides that for any additional time spent accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching for such records, or for any additional record requests, the public body shall not charge an hourly rate for accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching for the records exceeding the lesser of the hourly rate of pay of the lowest-paid individual capable of fulfilling the request or \$40 per hour. The bill allows a public body to petition the appropriate court for relief from the \$40-per-hour fee cap upon showing by a preponderance of the evidence that there is no qualified individual capable of fulfilling the request for \$40 per hour or less and requires such petition to be heard within seven days of when the petition is made, provided that the public body has sent and the requester has received a copy of the petition at least three working days prior to filing. The bill also provides that in certain instances a hearing on any petition shall be given precedence on a circuit court's docket over all cases that are not otherwise given precedence by law and that the time period the public body has to respond to a record request shall be tolled between the requester's receipt

of the petition and the final disposition of the court. The bill prohibits a public body from charging a requester for any court costs or fees resulting from a petition. The bill directs the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council to study whether public bodies should charge requesters pursuant to the bill and report on its findings by December 2024. The provisions of the bill amending the Code of Virginia do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

SB 487 Artificial intelligence by public bodies; Joint Commission on Technology & Science to examine use. (Chief patron: Aird)

Directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS), in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to conduct an analysis of the use of artificial intelligence by public bodies in the Commonwealth and the creation of a Commission on Artificial Intelligence. JCOTS shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Communications, Technology and Innovation and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 68 Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers. (Chief patron: Bulova)

Would have allowed dispatchers, as defined in the bill, to claim workers' compensation benefits relating to post-traumatic stress disorder under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. Currently, only law-enforcement officers and firefighters may claim such benefits. ***(Continued to 2025 session in House Labor and Commerce)***

HB 147 / SB 656 Terrorism hoax incident, etc. ; reimbursement of expenses incurred to localities. *(Chief patrons: Reid and Favola)*

Would have allowed a locality that has an ordinance requiring any person over 18 years of age convicted of false emergency communication to emergency personnel to reimburse such locality at the time of sentencing or in a separate civil action to bill a flat fee of \$2,500 or a minute-by-minute accounting of actual costs incurred. The bill also allows a locality that has an ordinance requiring any person under 18 years of age convicted of false emergency communication to emergency personnel to reimburse such locality at the time of sentencing or in a separate civil action to bill a flat fee of \$2,500 or a minute-by-minute accounting of actual costs incurred, not to exceed \$2,500. Current law allows a flat fee of \$250 or a minute-by-minute accounting of actual costs incurred, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

HB 175 / SB 99 Assault firearms; carrying in public areas prohibited, penalty. *(Chief patrons: Simon and Ebbin)*

Amends and reenacts § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit the carrying of certain semi-automatic center-fire rifles and shotguns on any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, or public right-of-way or in any public park or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public, with certain exceptions. Under current law, the current prohibition on carrying certain shotguns and semi-automatic center-fire rifles and pistols applies to a narrower range of firearms, only in certain localities, and only when such firearms are loaded. **(VETOED)**

HB 232 / SB 466 Line of Duty Act; benefits for campus and private police officers. *(Chief patrons: Campbell and Obenshein)*

Would have provided employees of contributing nonprofit private institutions of higher education, defined in the bill, and contributing private police departments, 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 private institution of higher education or private police department that is not a contributing nonprofit private institution of higher education or contributing private police department, respectively. 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 this bill, as determined by the Virginia Retirement System.

HB 569 Employment discrimination; employee notification of federal and state statute of limitations. *(Chief patron: Henson)*

Would have required an employer that employs 10 or more employees and that receives an employee complaint alleging sexual assault, harassment, or any other form of discrimination for which the employee may seek enforcement by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the Office of the Attorney General to notify such employee that a charge may be filed with the EEOC or the Office of the Attorney General within 300 days after the alleged unlawful discriminatory practice occurred. The bill also would have required an employer to provide this information as part of any new employee training provided at the commencement of employment or anti-discrimination training provided to an employee. **(VETOED)**

HB 698 / SB 448 Cannabis control; establishes a framework for creation of a retail marijuana 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 allows the Authority to begin issuing all marijuana licenses on September 1, 2024, but provides that no retail sales may occur prior to May 1, 2025. **(VETOED)**

HB 799 Concealed handgun permit applications; fingerprints required by local governments. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Amends and reenacts § 18.2-308.02 of the Code of Virginia, to require an applicant for a concealed handgun permit or a renewal of such permit to submit fingerprints as part of the application. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025. **(VETOED)**

HB 938 / SB 542 Unemployment insurance; benefit eligibility conditions, lockout exception, etc. *(Chief patrons: LeVere Bolling and Bagby)*

Would have amended and reenacted § 60.2-612 of the Code of Virginia, to amend the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act's labor dispute disqualification to provide that a lockout by an employer shall not constitute a labor dispute and that locked-out employees who are otherwise eligible for benefits shall receive such benefits unless (i) the recognized or certified collective bargaining representative of the locked-out employees refuses to meet under reasonable conditions with the employer to discuss the issues giving rise to the lockout, (ii) there is a final adjudication under the federal National Labor Relations Act that such representative has refused to bargain in good faith with the employer, or (iii) the lockout is the direct result of such representative's violation of an existing collective bargaining agreement. **(VETOED)**

HB 1001 / SB 374 Collective bargaining by public employees; labor organization representation. *(Chief patrons: Tran and Boysko)*

Would have repealed the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The bill requires 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 bill repeals 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.

HB 1284 / SB 623 Firefighters and emergency medical services; collective bargaining by providers. *(Chief patrons: Askew and Lucas)*

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 provides 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 are final on a disputed issue and are binding on the parties involved. **(HB 1284 and SB 623 were continued to 2025 session in Senate Finance and Appropriations)**

HB 1355 Information Technology Access Act; numerous organizational changes to the act. *(Chief patrons: Tran)*

Would have made 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, among other provisions.

(Continued to 2025 session in Senate General Laws and Technology)

SB 570 Virginia Human Rights Act;

definition of "employer." *(Chief patron: Ebbin)*

Would have waived the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity to a civil action under the definition of "person" in relevant law. The bill also expands the definition of "employer" as it relates to the requirement to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities under the Virginia Human Rights Act to include any government or political subdivision, or agent of such government or political subdivision, employing more than five employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year. The bill also reduces the number of employees from 15 to five for the definition of employer of domestic workers.

(VETOED)

Health and Human Resources

PASSED LEGISLATION

Aging and Individuals with Disabilities

HB 115 / SB 290 Guardians and conservators; order of appointment and certificate of qualification, annual report. *(Chief patrons: Sullivan and Roem)*
Amends §§ 64.2-2002, 64.2-2011, and 64.2-2020 of the Code of Virginia. Requires a petitioner for the appointment of a guardian, a conservator, or both, to include a cover sheet on a form prepared by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia; also requires a guardian to file an initial annual report (reflecting the first four months of guardianship since qualification) with the local department of social services within six months of the date of qualification and to file the second and each subsequent annual report within four months from the last day of the last 12-month period covered by the previous annual report.

HB 291 / SB 24 Long-term services and supports screening; expedited screening and screening exemption. *(Chief patrons: Cherry and Locke)*
Amends § 32.1-330 of the Code of Virginia to allow flexibility under certain circumstances in requirements for screening individuals for long-term services and supports under the state plan for medical assistance services. Under the bill, if an individual is in imminent need of nursing facility placement and the long-term services and supports screening team is unable to complete the screening within

30 days, the team is to confer as to which entity can most expeditiously complete the screening; the bill authorizes qualified staff of the nursing facility to complete the screening under these circumstances. The bill provides that an individual receiving inpatient services at an acute care hospital who is discharged to a nursing facility for skilled care only is not required to be screened prior to discharge from the hospital unless the individual requests the screening.

HB 327 Affordable and inclusive housing; DBHDS to develop plan to ensure people w/disabilities have access. *(Chief patron: Feggans)*
Directs the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to work with stakeholders to develop a plan to ensure that people with disabilities across the Commonwealth, including individuals affected by the August 2012 Settlement Agreement (pursuant to *U.S. of America v. Commonwealth of Virginia*), have an opportunity to access affordable and inclusive housing, as defined in the bill. The bill requires the Commissioner to present the plan to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2025.

HB 577 / SB 610 Slot-retention requests; Developmental Disability waiver slots, sunset date. *(Chief patrons: Runion and Suetterlein)*
Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to amend their regulations to allow for support coordinators to request and subsequently obtain approval of consecutive waiver slot-retention requests for a period of up to 365 calendar days for individuals who have been assigned a Developmental Disability waiver slot. Current regulations allow for four consecutive 30-day slot-retention extensions. The bill sunsets on June 30, 2026.

[HB 692](#) / [SB 174](#) Financial institutions; reporting financial exploitation of elderly or vulnerable adults. (*Chief patrons: Maldonado and Favola*)

Adds § 6.2-103.2 to the Code of Virginia to permit a financial institution to allow an elderly or vulnerable adult, as defined in the bill, to submit and periodically update a list of trusted persons whom such financial institution or financial institution staff, as defined in the bill, may contact in the case of the suspected financial exploitation of such adult. Allows financial institution staff to convey suspicions of financial exploitation to persons on the trusted contact list, an agent under a power of attorney, or certain other individuals, as well as to the FBI, the local department of social services, the adult protective services hotline, or local law enforcement. The bill provides liability protections for financial institution staff.

[HB 729](#) / [SB 620](#) PACE programs; long-term services and support screening. (*Chief patrons: Sickles and Pillion*)

Amends § 32.1-330 of the Code of Virginia to allow qualified staff of programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) to conduct the required long-term services and supports screening in accordance with requirements established by the Department of Medical Assistance Services. Under the bill, when a screening team determines that it is unable to complete a long-term services and supports screening within 30 days, or an individual requests enrollment in a PACE program, the screening team shall decide which entity can most expeditiously conduct the screening. Under the bill, qualified staff of a PACE program shall conduct the screening if the screening team determines that it is the most expeditious option.

[HB 786](#) Guardianship and conservatorship; restoration or modification or termination of order. (*Chief patron: Hope*)

Amends §§ 64.2-2009 and 64.2-2012 of the Code of Virginia to allow a person subject

to a guardianship or conservatorship who is not represented by counsel to initiate the process to be restored to capacity or have such guardianship or conservatorship modified or terminated by sending informal written communication to the court, in lieu of the petition requirement specified under current law.

[HB 908](#) / [SB 676](#) Individuals with developmental disabilities; financial eligibility. (*Chief patrons: Shin and Ebbin*)

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to amend the financial eligibility standards for individuals receiving services under the Family and Individual Support Waiver, Community Living Waiver, and Building Independence Waiver (the DD Waivers). The bill requires the Department, when determining financial eligibility for the DD Waivers, to disregard any Social Security Disability Insurance income above the maximum monthly Supplemental Security Income as determined by the U.S. Social Security Administration; however, such Social Security Disability Insurance income shall not be disregarded for purposes of determining an individual's patient pay obligation. The bill also requires the Department to analyze the implications of such amendments to the financial eligibility standards for individuals under the DD waivers and report its findings no later than November 1, 2024. The bill sunsets on July 1, 2026.

[HB 909](#) / [SB 488](#) 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waivers; state plan amendments, program modifications. (*Chief patrons: Shin and Aird*)

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to seek federal authority to modify the program rules for certain 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waivers to (i) modify the 40-hour-per-week work limit to allow legally responsible individuals with more than one waiver-receiving child to receive

reimbursement for 40 hours of work per week per child; (ii) eliminate the requirement that, in order for a legally responsible individual to receive reimbursement for personal care services, no one else be available to provide services to the member; and (iii) modify the program rules to allow a legally responsible individual or stepparent to be the employer of record. The bill directs DMAS to evaluate the possibility of allowing for respite services under certain 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waivers and submit its recommendations, cost estimate, and methodology used for obtaining the cost estimate to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2024.

HB 1423 Home care services; publication of information. *(Chief patron: Cole)*

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to annually publish on its website the average hourly payment rates for home care services for each type of service provided. The bill also requires the Department to publish the total number of Medicaid-paid home care claims and the number of Medicaid enrollees who received home care services in the prior year.

HB 1498 / SB 173 Adult day care centers; name changes to adult day centers throughout the Code. *(Chief patrons: Willett and New Craig)*

Amends §§ 4.1-1600, 8.01-225.03, 19.2-389, and various other sections of the Code of Virginia to rename “adult day care centers” as “adult day centers” throughout the Code of Virginia.

SB 51 Online transition resources; DARS, et al., to ensure dissemination and availability. *(Chief patron: Favola)*

Directs the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in partnership with relevant entities, to ensure that online resources are readily available and disseminated to all individuals transitioning from school to post-school activities, as well as

their families. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Disability Commission.

SB 59 Federal Medicaid Works program; DMAS to convene work group to study, etc. *(Chief patron: Favola)*

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders to study and make recommendations to improve access to and successful utilization of the federal Medicaid Works program. The bill requires the work group to report its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2024. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Disability Commission.

SB 291 Court-appointed guardians; training; powers and duties. *(Chief patron: Roem)*

Amends §§ 51.5-150, 64.2-2019, and 64.2-2020 and adds § 51.5-150.1 to the Code of Virginia to require the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to develop and provide training for court-appointed guardians by July 1, 2025. The bill requires a court-appointed guardian and any skilled professional retained by such guardian to perform guardianship duties to complete the initial training developed by the Department within four months after the date of qualification of such guardian. Under the bill, guardians appointed prior to July 1, 2025, must complete such training by January 1, 2027. The bill further requires a guardian to include in his annual report to the local department of social services a statement as to whether such training has been completed.

SB 292 Guardianship and conservatorship; report of guardian ad litem. *(Chief patron: Roem)*

Amends § 64.2-2003 of the Code of Virginia to add to the considerations regarding the suitability and propriety of a prospective guardian or conservator that a guardian ad litem is required to address in his report to the court following a petition for guardianship or conservatorship. The bill provides that

the guardian ad litem shall consider the prospective guardian's or conservator's work as a professional guardian, including whether the person does so on a full-time basis, the prospective guardian's or conservator's expected capacity as a guardian, and whether the prospective guardian or conservator is named as a perpetrator in any substantiated adult protective services complaint involving the respondent following allegations of abuse or neglect.

Behavioral Health

HB 292 / SB 725 Drug Treatment Court Act; renames the Act as the Recovery Court Act.

(Chief patrons: Ballard and Pillion)

Amends §§ 18.2-251.02 and 18.2-254.1 of the Code of Virginia to rename the Drug Treatment Court Act as the Recovery Court Act.

HB 313 State Inspector General, Office of the; investigations of abuse/neglect at state psychiatric hosp. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Directs the Office of the State Inspector General to develop a plan to fulfill its statutory obligation to fully investigate all complaints it receives alleging abuse, neglect, or inadequate care at a state psychiatric hospital; the bill also requires the Office to submit an annual report to the General Assembly regarding the number of such complaints received and the number of complaints that were fully investigated by the Office. [SB 178](#) (Favola) is very similar.

HB 314 / SB 179 State hospitals; discharge planning. *(Chief patrons: Hope and Favola)*

Amends §§ 37.2-505 and 37.2-837 of the Code of Virginia to provide that when an individual is to be discharged from Central State Hospital, Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute, or Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute in 30 days or less after admission, the appropriate community services board shall implement the discharge plan developed by the state facility. Under current law, community services boards and behavioral health authorities provide discharge planning for all individuals

discharged from state hospitals, regardless of the duration of their stay. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

HB 342 Naloxone or other opioid antagonists; possession by state agencies, guidelines for private employer. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Amends § 54.1-3408 and adds § 2.2-2833 to the Code of Virginia to require state agencies to possess naloxone or other opioid antagonists used for overdose reversal; permits employees of any state agency to possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonists.

HB 434 Inpatient substance use disorder treatment; facility licensed to prepare and record discharge plan. *(Chief patron: Arnold)*

Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to amend its regulations to require that any facility licensed by the Department to provide inpatient substance use disorder treatment be required to prepare and record a valid discharge plan upon the discharge or withdrawal of any individual from the facility who has received substance use disorder treatment while admitted to such facility.

HB 515 State hospitals; discharge of individuals. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to develop and implement a pilot program at one state hospital to allow the hospital director the option to discharge certain individuals over the objection of the community services board.

HB 601 / SB 543 Health insurance; patient access to emergency services, mobile crisis response services. *(Chief patrons: Kilgore and Bagby)*

Amends §§ 38.2-3412.1, 38.2-3438, and 38.2-3445 of the Code of Virginia to provide that emergency services, with respect to an emergency medical condition, include, as it relates to any mental health services or substance abuse services rendered at a

behavioral health crisis service provider, (i) a behavioral health assessment that is within the capability of a behavioral health crisis service provider, including ancillary services routinely available to evaluate such emergency medical condition, and (ii) such further examination and treatment, to the extent that they are within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available at the behavioral health crisis service provider, as are required so that the patient's condition does not deteriorate. The legislation requires coverage for such services to be provided in accordance with federal mental health parity requirements, and provides that such services may be rendered at a location other than a hospital emergency department.

[HB 699](#) Treatment with opioids; Board of Medicine, et al., to amend their regulations. *(Chief patron: Maldonado)*

Directs the Board of Medicine, the Board of Dentistry, the Board of Optometry, and the Boards of Medicine and Nursing to amend their regulations to require counseling of patients being prescribed an opioid for the treatment of acute or chronic pain regarding the risks of such medications, with certain exceptions.

[HB 772](#) / [SB 460](#) Minors; parental admission for inpatient treatment. *(Chief patrons: Delaney and Marsden)*

Amends §§ 16.1-338 and 16.1-339 of the Code of Virginia to clarify that for the purposes of admission of a minor to a willing mental health facility for inpatient treatment, the finding required to be made by a qualified evaluator that the minor appears to have a mental illness serious enough to warrant inpatient treatment may include a finding of substance abuse. The bill also specifies that a temporary detention order shall not be required for a minor 14 years of age or older who objects to admission to be admitted to a willing facility for up to 120 hours upon the application of a parent, pending court review. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Commission on Youth.

[HB 806](#) / [SB 177](#) Employee designation and payment policies; nursing staff at state psychiatric hospitals. *(Chief patrons: Rasoul and Favola)*

Directs the Department of Human Resource Management to amend its policies to authorize the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and state psychiatric hospitals to designate as full-time employees nursing staff and psychiatric technicians who work at least 36 hours per week. The bill prohibits the Department from requiring reductions in pay or other benefits for such employees based solely on the fact that the employee works 36 hours per week. The bill directs the Department to examine whether this change should be extended to comparable direct care positions at other executive branch agencies.

[HB 823](#) / [SB 497](#) Temporary detention order; alternative transportation. *(Chief patrons: Cherry and Carroll Foy)*

Amends § 37.2-810 of the Code of Virginia. Provides that when a magistrate is determining whether an alternative transportation provider is available for the purposes of designating a transportation provider for a person who is the subject of a temporary detention order, an alternative transportation provider shall be deemed available if the provider states that it is available to take custody of the person from law enforcement within six hours of issuance of the temporary detention order or an order changing the transportation provider. The bill also provides that if (i) no alternative transportation provider is available to provide transportation, willing to provide transportation, and able to provide transportation in a safe manner or (ii) the law-enforcement agency elects to provide transportation, the magistrate shall designate the primary law-enforcement agency and jurisdiction designated to execute the temporary detention order to provide transportation of the person.

HB 888 / SB 176 Civil commitments & temporary detention orders; def. of mental illness neurocognitive disorders. (*Chief patrons: Watts and Favola*)

Amends §§ 37.2-809, 37.2-809.1, 37.2-815, 37.2-816, and 37.2-817 of the Code of Virginia to provide that for the purpose of civil commitments and temporary detention orders, behaviors and symptoms that manifest from a neurocognitive disorder or neurodevelopmental disability are excluded from the definition of mental illness and are not sufficient in themselves to justify a finding of mental illness. The bill provides that if a state facility has reason to believe that an individual's behaviors or symptoms are solely a manifestation of a neurocognitive disorder or neurodevelopmental disability, the state facility may require that a licensed psychiatrist or other licensed mental health professional reevaluate the individual's eligibility for a temporary detention order before the individual is admitted and shall promptly authorize the release of an individual held under a temporary detention order if it is determined that the individual's behaviors or symptoms are solely a manifestation of a neurocognitive disorder or neurodevelopmental disability. These provisions must be reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly. The bill also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to evaluate, identify, and develop placements for individuals with neurocognitive disorders and neurodevelopmental disabilities, as well as any statutory or funding changes needed to prevent inappropriate placements for such individuals, and to report his findings and recommendations by November 1, 2024.

HB 1242 / SB 546 Emergency custody and temporary detention orders; evaluations, presence of others. (*Chief patrons: Willett and Bagby*)

Amends §§ 37.2-808 and 37.2-809 of the Code of Virginia to require (i) the evaluator conducting the evaluation of an individual to determine whether such individual meets the

criteria for temporary detention or (ii) the hospital emergency department and treating physician or other health care provider designated by the physician, when providing services to an individual who is being evaluated to determine whether the individual meets the criteria for temporary detention, to allow the individual's family member or legal guardian to be present unless the individual objects or the evaluator or treating physician determines that their presence would create a medical, clinical, or safety risk to the patient or health care provider, or interfere with patient care.

HB 1269 / SB 626 Barrier crimes; adult substance abuse and mental health services, exception. (*Chief patrons: Price and Pillion*)

Amends §§ 37.2-314, 37.2-416.1, and 37.2-506.1 of the Code of Virginia to permit the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, providers of substance abuse services or mental health services to adults, and community service boards and behavioral health authorities to hire applicants convicted of certain misdemeanor assault and battery offenses or certain offenses involving controlled substances provided that the conviction occurred more than four years prior to the application date for employment.

HB 1336 / SB 568 Crisis stabilization services; facilities licensed by DBHDS, nursing homes. (*Chief patrons: Sickles and Deeds*)

Amends §§ 54.1-3401, 54.1-3423, and 54.1-3434.02 of the Code of Virginia to permit facilities licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services that provide crisis stabilization services to maintain a stock of Schedules II through VI controlled substances necessary for immediate treatment of patients admitted to such facility. The bill also allows automated drug dispensing systems and remote dispensing systems to be used by state facilities, licensed facilities that provide crisis stabilization services, nursing homes, and other facilities authorized by the Board of Pharmacy that meet certain conditions. The bill contains an emergency

clause and directs the Board of Pharmacy to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

SB 19 Recovery residences; death and serious injury reports. (*Chief patron: Favola*) Amends § 37.2-431.1 of the Code of Virginia to require the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to promulgate regulations that require recovery residences to report to the Department any death or serious injury that occurs in the recovery residence.

SB 34 Temporary detention; certified evaluators, report. (*Chief patron: Locke*) Amends §§ 37.2-800, 37.2-804.2, 37.2-805, 37.2-808 through 37.2-810, 37.2-813, 37.2-814, 37.2-816, 37.2-817, and 37.2-1104 of the Code of Virginia to authorize hospitals with a psychiatric emergency department located in the City of Hampton to employ certain trained individuals to perform evaluations to determine whether a person meets the criteria for temporary detention for behavioral health treatment. The bill includes certain reporting requirements, including a required evaluation of the overall effectiveness of certified evaluators conducting temporary detention orders. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2026.

SB 74 Prescription Monitoring Program; release of records to drug court administrators. (*Chief patron: Durant*) Amends § 54.1-2523 of the Code of Virginia to require the Director of the Department of Health Professions to release otherwise confidential information from the Prescription Monitoring Program to drug court administrators and behavioral health docket administrators who have completed the Virginia State Police Drug Diversion School designated by the Director of the Department of Corrections or his designee when such information is relevant to a specific investigation, supervision, or monitoring of a specific recipient for purposes of the administration of criminal justice. The bill requires release of the information

upon receiving a request for information in accordance with the Department of Health Profession's regulations and in compliance with applicable federal law and regulations.

SB 87 Health insurance provider panels; incentives for mental health services. (*Chief patron: Favola*) Amends § 38.2-3407.10 of the Code of Virginia to allow a provider panel contract between a carrier and a primary care provider to include provisions that promote comprehensive screening using evidence-based tools for mental health needs and appropriate referrals by primary care providers to mental health services that may be provided on-site, via telehealth on site, or through an off-site referral.

SB 277 Certificate of public need; expedited review process, etc. (*Chief patron: Hashmi*) Directs the Board of Health to convene the State Health Services Plan Task Force to make recommendations on expedited review of projects subject to certificate of public need requirements; directs that project types for consideration include increases in inpatient psychiatric beds, relocation of inpatient psychiatric beds, introduction of psychiatric services into an existing medical care facility, and conversion of beds in an existing facility to psychiatric inpatient beds.

SB 569 Crisis receiving centers and crisis stabilization units; use of seclusion, report. (*Chief patron: Deeds*) Directs the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to amend its regulations to ensure that its licensing and human rights regulations support high-quality crisis services, including by authorizing the appropriate and safe use of seclusion in crisis receiving centers and crisis stabilization units. Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to convene a work group to propose additional regulations to allow for the use of (i) evidence-based and recovery-oriented seclusion and restraint practices and (ii) alternative behavior

management practices that may limit or replace the use of seclusion and restraint in hospitals, residential programs, and licensed facilities. The bill contains an emergency clause.

SB 574 Behavioral Health Commission; Commission to study processes related to civil admissions. (*Chief patron: Deeds*)

Directs the Behavioral Health Commission to convene a work group to study how to effectively align current civil admissions laws and processes with new behavioral health and crisis response services and resources in the Commonwealth.

SB 603 Incarcerated women who are pregnant, etc.; DCJS, et al., to make recommendations for treatment. (*Chief patron: McGuire*)

Directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Health, to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders to study and make recommendations related to prioritizing treatment for incarcerated women who are pregnant and in need of substance abuse treatment. The bill requires the work group to report its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2024.

HJ 41 Fentanyl crisis; Joint Commission on Health Care to study policy solutions. (*Chief Patron: Srinivasan*)

Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to study policy solutions to the Commonwealth's fentanyl crisis.

Health

HB 57 Restaurant exemptions; certain organizations participating in fundraising events. (*Chief patron: Wright*)

Amends § 35.1-25 of the Code of Virginia. Clarifies that the provision in current law that exempts certain organizations (such as

churches, fraternal or school organizations, and volunteer fire departments and emergency medical services agencies) from provisions applicable to restaurants, applies when such organizations offer food for sale to the public as a participant in an occasional fundraising event, provided certain conditions are met. Current law exempts such organizations from provisions applicable to restaurants when such organizations hold occasional fundraisers that offer food for sale to the public, provided certain conditions are met.

HB 93 Alpha-gal syndrome; Board of Health to adopt regulations to include on reportable disease list. (*Chief patron: Wachsmann*)

Directs the Board of Health to add alpha-gal syndrome to the list of diseases required to be reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, effective July 1, 2025.

HB 225 / SB 22 Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact; authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to the Compact. (*Chief patrons: Sickles and Locke*)

Adds § 54.1-2729.02 to the Code of Virginia to authorize Virginia to become a signatory to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, which permits eligible licensed dentists and dental hygienists to practice in Compact participating states, provided that they are licensed in at least one participating state. The Compact has been passed in three states and takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh participating state or upon the effective date of the bill, whichever is later.

HB 252 Sickle cell disease; statewide registry created, collection of disease case information, report. (*Chief patron: Cole*)

Adds §§ 32.1-73.21 through 32.1-73.26 to the Code of Virginia to direct the State Health Commissioner to establish a statewide registry of sickle cell disease patients, the purposes of which are to include determining means of improving diagnosis and treatment and conducting epidemiological analyses, among others. The bill provides that the information

is to be kept confidential and requires physicians to notify patients that information has been submitted to the registry; the bill allows patients to opt out of having information reported to the registry.

HB 255 Adult wellness screening; sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait. *(Chief patron: Mundon King)*

Adds § 32.1-73.21 to the Code of Virginia to provide that every adult resident of the Commonwealth may be offered screening tests for sickle cell disease or the sickle cell trait and requires that the health care professional in charge of an adult's annual health examination provide education and appropriate counseling regarding the results of any such test that is performed.

HB 257 Sickle cell anemia; prescription of opioids for pain management. *(Chief patron: Mundon King)*

Amends § 54.1-2522.1 of the Code of Virginia to exempt prescribers from requirements to make certain inquiries of the Prescription Monitoring Program when prescribing opioids if the opioid is prescribed for pain management related to sickle cell anemia.

HB 324 PA Licensure Compact; authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to Compact. *(Chief patron: Glass)*

Adds § 54.1-2953.1 to the Code of Virginia to authorize Virginia to become a signatory to the PA Licensure Compact, which permits eligible physician assistants to practice in Compact-participating states, provided that they are licensed in at least one participating state. The Compact has been passed in three states and takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh participating state or upon the effective date of the bill, whichever is later.

HB 649 / SB 325 Vital records; birth certificates, adoption, members of the military. *(Chief patrons: Coyner and Roem)*

Amends § 32.1-261 of the Code of Virginia to direct the State Registrar to expedite issuance

of a new birth certificate upon receipt of certain documentation if at least one adoptive parent is an active duty or retired member of the military or military reserves. The bill directs the court decreeing the adoption to deliver such records to the State Registrar no later than five business days from such decree.

HB 759 Food inspections; pickles and acidified vegetables, gross sales. *(Chief patron: Freitas)*

Amends § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia. Increases from \$3,000 to \$9,000 the gross sales annual revenue cap for sales of pickles and other acidified vegetables that are processed and prepared in a private home without an inspection as otherwise required to operate a food establishment. The bill expands the exemption for private homes where the resident processes and prepares certain food products to allow for such person to sell the food at a temporary event that operates for a period of no more than 14 consecutive days and clarifies that such person may advertise such food products over the Internet provided that the sale takes place in person and complies with certain restrictions.

HB 820 Sickle cell disease; annual review of medication and treatment, report. *(Chief patron: Mundon King)*

Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to conduct an annual review of all medications and forms of treatment for sickle cell disease, and services for enrollees with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease, that are eligible for coverage under the state plan for medical assistance services.

HB 1499 / SB 155 Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority; increases ex officio members, etc., report. *(Chief patrons: Willett and Head)*

Amends §§ 32.1-122.7, 32.1-122.7:1, 32.1-122.7:2, and 54.1-3500 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 2.2-2040.1 to add four additional ex officio members to the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority's

Board of Directors, add setting priorities for and managing graduate medical education programs to the duties of the Authority, specify additional recipients of the Board's biennial report, and authorize the Authority to partner with other agencies and institutions to obtain and manage health workforce data. The bill directs the Board of Nursing to revise certain educational requirements for members of the nursing faculty in specified nursing education programs and establishes a licensing procedure by the Board of Psychology for a psychological practitioner, as defined by the bill. The bill directs the Board of Nursing and the Board of Psychology to adopt regulations to implement relevant provisions of the bill to be effective no later than January 1, 2025.

Human Trafficking

HB 203 Private security services business; training requirements for human trafficking. *(Chief patron: Simonds)*

Amends §§ 9.1-102 and 9.1-141 of the Code of Virginia to require the compulsory minimum, entry-level, and in-service training standards for an unarmed security officer, armed security officer, courier, security canine handler, and alarm respondent to include a training requirement on recognizing and reporting instances of suspected human trafficking; directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop an online course to meet such training requirement.

HB 581 Human trafficking; attorneys for the Commonwealth to establish multidisciplinary response teams. *(Chief patron: Simonds)*

Amends §§ 2.2-3703, 2.2-3705.7, 2.2-3711, and 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 15.2-1627.6 to the Code of Virginia to require attorneys for the Commonwealth to establish multidisciplinary human trafficking response teams. The bill provides that each team shall hold a meeting, at least annually, to (i) discuss implementation of protocols and policies; (ii) establish and review guidelines for the community's response to various forms of

human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking; and (iii) review protocols for the trauma-informed, victim-centered collection, preservation, and secure storage of evidence from physical evidence recovery kit examinations.

Social Services

HB 27 / SB 39 Kinship as foster care; placement of child with foster parent. *(Chief patrons: Callsen and Favola)*

Amends § 63.2-900.1 of the Code of Virginia and adds §§ 63.2-1531 through 63.2-1536 to establish the Parental Child Safety Placement Program to promote and support placements of children with relatives by local boards of social services in order to avoid foster care. The bill requires local boards to file an exception report detailing efforts to locate relatives and fictive kin if a child is not placed with an approved kinship foster parent. The bill establishes the requirements for a parental child safety placement agreement, the procedure for assessing a proposed caregiver, and the process for terminating the placement. The bill directs the State Board of Social Services to promulgate regulations to implement the legislation by January 1, 2025, to include provisions regarding the manner in which Parental Child Safety Placement Program payments are to be prioritized based on available funding.

HB 150 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; new participants not required to appear in person. *(Chief patron: Helmer)*

Amends §§ 22.1-79 and 63.2-801 of the Code of Virginia and adds § 32.1-23.7 to codify the Virginia Department of Health's authority to implement a Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC Program), which is currently authorized by regulation, and to prohibit the Board of Social Services from requiring persons applying to participate or renewing their participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to appear in person, except as otherwise provided in federal law or regulation.

[HB 317](#) Children’s residential facility; Office of Children’s Ombudsman to interview children in foster care. (*Chief patron: Gardner*)

Amends §§ 2.2-438, 2.2-442, 2.2-445, and 2.2-447 of the Code of Virginia to add children’s residential facilities to the list of entities whose administrative acts may be investigated by the Children’s Ombudsman. The bill also requires the Department of Social Services, the local department of social services, a children’s residential facility, or a child-placing agency, upon request of the Children’s Ombudsman, to grant access and provide consent to interview children in foster care who are the subject of or the complainant in an investigation.

[HB 326](#) / [SB 239](#) Social Work Licensure Compact; authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to Compact. (*Chief patrons: Glass and Hashmi*)

Adds § 54.1-3709.4 to the Code of Virginia to authorize Virginia to become a signatory to the Social Work Licensure Compact, which allows social workers who have or are eligible for an active, unencumbered license in the compact member state where they reside to apply for a multistate license that authorizes practice in all other compact member states. The Compact takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh member state.

[HB 361](#) Criminal history record information; dissemination of information to DSS. (*Chief patron: Simonds*)

Amends § 19.2-389 of the Code of Virginia to authorize the Department of Social Services to obtain criminal history record information for the purpose of screening individuals as a condition of licensure, employment, volunteering, or providing services on a regular basis in a licensed child welfare agency or foster or adoptive home approved by a child-placing agency.

[HB 407](#) Child Care Subsidy Program; categorical eligibility for certain families.

(*Chief patron: Hernandez*)

Adds § 22.1-289.08:2 to the Code of Virginia to provide that any family that receives public assistance through Medicaid or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children shall be deemed to categorically satisfy income eligibility requirements to receive assistance through the Child Care Subsidy Program.

[HB 453](#) Kinship foster care; barrier crimes. (*Chief patron: Callsen*)

Amends § 63.2-901.1 of the Code of Virginia to permit local boards of social services or child-placing agencies to approve kinship foster care parent applicants who have been convicted of certain felony drug offenses if five years have elapsed since the date of the conviction (where under current law 10 years must have elapsed in order to be eligible for approval as a kinship foster care parent), as well as applicants convicted of certain misdemeanor assault and battery convictions not involving a minor if five years have elapsed since the date of the conviction. The bill directs the State Board of Social Services to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill to be effective no later than September 1, 2024.

[HB 700](#) Certain individuals in foster care, etc.; parameters of higher education grants.

(*Chief patron: Tata*)

Amends § 23.1-601 of the Code of Virginia to require each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to provide grants to certain individuals who were in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social Services or were considered a special needs adoption (current law requires community colleges to provide these grants). Adds mandatory education and general fees and, in the case of baccalaureate public institutions of higher education, the cost

of room and board to the amount of such grants; and makes eligible for such grants any individual who meets certain other eligibility criteria and was in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social Services or was considered a special needs adoption at any time after he turned 14. Current law requires such an individual to have been in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social Services or considered a special needs adoption at the time that his high school diploma or equivalency examination certificate was awarded. The bill also requires each public institution of higher education to identify at least one employee of the institution to serve as a point of contact for each enrolled student who was in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social Services or was considered a special needs adoption.

HB 855 Home Energy Assistance Program; Bd. of Social Svcs. to allow applications to be submitted all year. *(Chief patron: Hernandez)*

Authorizes the State Board of Social Services to allow applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program to be submitted over an application period that provides adequate time for individuals to apply and is extended beyond the current application period, subject to the availability of funding.

HB 1128 / SB 12 Children's advocacy centers; definitions, investigations by local departments of social services. *(Chief patrons: Bennett-Parker and Favola)*

Amends §§ 15.2-1627.5, 63.2-100, 63.2-1505, and 63.2-1506.1 of the Code of Virginia to replace the term "child advocacy center" with "children's advocacy center," as defined in the bill. The bill provides that if it is determined during a human trafficking assessment that a forensic interview of a child is needed, such interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center within the jurisdiction; however, if the interview cannot be completed within 14 days, the forensic interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center located in another jurisdiction.

HB 1366 Social services, local departments of; employee criminal background checks.

(Chief patron: Delaney)

Adds § 63.2-325.1 to the Code of Virginia to establish a process for local departments of social services to conduct background checks for current or prospective employees and prohibits local departments from employing any person who has been convicted of a criminal offense that relates to his employment, based on certain criteria set out in the bill.

HB 1542 Child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporters, statute of limitations, penalties. *(Chief patron: Mundon King)*

Amends § 63.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia to add aggravated sexual battery of a child and attempted rape, sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, or object sexual penetration of a child to the list of offenses for which a failure to report subjects a mandatory reporter to criminal liability.

CONTINUED OR FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 75 / SB 40 State Board of Social Services; regulations; application for and use of foster care benefits. *(Chief patrons: Hope and Favola)*

Would have directed the State Board of Social Services to amend its regulations by January 1, 2025, 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 federal 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 federal benefits in an appropriate trust instrument or protected account.

HB 354 Public pools; Board of Health to adopt regulations. *(Chief patron: Hope)*

Would have directed the Board of Health to

adopt regulations governing swimming pools and other water recreational facilities operated for public use, including swimming pools and other water recreational facilities operated in conjunction with a tourist facility or health spa. The bill stipulated that neither the legislation nor Board regulations may prohibit any locality from adopting more stringent requirements. **(VETOED)**

[HB 570](#) / [SB 274](#) Prescription Drug Affordability Board; established, drug cost affordability review, report. *(Chief patrons: Delaney and Deeds)*

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)**

[HB 992](#) Social services, local departments of; agreements with local workforce development boards. *(Chief patron: Tran)*

Would have directed each local department of social services to develop and enter into a written agreement with the local workforce development board for the coordinated provision of workforce development services to participants in the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training, in compliance with any other requirements established by the local workforce development board and the Department of Social Services. **(VETOED)**

[SB 70](#) SNAP; employment and training. *(Chief patron: McPike)*

Would have required all local departments of social services to offer an employment and training program for SNAP benefits program participants.

TRANSPORTATION

PASSED LEGISLATION

HHB 74 / SB 644 Unpaved secondary highways; improvement of secondary hways. includes improvements other than paving.

(Chief patrons: Reid and Perry)

Amends § 33.2-359 of the Code of Virginia, which clarifies that the improvement of nonsurface treated secondary highways includes improvements other than paving, as described in the bill. The bill also clarifies that the local governing body of the county receiving funds for such improvements will select the highways or highway segments to be improved, after consulting with the Department of Transportation.

HB 143 Utility work database; VDOT to establish and maintain a publicly accessible database. *(Chief patron: Reid)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 2 of Title 33.2 a section numbered 33.2-280.2, which requires the Department of Transportation to establish and maintain a publicly accessible database and map of all utility work that has been approved by the Department and will occur within a highway right-of-way in a residential neighborhood. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

HB 144 Speed limits; notification to primary liaison in each locality when change occurs.

(Chief patron: Reid)

Amends § 46.2-878 of the Code of Virginia, which requires the Department of Transportation, if the Commissioner of Highways increases or decreases a speed limit, to notify the primary liaison with the Department in each locality within which such speed limit change will occur. The bill also requires the locality to notify the governing body of any property owners' association or condominium association if any such speed limit change will occur in a community subject to such association.

HB 201 Transportation entities, certain; membership. *(Chief patron: Krizek)*

Amends §§ 33.2-1904, 33.2-1907, and 33.2-2502 of the Code of Virginia, which requires, rather than permits, the four members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the two members of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, and the two members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority who are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates to be members of the House of Delegates.

HB 213 / SB 453 Emissions inspections; fees, agreement for services and service charge fees. *(Chief patron: Watts and Marsden)*

Amends §§ 46.2-1177.1 and 46.2-1182 of the Code of Virginia, increasing from \$3,500 to \$5,000 the amount the emissions inspection program coordinator may be paid per year from each motor vehicle emissions inspection station for the provision and maintenance of each set of required equipment. The bill also increases from \$28 to \$30 the maximum charge for an emissions inspection.

HB 234 / SB 516 All-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles; seizure, impounding, and disposition. *(Chief patrons: Ward and Williams Graves)*

Amends § 46.2-915.1 of the Code of Virginia, authorizing the governing body of any city to provide by ordinance for the lawful seizure, impounding, and disposition of an illegally operated all-terrain vehicle or off-road motorcycle operated on a highway or sidewalk within such city.

NOTE: VACo proposed an amendment to the bill to include counties but the final version did not keep this amendment.

HB 282 Highway work zones; creates a traffic infraction for any moving violation in a work zone. *(Chief patron: Seibold)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-808.3, which creates a traffic infraction for any moving violation in a highway work zone punishable by a fine of not less than \$300 for the first offense and not less

than \$500 for any subsequent offense. The bill provides that for any subsequent offense that occurs within the same 12-month period as another such offense such fine shall be not less than \$750.

HB 285 Uniform Statewide Building Code; construction of bus shelters. (*Chief patron: McQuinn*)

Amends § 36-98.1 of the Code of Virginia, delegating the enforcement of the Uniform Statewide Building Code to the local building official for bus shelters that do not exceed 256 square feet that are to be constructed for transit agencies receiving state money. The bill exempts the state from liability for any bus shelter constructed on state-owned property. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027.

HB 446 Aircraft; an airport has a lien on an abandoned or derelict aircraft on its property for all fees. (*Chief patron: Williams*)

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 5.1-2.25, providing that an airport has a lien on an abandoned or derelict aircraft, defined in the bill, on its property for all fees and charges for the use of the airport by such aircraft and for all fees and charges incurred by the airport for the transportation, storage, and removal of the aircraft. The bill authorizes an airport operator or his designee to retain, trade, sell, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict aircraft on the property of such airport. The bill provides for notice requirements prior to any such transfer of ownership interest in the aircraft.

HB 925 Towing; vehicles with expired registration, civil penalty. (*Chief patron: Shin*)

Amends §§ 46.2-1150, 46.2-1231, and 46.2-1232 of the Code of Virginia, requiring a towing operator, defined in the bill, for a parking lot of a multifamily dwelling unit, defined in the bill, to post written notice on a vehicle providing at least 48 hours' notice to a resident prior to removing a resident's vehicle, defined in the bill, from such parking lot of the multifamily

dwelling unit for an expired registration or expired vehicle inspection sticker and to provide a copy of such notice to the landlord of such multifamily dwelling unit. The bill provides that a towing operator who fails to comply with these requirements shall be required to reimburse the resident for the cost of the tow and shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100.

HB 959 Towing violations; enforcement. (*Chief patron: Lopez*)

Amends §§ 46.2-1232 and 46.2-1233.3 of the Code of Virginia and to amend and reenact the second enactment of Chapter 323 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, which authorizes localities in Planning Districts 8 and 16 to require written authorization of the owner of the property from which the vehicle is towed at the time the vehicle is being towed and regulate the monitoring practices that may be used by towing and recovery operators. Current law authorizes localities other than those in Planning Districts 8 and 16 to require written authorization of the owner of the property from which the vehicle is towed at the time the vehicle is being towed. The bill also changes the penalty for certain trespass towing offenses in Planning District 8 from \$150 per violation paid to the Literary Fund to 10 times the total amount charged for such removal, towing, and storage to be paid to the victim of the unlawful towing.

HB 1071 Speed limits; expands authority of any locality to reduce limit to less than 25 miles per hour. (*Chief patron: Carr*)

Amends §§ 46.2-878 and 46.2-1300 of the Code of Virginia, to expand the current authority of any locality to reduce the speed limit to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, on highways within its boundaries that are located in a business district or residence district to include highways within the state highway system, provided that such reduced speed limit is indicated by lawfully placed signs. The

bill authorizes a locality to restore a speed limit that has been reduced pursuant to this authority and requires the locality to notify the Commissioner of Highways of a change in speed limit.

[HB 1073](#) Tow truck drivers; prohibited acts. *(Chief patron: Carr)*

Amends § 46.2-118 of the Code of Virginia, prohibiting tow truck drivers from driving by the scene of a wrecked or disabled vehicle for which a law-enforcement tow has been initiated by a law-enforcement agency, initiating contact with the owner or operator of such vehicle by soliciting or offering towing services, and towing such vehicle.

[HB 1254](#) Bridges; state of good repair, allocation of funds. *(Chief patron: Runion)*

Amends § 33.2-369 of the Code of Virginia, designating bridges with a general condition rating, defined in the bill, of no more than five for at least one major bridge component as eligible for state of good repair funds. Currently, bridges must be structurally deficient to be eligible. The bill authorizes the use of state of good repair funds for improvements anticipated to extend the useful life of a bridge by at least 10 years. The bill applies to new project allocations made by the Commonwealth Transportation Board after June 1, 2025.

[HB 1287](#) Towing companies; provision of existing law authorizing localities in planning District 8. *(Chief patron: McClure)*

Amends § 46.2-1232 of the Code of Virginia, clarifying that the provisions of existing law authorizing localities in Planning District 8 to require towing companies that tow from the county, city, or town to a storage or release location outside of the locality to obtain a permit to do so do not restrict or modify the authority of the locality to require that towing companies that tow and store or release vehicles within the county, city, or town to obtain from the locality a permit to do so.

[HB 1526](#) Motor vehicles; overweight permits for certain trucks operated by electric utilities. *(Chief patron: Sewell)*

Amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-1145.1, requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue overweight permits for an electric utility's operation of vehicles used for the construction, operation, or maintenance of electrical facilities and infrastructure.

[SB 66](#) Towing without consent of vehicle owner; prohibited acts by towing and recovery operator. *(Chief patron: Peake)*

Amends § 46.2-118 of the Code of Virginia, to prohibit towing and recovery operators from requiring an individual who appears to retrieve a vehicle towed to provide to the towing and recovery operator, in addition to payment of fees, any document not otherwise required by law before releasing the vehicle to the individual.

[SB 158](#) Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; technical advisory committee; appointed by Authority. *(Chief patron: Boysko)*

Amends § 33.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia, to provide that six members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's technical advisory committee are appointed by the Authority rather than appointed by localities embraced by the Authority as provided in current law.

[SB 336](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; high-risk intersection segments. *(Chief patron: Roem)*

Amends §§ 33.2-373, 46.2-208, and 46.2-882.1 of the Code of Virginia, which permits a state or local law-enforcement agency to place and operate a photo speed monitoring device at a high-risk intersection segment, defined in the bill, located within the locality for the purpose of recording violations resulting from the operation of a vehicle in excess of the speed limit, provided that such law-enforcement agency certifies that a traffic

fatality has occurred since January 1, 2014, in such segment. The bill provides the same requirements for such devices, information collected from such devices, and any enforcement actions resulting from information collected from such devices as current law applies to the use of such devices in school crossing zones and highway work zones.

SB 450 Towing fees; State Corporation Commission to examine existing regulation of fees. *(Chief patron: Marsden)*

Directs the State Corporation Commission to examine the existing regulation of fees charged for the removal of vehicles and identify policy options for the Commission to assume all or part of such regulation. The bill requires the Commission to report its findings to the General Assembly by November 30, 2024.

SJ 28 Public transit systems, joint subcommittee to study funding needs. *(Chief Patron: Ebbin)*

Establishes a joint subcommittee to study long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding and cost-containment controls and strategies to ensure the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Virginia Railway Express, and the public transit systems that serve the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission transportation districts meet the growing needs of public transit in the region.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 385 / SB 143 Railroad safety; civil penalties. *(Chief patrons: Simonds and Carroll Foy)*

Would have required a crew of at least two qualified individuals on all trains, locomotives, or light engines used in connection with moving freight. ***(VETOED)***

HB 20 Photo speed monitoring devices; location. *(Chief patron: Jones)*

Would have authorized the governing body

of any county, city, or town to provide by ordinance for the placement and operation of photo speed monitoring devices in any location deemed necessary by the locality for the purposes of recording violations resulting from the operation of a vehicle in excess of the speed limit. The bill provides the same requirements for such devices, information collected from such devices, and any enforcement actions resulting from information collected from such devices as current law applies to the use of such devices in school crossing zones and highway work zones. The bill requires that two signs, rather than one, be placed warning of such device if the device is placed somewhere other than a school crossing zone or highway work zone. ***(Continued to 2025 session in House Transportation)***

HB 775 License plate reader systems; civil penalty. *(Chief patron: Herring)*

Would have provided requirements for the use of license plate reader systems, defined in the bill, by law-enforcement agencies. The bill limits the use of such systems to scanning, detecting, and recording data about vehicles and license plate numbers for the purpose of identifying a vehicle that is (i) associated with a wanted, missing, or endangered person or human trafficking; (ii) stolen; (iii) involved in an active law-enforcement investigation; or (iv) in the vicinity of a recent crime and may be connected to that crime. The bill authorizes and requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish a permitting process for installing and using such systems in state highway rights-of-way. ***(Continued to 2025 session in Senate Courts of Justice)***

HB 107 Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund created. *(Chief patron: Sullivan)*

Would create the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund to assist private developers with non-utility costs associated with the installation of public electric vehicle charging stations in certain localities. The bill provides that a private developer is eligible to receive grants of 70

percent of such non-utility costs for public electric vehicle charging stations installed in a city or county that meets the criteria of a distressed locality, as defined in the bill. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2028.

[HB 421](#) Towing fees; Commonwealth Trespass Towing Rate-Setting Advisory Panel established. *(Chief patron: McQuinn)* Would create the Commonwealth Trespass Towing Rate-Setting Advisory Panel to advise the General Assembly and the Governor on statewide trespass towing fees and related ancillary fees. The bill increases from \$150 to \$190 the maximum statewide hookup and initial towing fee of any passenger car, from \$30 to \$65 the maximum ancillary fee for towing a vehicle between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., and from \$30 to \$35 the maximum ancillary fee for towing a vehicle on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. The bill clarifies that such limitations on fees do not include any reasonable credit card fees. The bill requires localities to set their own towing rates to at least the amounts of the maximum statewide rates and removes requirements specific to Planning Districts 8 and 16 regarding localities setting their own towing rates. acquisition and new or improved infrastructure to support economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs. The bill clarifies that the authority granted related to the Fund cannot be used for otherwise prohibited eminent domain purposes. installed in a city or county that meets the criteria of a distressed locality as provided in the bill and caps the total amount of grants awarded in any fiscal year at \$25 million.

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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.