

VACo LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



2026 First Edition

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Vital Statistics from the 2026 Session

	Introduced	Passed	Failed	Vetoed
House Bills	1,530	727	492	16
House Joint Resolutions	317	286	18	0
House Resolutions	495	477	6	0
Senate Bills	836	429	201	15
Senate Joint Resolutions	296	289	6	0
Senate Resolutions	172	171	0	0
General Assembly Totals	3,646	2,379	723	31

SOURCE: [Legislative Information System](#) (as of May 22)

2026 Legislative Priorities

TOP FUNDING PRIORITY

Federal Spending and Economic Diversification

Virginia's economy remains closely tied to the federal government, with nearly one-quarter of the Commonwealth's economic activity dependent on federal spending, according to recent estimates from the House Appropriations Committee staff. As the federal government undertakes efforts to reduce spending – through measures such as reductions in force, program rescissions, or the elimination of grant funding – VACo urges the Commonwealth to take steps to mitigate the potential impacts of these actions.

VACo encourages the state to take prompt action to support displaced federal employees and contractors, including short-term enhancements to the social safety net and targeted investments in workforce development to assist affected individuals in securing new employment opportunities within Virginia.

VACo also supports continued and expanded efforts to diversify Virginia's economy by recruiting new industries and employers and by investing in site development and infrastructure to enhance the Commonwealth's competitiveness.

In the event of reduced federal support, VACo strongly urges the state to avoid shifting the costs of operating federally funded programs to local governments. VACo recognizes that reductions in federal funding may create additional pressures on the state budget; however, the Commonwealth must maintain its commitments to essential state-local partnerships.

VACo further encourages the state to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2023 JLARC report on K-12 education, particularly those items that align with prevailing local practices, to ensure sustainable funding for public education across Virginia.

VACo 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Farm and Forestland Preservation

VACo supports increasing state allocations to the Office of Working Lands Preservation 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 match funding to counties to build the necessary telecommunications infrastructure, including cellular communications, to deploy universal affordable access to the internet for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas, and streamline the application process for both the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) and 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 to create and sustain more affordable housing.

EDUCATION

Education Funding

VACo supports full state funding for public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education, the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC), and the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding. 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. Funds from these latter two programs should be as accessible as possible.

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 LAND USE

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, geothermal, 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.

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.

Fire and EMS Funding

VACo supports additional state resources for fire and EMS coverage across the Commonwealth.

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.

Implementation of Changes to Benefits Programs in 2025 Federal Reconciliation Legislation

Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid enacted at the federal level in 2025 are substantial and will require significant support from the state and coordination between state agencies and local departments of social services to implement.

VACo supports the provision of appropriate tools and investment in staff training to enable local staff to administer these programs effectively and efficiently, and urges the state to work closely with localities in implementing changes to programs with shared state/local responsibility, such as the new community engagement requirement for certain individuals covered by Medicaid.

Building on the investment made in the 2024 session and providing the full funding necessary to replace the current benefits management IT system (VaCMS and CommonHelp) is a critical need, and additional state technical support is also needed to improve the administration of the SNAP program in order to reduce Virginia's error rate.

VACo encourages the state to pursue available federal funding to assist with implementation of program changes and to advocate with the federal government for reasonable implementation timelines.

VACo urges the state to avoid shifting costs for program administration or benefit payments to localities, which are already stretched by existing responsibilities for human services programs and other critical public services.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Funding

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is committed to advocating for a robust and sustainable transportation funding framework that effectively addresses the evolving needs of our communities across the Commonwealth. We recognize the critical role transportation infrastructure plays in connecting our counties, supporting economic growth, and ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

VACo supports continued study and action to address the causes for declining growth in transportation revenues and to develop recommendations to grow revenue over time to meet increasing demands for new construction and maintenance for existing transportation infrastructure. Such actions must, without impacting other transportation funding, address the secondary road needs of counties as well as unpaved roads.

VACo supports simplifying the Smart Scale process and maintaining transit capital state match rates.

VACo supports the efforts of the federal government to provide additional infrastructure funding to state and local governments, preferably through a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization. As Congress debates the contents of the next surface transportation reauthorization, VACo believes that this funding should supplement, not replace, funding the Commonwealth should provide for localities and regional bodies regarding their transit and infrastructure needs. VACo supports flexible funding for transportation, transit and infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth.

VACo remains dedicated to advocating for transportation funding policies that empower counties to address their evolving infrastructure needs effectively and is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure the continued growth, safety, and prosperity of Virginia's counties and their residents.

Local-State Cooperation

VACo is committed to the protection of local government authority to regulate land use. This authority must be recognized by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) when evaluations are conducted to determine the consistency between local transportation plans and the Commonwealth's transportation priorities.

VACo opposes the reduction of local control that is associated with the CTB's process of designating Corridors of Statewide Significance and the implementation of Arterial Preservation

VACo supports additional flexibility within the VDOT project approval process and standards to be responsive to localities' individual needs. VACo supports the expansion of authority and discretion of Resident Administrators of VDOT to approve modifications to design standards where appropriate with local needs, including reduction of speed limits. VACo supports preservation of local authority to reduce speed limits below 25mph in certain business and residential districts.

Summary of Legislation Affecting Counties

Unless otherwise stated, all legislation from the 2026 General Assembly Session takes effect on July 1, 2026.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

PASSED LEGISLATION

HB 20 / SB 121 Minimum wage; farm laborers or farm employees, temporary foreign workers.

Chief Patrons: McClure and Carroll Foy

Description: Eliminates the exemptions from Virginia's minimum wage requirements for persons employed as farm laborers or farm employees. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.

HB 88 Highway rights-of-way; invasive species.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Prohibits the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Commissioner of Highways from planting or causing any invasive plant on the list of invasive plants created by the Department of Conservation and Recreation on the right-of-way of any state highway.

HB 109 Noxious weeds; amends definition, commercial viability, phase-out period, report.

Chief Patron: Seibold

Description: Amends the definition of noxious weed to remove the exclusion for living plants or parts thereof that are commercially viable or commercially propagated in Virginia and removes the requirement that the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee include in its

recommendations to the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services an analysis of the current and potential in-state commercial viability of a plant species.

HB 129 Deer; permit may be issued to kill if damaging residential plants and certain property.

Chief Patron: Cornett

Description: Allows the Director of the Department of Wildlife Resources or his designee to issue a permit to kill a limited number of antlered deer when such deer cause damage to residential plants and the Director or his designee determines, upon inspection, that there is clear and convincing evidence that the damage was done by antlered deer.

HB 292 Agricultural and forestal districts advisory committee; membership.

Chief Patron: Anderson

Description: Allows the commissioner of revenue or the local government's chief property assessment officer to have a representative from his office serve on his behalf on the agricultural and forestal districts advisory committee.

HB 388 / SB 89 Powers of service districts; control of invasive plant species.

Chief Patrons: Callsen and Salim

Description: Allows a service district created within a locality to control the spread of any plant that is identified on the list of invasive plant species established by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

HB 512 / SB 719 Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; OSAF to develop and implement comprehensive Plan, report.

Chief Patrons: Pope Adams and Marsden

Description: Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, during the first year of each new gubernatorial administration, to develop and implement a written comprehensive Virginia Farm and Forest

Prosperity Plan that is designed to be enacted over the course of such gubernatorial administration's term.

[HB 521](#) Marine Resources Commission; powers and duties, wetlands, report.

Chief Patron: Hernandez

Description: Requires the Marine Resources Commission to ensure that, in promulgating minimum standards for protection and conservation of wetlands, no net loss of existing wetland acreage and functions is achieved.

[HB 543](#) / [SB 522](#) Forest Sustainability Fund; Office of Working Lands Preservation to manage.

Chief Patrons: Carnegie and Williams Graves

Description: Adds management of the Forest Sustainability Fund to the powers and duties of the Office of Working Lands Preservation within the Department of Forestry.

[HB 597](#) Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund; created, voluntary contributions, report.

Chief Patron: Simonds

Description: Creates the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund to support conservation of wildlife corridors and crossing infrastructure. The Department of Wildlife Resources will administer the Fund alongside the Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Forestry, and Transportation. Biennial reports to the General Assembly are required, and Virginians can contribute voluntarily through DMV transactions or their state tax return.

[HB 646](#) Green warning lights; certain farm vehicles.

Chief Patron: Kent

Description: Authorizes the use of green warning lights on vehicles displaying a permanent farm use placard, farm vehicles, farm tractors, and farm utility vehicles while operating on or along a highway.

[HB 1316](#) / [SB 742](#) Removal of clutter; cutting of grass; agricultural use exemption; Planning District 19.

Chief Patrons: Pope Adams and Aird

Description: Exempts localities located in Planning District 19 from provisions that exclude agricultural land from requirements relating to the removal of clutter and cutting of grass when such land is one acre or less and located in an area that is used for a residential purpose.

[HB 1365](#) Fishing license requirements; free fishing days.

Chief Patron: Fowler

Description: Increases from three to six days the maximum number of free fishing days, during which a person is allowed to fish without a fishing license, that the Board of Wildlife Resources may designate for inland waters in the Commonwealth and the Commissioner of Marine Resources may designate for saltwater recreational fishing in the Commonwealth.

[SB 163](#) Pesticide control; agencies or persons exempt or partially exempt.

Chief Patron: McDougle

Description: Provides that volunteers associated with state agencies, municipal corporations, or other governmental agencies shall be certified as commercial applicators or registered technicians for the use of pesticides, provided that such certification is valid only when applying or supervising application of pesticides used by such governmental agencies.

**CONTINUED AND FAILED
LEGISLATION**

[HB 1091](#) Right to farm; solar panels.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Would add any operation for the production of electricity from solar panels concurrent with the bona fide production of

crops, animals, or fowl to the definition of “agricultural operation” in the Right to Farm law, which limits the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed a nuisance by preventing certain actions by localities. *(Continued to 2027)*

[HB 1238](#) Local ordinances; locality may regulate or prohibit sale of animals in a pet shop, effective clause.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Would authorize the governing body of any locality to, by ordinance, regulate or prohibit the sale of animals in a pet shop. Such ordinance may distinguish between certain types of pet shops and include provisions for special licensing, inspections, reporting, restrictions, or prohibitions on the sale of certain types of animals. *(Continued to 2027)*

[SB 471](#) Hunting dogs; releasing on state or local roadway, hunting, fishing, and trapping special license.

Chief Patron: Marsden

Description: Would prohibit releasing hunting dogs within 15 feet of a state or local road (Class 3 misdemeanor; Class 1 for repeat offenses), with courts able to revoke hunting/fishing/trapping privileges for up to five years. Also allows vehicles to stop on highways to retrieve companion animals, and creates a special license for landowners and their associates to hunt, fish, and trap exclusively on private property. *(Continued to 2027)*

[SB 768](#) Commonwealth Flood Prevention Match Assistance Fund and Program; established, report.

Chief Patron: Locke

Description: Would establish the Commonwealth Flood Prevention Match Assistance Fund and Program for the purpose of supporting local governments with grants to finance the cost share required of a local government for storm and flood risk management projects. *(Continued to 2027)*

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PASSED LEGISLATION

[HB 4](#) Affordable housing; preservation, definitions, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Bennett-Parker

Description: Creates a framework for localities to preserve affordable housing by exercising a right of first refusal on publicly supported housing, defined in the bill.

[HB 14](#) / [SB 290](#) Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; enforcement by localities.

Chief Patrons: Price and Aird

Description: Provides that if a condition exists in a dwelling unit that constitutes a material noncompliance by the landlord with the rental agreement or with any provision of law that, if not remedied within a reasonable time frame, constitutes a fire hazard or serious threat to the life, health, or safety of a tenant or occupant of the premises, a locality may institute an action on behalf of any tenant or occupant of the premises who is injured by such material noncompliance for injunction and damages to enforce the landlord's duty to maintain the dwelling unit in a fit and habitable condition, provided that (i) the premises where the violation occurred is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the locality and (ii) the locality has notified the landlord who owns the premises, 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.

[HB 67](#) / [SB 25](#) Offshore wind industry; workforce development.

Chief Patrons: Feggans and Carroll Foy

Description: Directs the Director of the Department of Energy to identify and develop training resources to advance workforce development in the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth.

[HB 164](#) / [SB 328](#) Housing for local employees; grants for homeownership.

Chief Patrons: Thomas and Perry

Description: Eliminates the maximum amount a locality may provide (i) to employees of the locality, employees of the school board, and employees of constitutional officers for homeownership grants to purchase primary residences in the locality and (ii) to school division personnel for residential housing assistance grants to provide affordable workforce housing alternatives.

[HB 317](#) / [SB 743](#) Damage or trespass to public services or utilities or critical infrastructure; penalties.

Chief Patrons: Pope Adams and Aird

Description: Adds the intentional destruction of or damage to any fixture, equipment, or information technology system that is used to provide, process, transmit, or maintain public services, public utilities, cable television, broadband, or other critical infrastructure, as defined in relevant law, to the existing offense of damage or trespass to public services or utilities.

[HB 356](#) / [SB 665](#) Local housing policy; expands the range of changes that are required.

Chief Patrons: Thomas and Srinivasan

Description: Expands the range of local housing policy changes that are required to be submitted annually in a report to the Department of Housing and Community Development by any locality with a population greater than 3,500.

[HB 352](#) Local authority; authorized by ordinance to establish affordable housing performance grant programs.

Chief Patron: Thomas

Description: Allows any locality that has created an industrial development authority or economic development authority (the Authority) to establish, by ordinance, an affordable housing performance grant program.

[HB 375](#) Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; right of first refusal, resident entities and localities.

Chief Patron: Krizek

Description: Provides for a right of first refusal, under the Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act, for resident entities, defined in the bill, and localities in which a manufactured home park is located when a manufactured home park owner enters into a contract to sell such manufactured home park.

[HB 693](#) Workforce development programs; apprenticeship program.

Chief Patron: McAuliff

Description: Recognizes the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement as the federally and state designated agency responsible for workforce development in the Commonwealth.

[HB 772](#) Adult and Dislocated Worker funds; minimum allocation requirement waived.

Chief Patron: Thornton

Description: Authorizes the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement to waive the 40 percent allocation requirement of certain funding under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 for a local workforce development board that submits a request for a waiver and demonstrates that the board is unable to meet the requirement due to (i) a lack of available training providers in the local workforce development area, (ii) a lack of demand for training services among eligible participants, or (iii) other extraordinary circumstances.

[HB 799](#) / [SB 403](#) Power Transformer Manufacturing Grant Fund; created.

Chief Patrons: Torian and Lucas

Description: Establishes the Power Transformer Manufacturing Grant Fund to provide grant installment awards between July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2035, in an amount not to exceed \$4.6 million per fiscal year and in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$29.4 million, to a qualified company that (i) engages in the manufacture of power transformers, (ii) executes a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth, and (iii) is expected to make a capital investment of at least \$457,157,000 and create and maintain at least 825 new full-time jobs.

[HB 802](#) Vacant buildings; registration by registered agents, etc., annually.

Chief Patron: Carr

Description: Permits any locality to require, by ordinance, the owner, or his registered agent, of any building that has been continuously vacant for at least three years to register such building with the locality annually.

[HB 806](#) Industrial development authorities; promoting safe and affordable housing.

Chief Patron: Carr

Description: Allows industrial development authorities to exercise their powers with respect to facilities used primarily for single or multi-family residences in order to promote safe and affordable housing in the Commonwealth.

[HB 837](#) / [SB 273](#) Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; Eviction Diversion Program, eligibility.

Chief Patrons: McClure and Locke

Description: Requires any general district court that implements the Eviction Diversion Program to attach information about the Program, including eligibility criteria, to any summons for unlawful detainer. The bill also alters eligibility requirements for a tenant to participate in the Program.

[HB 867](#) / [SB 74](#) Affordable housing; local zoning ordinance authority.

Chief Patrons: Cousins and McPike

Description: Expands to all localities the ability to provide optional increases in density to meet affordable housing needs in the Commonwealth. Currently this authority is only provided to seven jurisdictions and has proven successful in developing affordable housing units where developers have chosen this option.

[HB 910](#) Comprehensive statewide housing needs assessment; review of certain Comprehensive statewide housing needs assessment; review of certain parcels.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to conduct a comprehensive statewide housing needs assessment, including a review of certain underutilized and surplus parcels owned by the state or localities that could be made available for affordable housing development.

[HB 931](#) / [SB 270](#) Recovery residences; regulations.

Chief Patrons: Simon and VanValkenburg

Description: Establishes certain requirements for recovery residences and directs the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (the Board) to promulgate regulations to establish minimum certification standards for recovery residences.

[HB 951](#) Housing and Community Development, Board of; ad hoc committees.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Requires the Board of Housing and Community Development to evaluate and vote on all proposals brought forth in an ad hoc committee convened by the Board to advise on proposed changes to statewide building and fire regulations during a regular meeting of the Board, including proposals for which the ad hoc committee did not reach a consensus.

[HB 1076](#) / [SB 527](#) Pharmaceutical Substance Manufacturing Grant Fund; created. Pharmaceutical Substance Manufacturing Grant Fund; created.

Chief Patrons: Laufer and Deeds

Description: Establishes the Pharmaceutical Substance Manufacturing Grant Fund to provide grant installment awards between July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2045, in an amount not to exceed \$34 million per fiscal year and in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$191,255,000, to a qualified company that (i) engages in the manufacture of pharmaceutical substances, (ii) executes a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth, and (iii) is expected to make a capital investment of at least \$4 billion and create and maintain at least 500 new full-time jobs.

[HB 1130](#) Workforce housing for employees; county bd. of supervisor or school bd., lease of surplus property.

Chief Patron: Reid

Description: Allows any county board of supervisors or county school board to lease as lessor surplus or underutilized property for the development of workforce housing serving employees of the county or school division qualifying with up to 80 percent of area median household income.

[HB 1144](#) Water and sewer connection fees; first-time homebuyers, affordable housing.

Chief Patron: Martinez

Description: Provides that any locality may provide for the full or partial reimbursement to a first-time homebuyer of water and sewer connection fees, capital recovery charges, and availability fees paid in connection with any new residential development conveyed to such homebuyer.

[HB 1325](#) Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; landlord obligations.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Description: Requires a landlord under the Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act to provide

a copy of any written rental agreement and the statement of tenant rights and responsibilities within 10 business days of the effective date of the written rental agreement, rather than within one month as required under current law. The bill also outlines required flood insurance notice language for inclusion in rental agreements.

[HB 1530](#) / [SB 836](#) Transformer Manufacturing Expansion Grant Fund; established.

Chief Patrons: Torian and Lucas

Description: Establishes the Transformer Manufacturing Expansion Grant Fund to provide grant installment awards between July 1, 2027, and July 1, 2041, in an amount not to exceed \$5.1 million per fiscal year and in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$60 million, to a qualified company that (i) engages in the manufacture of electrical transformers, (ii) executes a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth, and (iii) is expected to make a capital investment of at least \$301 million and create and maintain at least 1,185 new full-time jobs.

[HB 1531](#) / [SB 835](#) Solid Rocket Motor Manufacturing Grant Fund, established.

Chief Patrons: Torian and Lucas

Description: Establishes the Solid Rocket Motor Manufacturing Grant Fund to provide grant installment awards between July 1, 2027, and July 1, 2046, in an amount not to exceed \$6 million per fiscal year and in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$97,723,000 to a qualified company that (i) engages in the manufacture of solid rocket motors, (ii) executes a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth, and (iii) is expected to make a capital investment of at least \$537,570,000 and create and maintain at least 1,546 new full-time jobs.

[SB 285](#) Urban Public-Private Partnership Redevelopment grant program; DHCD to review, etc.

Chief Patron: Aird

Description: Directs the Department of

Housing and Community Development to develop criteria for the Urban Public-Private Partnership Redevelopment grant program, in consultation with the Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia First Cities Coalition, Virginia Municipal League, and Virginia Economic Developers Association. Award criteria must prioritize fiscally stressed localities and those seeing significant declines in commercial real estate assessments, and must address local match requirements. Findings are due to key legislative committees by November 1, 2026.

[SB 666](#) Housing & Community Dev, Depart. of; housing development database availability to localities, etc.

Chief Patron: Srinivasan

Description: Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to collect from each locality and make available to the public, localities, state agencies, and other state and regional public entities in a centralized, machine-readable, screen reader compatible database various data for each new and existing housing development in each locality in the Commonwealth, including data related to the number of housing development plans submitted and approved by the locality and the average approval timeline for housing development plans.

[SB 729](#) / [HB 1227](#) Private activity bonds; allocation of state ceiling.

Chief Patrons: Jones and Thomas

Description: Increases the allocation of the Virginia state ceiling on private activity bonds from 57 to 67 percent by (i) increasing the allocation to the Virginia Housing Development Authority from the current 43 percent to 50 percent and (ii) increasing the allocation to local housing authorities from the current 14 percent to 17 percent.

[SB 744](#) Public Recreational Facilities Authorities Act; grants to localities, etc.

Chief Patron: VanValkenburg

Description: Authorizes authorities established under the Public Recreational Facilities Authorities Act to make grants to

any participating locality, the Commonwealth or any other political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, any federal agency, and any person to promote the purposes of the authority, including for the purpose of promoting tourism development.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

[HB 278](#) Local anti-rent gouging authority; civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Clark

Description: Would have provided that any locality may by ordinance adopt anti-rent gouging provisions. The bill provided for notice and a public hearing prior to the adoption of such ordinance and specified that all landlords who are under the ordinance may be required to give at least 90 days' written notice of a rent increase and cannot increase the rent by more than the locality's calculated allowance, not to exceed three percent, and stated that such allowance is effective for a 12-month period beginning July 1 each year. *(Continued to 2027)*

[SB 661](#) Va. Small Business Economic Dev. Act; established, regulation and taxation of skill game machines.

Chief Patron: Rouse

Description: Would authorize and specify the registration and licensing requirements for the manufacture, distribution, operation, hosting, and playing of electronic skill gaming devices, as defined in the bill, under the regulatory authority of the Virginia Lottery. *(Vetoed)*

EDUCATION

PASSED LEGISLATION

[HB 38](#) Public schools; mental health awareness training and instruction, requirements.

Chief Patron: Henson

Description: Requires each teacher and other relevant personnel, as determined by the applicable school board, employed on a full-time basis to complete mental health awareness training that addresses the needs of youth populations that are at a high risk of experiencing mental health challenges and disorders in accordance with evidence-based best practices developed by the American Psychological Association.

[HB 116](#) / [SB 824](#) School board employee grievance procedure; timing of dispute resolution.

Chief Patrons: Ward and Bagby

Description: Requires the grievance procedure for certain school board employees to afford a timely and fair method of the resolution of disputes arising between the school board and such employees before dismissal or other disciplinary actions, excluding suspensions.

[HB 125](#) / [SB 117](#) Public school teachers; reemployment of teacher who has not received continuing contract status.

Chief Patrons: Reaser and Pekarsky

Description: Requires written notice of noncontinuation of a continuing teacher contract to be given by the teacher by June 15 of each year; otherwise, the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year in conformity with local salary stipulations, including increments.

[HB 139](#) School board policies; unpaid educational leave for certain employee association officers.

Chief Patron: Simonds

Description: Requires each school board to adopt a policy to approve unpaid educational

leave for school board employees who are state employee association executive officers and for up to two school board employees who are local employee association officers for a maximum of four years per officer.

[HB 195](#) / [SB 33](#) Programs for at-risk students; permissible uses of funding.

Chief Patrons: McQuinn and Favola

Description: Includes as covered programs that are eligible for funding under the At-Risk Program initiatives to support both the physical and mental health of students in public schools, including the hiring of licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses. VACo supported this bill.

[HB 199](#) Standards of Learning assessments; through-year growth assessment system eliminated.

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Description: Permits school divisions, during the 2024-2028 school years, to use alternatives to the through-year growth assessment system required by the Board of Education, provided such alternatives meet specified requirements.

[HB 210](#) School meal debt; each school board to annually report.

Chief Patron: Price

Description: Requires each school board to annually report to the Department of Education the amount of school meal debt in the local school division and directs the Department to annually aggregate and submit such reports to the General Assembly, provided that no such report contains any personally identifiable student information.

[HB 211](#) Head start, etc., Head Start State Collaboration Office to develop for endorsement a report, etc.

Chief Patron: Gardner

Description: Requires the Head Start State Collaboration Office at the Department of Education, no later than December 1, 2026, to develop and recommend to the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education for

endorsement a report summarizing the state of Head Start and Early Head Start in the Commonwealth that is required to address several topics enumerated in the bill.

[HB 253](#) Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact; enters the Commonwealth into Compact.

Chief Patron: Glass

Description: Enters the Commonwealth into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, the purpose of which is to facilitate the mobility of teachers across the member states, with the goal of supporting teachers through a new pathway to licensure.

[HB 255](#) School Psychologists, Interstate Compact for; membership of the Commonwealth into compact.

Chief Patron: Glass

Description: Enters the Commonwealth into the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists, the stated purpose of which is to facilitate the interstate practice of school psychology in educational or school settings, and in so doing to improve the availability of school psychological services to the public, and the stated intent of which is to establish a pathway to allow school psychologists to obtain equivalent licenses to provide school psychological services in any member state.

[HB 258](#) Early childhood care and education; updates terminology.

Chief Patron: Simonds

Description: Updates terminology used in statutes relating to early childhood care and education programs to ensure consistency and accuracy with current practice and nomenclature.

[HB 332](#) / [SB 203](#) Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.

Chief Patrons: Rasoul and Suetterlein

Description: Requires the Board of Education to provide for the issuance of a three-year renewable license to teach solely career

and technical education courses or dual enrollment courses that are creditable toward the completion of an undergraduate course, degree, or credential offered in and accepted at a public institution of higher education at public high schools in the Commonwealth to any individual who (i) is employed as an instructor by an institution of higher education that is accredited by a nationally recognized regional accreditation body, (ii) is teaching in the specific career and technical education or dual enrollment subject area at such institution in which the individual seeks to teach at a public high school, and (iii) complies with certain requirements set forth in relevant law enumerated by the bill.

[HB 416](#) School buses; use for public purposes by local governing bodies, insurance reimbursement.

Chief Patron: Guzman

Description: Permits any local governing body that uses school buses for certain public purposes pursuant to an agreement with a school board to reimburse the school board for the proportionate share of any insurance costs, both fixed and variable, of such buses incurred by such school board that are attributable to the use of such buses pursuant to such agreement in lieu of the existing statutory requirement for such a local governing body to supply sufficient insurance for such school buses.

[HB 592](#) Public schools; wearable panic alarm systems, grant program.

Chief Patron: Simonds

Description: Permits any school board to provide any school board employee in a public elementary or secondary school building in the local school division with a wearable panic alarm system, defined in the bill as a security system that is capable of being worn on the body of the user and by which the user manually activates a device that sends (i) a signal to the local 9-1-1 public safety answering point that indicates a school security emergency that requires immediate

response and assistance from such public safety answering point and (ii) a multisensory schoolwide school security emergency notification, when appropriate. VACo supported this bill.

[HB 836](#) / [SB 491](#) Public schools; right to free public elementary and secondary education, discrimination, etc.

Chief Patrons: Rasoul and Pekarsky

Description: Prohibits any child in the Commonwealth from being denied a free public education through secondary school on the basis of the actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status of the child or the child's parents, in accordance with the Constitution of Virginia and consistent with the requirements of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

[HB 849](#) Public school employees; suspension, notice and opportunity for a hearing.

Chief Patron: Cousins

Description: Provides that no school board employee shall be suspended without notice and, if applicable, an opportunity to be heard and amends current law to require any individual who has been so suspended, regardless of the length of the suspension, to continue to receive his then applicable salary unless and until the school board, after a hearing, determines otherwise.

[HB 924](#) Public Instruction, Super. of; state program to support improvement of low-performing schools.

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Description: Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to consistently and effectively implement a state program to support the improvement of low-performing schools based on school accountability standards established by the Board of Education within the standards of accreditation. The bill requires the Superintendent to ensure that the Department of Education is appropriately organized and

employs qualified staff to effectively provide this support to such low-performing schools. The bill requires the Board to ensure that the Superintendent and the Department administer an effective school improvement program to support such low-performing schools. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.

[HB 1086](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; preference for Virginia goods, school nutrition programs, sunset.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Provides that, in the case of procurement of goods by manufacturers, if the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is not a resident of Virginia and the bid is for agricultural products that are produced or processed in Virginia and intended for school nutrition programs, including fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, and is within 20 percent of such bid, such bidder for agricultural products that are produced or processed in Virginia shall be granted the option to match the price of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

[HB 1208](#) / [SB 134](#) Public education; early childhood care and education, child care access calculations, report.

Chief Patrons: Sewell and Locke

Description: Requires the Department of Education to establish cost-based calculations for early childhood care and education slots, factoring in cost of quality rates, prior-year data, parental demand, and economic development needs — with priority given to child care deserts. The calculations inform but do not bind General Assembly appropriations. Up to \$5 million in prior-year unexpended funds may be carried forward to temporarily reduce waitlists without increasing the subsequent year's base funding. The Department must submit an annual report to the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education and post it publicly. VACo supported this bill.

[HB 1278](#) / [SB 685](#) School board policies; communication & language accessibility for limited English proficient parents.

Chief Patrons: Reaser and Pekarsky
Description: Requires each school board to develop, implement, and post in a publicly accessible location on its website a language access plan consisting of policies and procedures designed to ensure meaningful communication with and informational accessibility for limited English proficient (LEP) parents, as that term is defined in the bill.

[HB 1301](#) / [SB 122](#) School boards; student diabetes care & management in schools, division wide plan required.

Chief Patrons: Thomas and McPike
Description: Establishes several provisions relating to student diabetes medical care and management in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth, including requiring division wide plans for the care of students who are diagnosed with diabetes in each school division, effective beginning with the 2028--2029 school year.

[HB 1446](#) / [SB 822](#) School nurses; sickle cell disease training.

Chief Patrons: Sewell and Pillion
Description: Directs local school divisions to require school nurses to complete, within six months of employment and at least every three years thereafter, an online or in-person course of instruction approved by the Board in collaboration with the Department of Health regarding recognition and management of sickle cell disease.

[HB 1455](#) / [SB 815](#) School bds.; opening of school year, certain alternative schedules & schedule flexibility permitted.

Chief Patrons: McNamara and Suetterlein
Description: Extends from no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day to no earlier than 14 days before September 1 of each year the requirement relating to the earliest date that each school board is permitted to schedule as the first day on which students are required to attend school each year.

[HB 18](#) / [SB 3](#) Employee Child Care Assistance Pilot Program; established, reports.

Chief Patrons: Aird and McClure
Description: Establishes the Employee Child Care Assistance Program to provide matching funds in order to incentivize employers to contribute to the child care costs of their employees. The Program shall be administered by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

[SB 108](#) School boards; student cell phone and smart device possession and use policies, prohibition.

Chief Patron: Pekarsky
Description: Amends the requirements for the student cell phone and smart device possession and use policies that each school board is required to develop and each public elementary and secondary school is required to implement pursuant to applicable law to require such policies to, except as provided in applicable law, restrict student cell phone and smart device possession and prohibit student cell phone and smart device use on school property from bell to bell.

[SB 221](#) School crossing zones; active times, locality may increase time preceding & following school hours.

Chief Patron: Jones
Description: Authorizes a local governing body, by ordinance, to increase from 30 minutes to up to 60 minutes the period of time before and after regular school hours during which school crossing zones are active if it determines that children will be going to or from school during that period of time.

[SB 450](#) Public school teacher licensure requirement; comprehensive review of alt. licensure pathway, report.

Chief Patron: Bagby
Description: Requires the Board of Education to conduct a comprehensive review of the alternative licensure pathway for public school teachers and submit a report with recommendations to the General Assembly.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 334 Additional local sales and use tax to support schools; referendum.

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Description: Would have authorized 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 removes 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. *(Continued to 2027)*

HB 412 Local governing bodies; school division budgets, funding levels.

Chief Patron: Nicole Cole

Description: Would have required the annual budget for educational purposes prepared and approved by each local governing body to meet or exceed the funding levels set out in the needs-based budget prepared and approved by the school board and submitted by the division superintendent in accordance with relevant law. Amended to a study. *(Failed)*

HB 1345 Public schools; industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation of indoor air quality.

Chief Patron: Nivar

Description: Would have added several items that are required to be included in the industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system that is required at least every four years for each public elementary and secondary school building, including measurement of

radon levels in the air and testing for moisture incursion. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027. *(Continued to 2027)*

SB 90 Equity in public school funding and staffing; At-Risk Program established, Standards of Quality.

Chief Patron: Favola

Description: Would have established (i) the At-Risk Program for the purpose of supporting programs and services for students who are educationally at-risk, including programs and services of prevention, intervention, or remediation; (ii) a state-funded, flexible per pupil Standards of Quality funding add-on to be applied for each special education student, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the bill, for the purpose of better meeting the educational needs of students with disabilities; and (iii) a state-funded, flexible per-pupil Standards of Quality funding add-on to be provided for each English language learner student, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the bill, for the purpose of better meeting the educational needs of English language learner students. The bill also established requirements and conditions for each school division receiving funding pursuant to the At-Risk Program or either of the per pupil Standards of Quality funding add-ons established pursuant to the bill, including a requirement that each such school division annually report to the Department of Education on the planned and actual uses of such funds. The bill directed the Department to annually compile and publish on its website a summary of the reports received from each school division on the use of such funds. Finally, the bill authorized the Department, upon providing notice and an opportunity for corrective action, withhold, recover, or redirect funds provided pursuant to the bill from any school division found to be in noncompliance with the requirements set forth in the bill. *(Continued to 2027)*

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND LAND USE

PASSED LEGISLATION

HB 70 Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund; projects in low-income geographic areas, nature-based solutions.

Chief Patron: Feggans

Description: Provides that the Department of Conservation and Recreation shall give additional weight to projects located in low-income geographic areas and projects that incorporate nature-based solutions when distributing loans or grants from the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund to particular local governments.

HB 135 Virginia Code Commission; extends subdivision plats work group, report.

Chief Patron: Simon

Description: Extends by one year the work of the work group established by the Virginia Code Commission to review existing provisions of the Code of Virginia related to the submission, review, and approval of subdivision plats and site plans.

HB 153 / SB 94 Data centers; site assessment, sound profile of the high energy use facility.

Chief Patrons: Thomas and Roem

Description: Provides that, prior to any approval of a rezoning application, special exception application, or special use permit for the siting of a new high energy use facility (HEUF), as defined in the bill, a locality shall require that an applicant perform and submit a site assessment to examine the sound profile of the HEUF on residential units and schools located within 500 feet of the HEUF property boundary.

HB 198 Local government; review of decision by board of zoning appeals, procedures for filing petition.

Chief Patron: Thomas

Description: Makes various changes and clarifications to the procedures following the filing of a petition in a circuit court by a party aggrieved by a decision of the board of zoning appeals.

HB 237 Va. Coastal Resilience Master Plan; identifying areas where marshes may migrate in face of sea rise.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation, when updating the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, to identify areas where marshes may migrate in the face of sea level rise.

HB 252 Servient estate; establishes relocation or modification of easement by owner.

Chief Patron: Watts

Description: Establishes that any easement may be relocated or modified either (i) by filing with each clerk of the circuit court of the city or county in which the easement or any part of the easement is located a written agreement evidencing the consent of the easement holder, as defined in the bill, and the consent of any other affected persons or (ii) in the absence of such agreement, upon petition to the circuit court and notice to all interested parties.

HB 256 / SB 425 Comprehensive plan; environmental justice strategy.

Chief Patrons: Simonds and Bagby

Description: Requires cities with populations greater than 20,000 and counties with populations greater than 100,000 to consider, beginning July 1, 2026, at the next and all subsequent reviews of the comprehensive plan, adopting an environmental justice strategy.

[HB 277](#) Zoning; wireless facility modifications, application process.

Chief Patron: Seibold

Description: Prohibits a locality from denying an application for the modification of an existing wireless facility if (i) the modification would not substantially change the physical dimensions of the existing wireless facility; (ii) the modification involves the co-location of new transmission equipment, the removal of transmission equipment, or the replacement of transmission equipment; and (iii) the request meets the requirements of the bill.

[HB 284](#) / [SB 371](#) Electric utilities; electric demand flexibility programs, high energy demand customers, report.

Chief Patrons: Feggans and McPike

Description: Directs Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power to file a petition with the State Corporation Commission by January 15, 2027, for approval of voluntary demand flexibility programs that apply to high energy demand customers, as defined in the bill.

[HB 285](#) / [SB 223](#) Distributed Energy Resources Task Force; created, membership, reports, sunset.

Chief Patrons: Helmer and VanValkenburg

Description: Establishes the Distributed Energy Resources Task Force as an advisory commission within the executive branch with the purpose of developing a comprehensive strategy to advance the Commonwealth's transition toward integrated distributed energy resource markets and to support the Commonwealth's compliance with certain regulations.

[HB 323](#) Data centers; Department of Energy shall lead efforts to accelerate use of waste heat, report.

Chief Patron: Sullivan

Description: Directs the Department of Energy to lead efforts to accelerate the use of waste heat from data centers in the Commonwealth by making certain findings and

recommendations and convening a work group to provide expertise, assistance, and feedback on the Department's efforts.

[HB 395](#) / [SB 250](#) Electric utilities; small portable solar generation devices, local regulation.

Chief Patrons: Krizek and Surovell

Descriptions: Prevents a locality from prohibiting the use of a small portable solar generation device, as defined in the bill, on a residential structure, provided that certain requirements are met.

[HB 397](#) / [SB 802](#) Clean energy and community flood preparedness; market-based trading program.

Chief Patrons: Herring and Locke

Description: Directs the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Air Pollution Control Board to establish and maintain a market-based trading program consistent with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative program, as defined in existing law, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generating units in the Commonwealth.

[HB 422](#) Water utilities; prohibition of multiple rate increases within 3-year period for water utilities.

Chief Patron: Nicole Cole

Description: Prohibits a public utility authorized to furnish water or water and sewer service from filing an application for a rate increase more frequently than once in any three-year period. The bill provides exceptions to such prohibition for the utility to file an application (i) for a decrease in rates; (ii) limited to a rate adjustment clause, rider, or surcharge; (iii) for a temporary emergency increase in rates; or (iv) for an increase upon a finding by the State Corporation Commission that extraordinary circumstances exist. The provisions of the bill do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2027 Session of the General Assembly.

[HB 496](#) / [SB 553](#) Certain data from water users; water use consumption for domestic, etc., purposes, data centers.

Chief Patrons: Guzman and Srinivasan

Description: Requires any water user required to register water withdrawal and use data to the State Water Control Board that provides water to another person offsite to include in its report, submitted on its regular reporting schedule, the total volume of potable water and, reported separately, the total volume of reclaimed water, as defined in the bill, provided during each month for each of the following categories: (i) a data center with an air permit issued by the Department of Environmental Quality and (ii) to the extent available without utility billing system modifications, (a) domestic purposes, (b) commercial and industrial purposes, separately or combined as available, and (c) all other non-categorized purposes.

[HB 507](#) Data centers; permit requirements, emission limits for certain engine-generator sets.

Chief Patron: McAuliff

Description: Prohibits the Department of Environmental Quality from issuing an air permit for any application submitted for a data center on or after July 1, 2026, unless the emission limit for each engine-generator, defined in the bill, established by such permit is equal to or less than the emissions achieved by a Tier 4 equivalent engine-generator.

[HB 508](#) / [SB 340](#) Small renewable energy projects; agrivoltaics definition.

Chief Patrons: McAuliff and Perry

Description: Provides a definition of “agrivoltaics” to mean the intentional co-location of agricultural production and solar energy generation on the same land.

[HB 549](#) / [SB 589](#) Trees; conservation and replacement during development process in certain localities, report.

Chief Patrons: Hope and Salim

Description: Expands statewide local authority to require tree conservation and replacement

during development. Key provisions allow localities to set higher canopy replacement percentages based on density, require locality concurrence before hardship exceptions are granted, and monitor tree canopy conditions for up to 20 years post-planting. Towns in Planning District 8 nonattainment areas may use a 10-year rather than 20-year canopy projection standard. The Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience must convene a work group to review tree canopy laws and report findings to relevant legislative committees by November 1, 2026.

[HB 590](#) / [SB 382](#) Smart Solar Permitting Platform; established, residential solar energy systems.

Chief Patrons: Hernandez and Surovell

Description: Creates the Smart Solar Online Permitting Platform (the Platform) to serve as a tool for (i) contractors to obtain permits for the construction of streamline-eligible residential solar energy systems and (ii) localities to process applications for such permits.

[HB 594](#) Affordable housing developments, certain; expedited approval.

Chief Patron: Simonds

Description: Allows a locality, by ordinance, to authorize a zoning administrator to use an administrative process to approve rezoning applications for certain affordable housing developments.

[HB 655](#) / [SB 346](#) Zoning; manufactured housing.

Chief Patrons: Maldonado and VanValkenburg

Description: Amends existing provisions that require localities to permit manufactured homes in areas zoned for agriculture by expanding such requirement to all zoning districts where site-built housing is allowed, with certain conditions.

[HB 683](#) / [SB 659](#) Solar Interconnection Grant Program; established, report, sunset.

Chief Patrons: Herring and New Craig

Description: Establishes the Solar Interconnection Grant Program for the purpose

of awarding grants on a competitive basis to public bodies, including local governments and school boards, to offset costs associated with the interconnection of solar facilities to the grid.

[HB 711](#) / [SB 347](#) Solar facilities; local regulation, special exceptions.

Chief Patrons: Herring and VanValkenburg
Description: Directs that, unless otherwise permitted “by right,” a locality shall require and review any “special exception” (aka special use permit) for any application of a solar project one megawatt or more in generating capacity in all zoning districts classified as agricultural, commercial, industrial, and institutional. The legislation then mandates specific criteria to be applied to such applications, and that they be adopted in local zoning ordinances. The legislation requires localities to review all such applications, regardless of whether the location of the proposed facility is contrary to local comprehensive plans and land use ordinances, and furnish the State Corporation Commission a record of special exception decisions reached pursuant to this section not more than 60 days after such decision is made. The record shall include (i) the reason for any adverse decision, (ii) any finding of nonconformity with the local comprehensive plan, and (iii) the date of the last revision to the comprehensive plan.

[HB 728](#) Health, State Board of; permanent pump and haul of sewage, agritourism

Chief Patron: Leftwich

Description: Requires the State Board of Health to amend regulations to exempt in Planning District 23 the pumping and hauling of sewage associated with an agritourism activity from the prohibition on pumping and hauling sewage on a permanent basis unless done under the auspices and supervision of a government entity when the agritourism activity is unable to establish and maintain a connection to an existing sewer or onsite sewage system.

[HB 735](#) / [SB 132](#) Agritourism purposes; Bd. of HCD to review regulations for temporary tents.

Chief Patrons: Leftwich and New Craig

Description: Directs the Board of Housing and Community Development to review the relevant regulations of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and consider amending such regulations to allow temporary tents used for agritourism purposes to remain in place for up to 12 months on a single site.

[HB 770](#) / [SB 650](#) Public utilities; water and sewerage companies, discounted rates for low-income customers.

Chief Patrons: Herring and Marsden

Description: Provides that a public utility engaged in the business of furnishing water or sewerage facilities may propose and the State Corporation Commission may approve rates and tariff provisions that provide discounted service to customers with an annual household income equal to or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

[HB 787](#) Zoning; development agreements in certain localities within Planning District 23 (Hampton Roads).

Chief Patron: Hayes

Description: Allows any locality within Planning District 23 with a population between 245,000 and 350,000 that has adopted a transfer of development rights ordinance to include provisions in its zoning ordinance that allow the governing body to enter into binding development agreements with owners of real property in the locality, so long as the property to be developed contains at least 1,000 acres or is located within (i) a receiving area of a transfer of development rights program and (ii) a tax increment financing district.

[HB 807](#) / [SB 254](#) Electric utilities; shared solar programs; Phase II Utility.

Chief Patrons: Sullivan and Surovell

Description: Amends certain provisions related to the shared solar program established

by the State Corporation Commission for Dominion Energy Virginia.

HB 809 / SB 255 Electric utilities; shared solar programs, Phase I Utility.

Chief Patrons: Sullivan and Surovell

Description: Amends certain provisions related to the shared solar program established by the State Corporation Commission for Appalachian Power Company. The bill permits excess bill credits to be distributed to shared solar subscribers more than once annually.

HB 833 Land subdivision and development; optional provisions of a subdivision ordinance, etc.

Chief Patron: McClure

Description: Allows, effective July 1, 2027, a locality to include in its subdivision ordinance a requirement for electric vehicle (EV) supply equipment, EV-ready charging spaces, or EV-capable parking spaces that provide infrastructure to facilitate future EV charging, including electrical capacity, prewiring, and conduit for a development containing commercial, industrial, or multifamily residential uses.

HB 876 Zoning; wireless facilities, temporary support structures.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Requires a locality to include in its zoning ordinance provisions that allow for the use of temporary support structures for wireless facilities that meet certain requirements.

HB 884 Electric utilities; Percentage of Income Payment Program, eligibility, delayed effective date.

Chief Patron: Herring

Description: Expands eligibility for the Percentage of Income Payment Program administered by investor-owned utilities to include additional low-income customers, with a delayed effective date to allow for implementation planning.

HB 888 Minimum off-street parking requirements; definitions, designated areas, administrative reductions.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Mandates specific statewide standards for off-street parking be adopted in local zoning ordinances for “designated areas” defined as any parcel that is located within one mile of the entrance to a mass transit or public transportation station or facility. Application would only be to those stations or facilities associated with fixed routes, or the other high-capacity transit service as identified by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. This means it would not apply to bus routes and stops that vary over time to meet changes in use and demand. Within such areas localities are prohibited from requiring off-street parking spaces in amounts exceeding (1) one-half of one parking space per dwelling unit for multifamily or mixed-use residential development; and (2) one parking space per dwelling unit for one-family and two-family dwellings and townhouses.

HB 891 / SB 443 Siting of battery energy storage projects; commercial solar photovoltaic generation facilities, etc.

Chief Patrons: Shin and McPike

Description: Makes utility-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) a by-right use on any parcel that has previously been approved for utility-scale solar and that is subject to an approved special use permit, or any other similar approval issued for a solar facility. The legislation specifies that the by-right battery facility may not exceed 100 percent of the nameplate generating capacity of the associated solar facility. The addition of the battery energy storage project shall not alter, reduce, or otherwise affect any (i) payment obligations, financial commitments, or other terms contained in the existing special exception associated with the siting agreement for the approved solar project or (ii) state and local tax exemption from which the approved solar project benefits. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to affect or

alter the state and local tax provisions under § 58.1-3660. It is important to note the host siting agreement law was amended in 2021 to include battery storage projects as way to offset the loss in revenue due to state mandated exemptions from local machinery and tools tax on the equipment - 80% exemption for the first 5 years of operation; 70% exemption for years 6-10; and 60% exemption for years 11 and beyond. Without the ability to alter payment obligations, financial commitments, or other terms contained in the existing special exception associated with the siting agreement for the approved solar project, and because of loss in revenue due to state-mandated exemption from local taxes, counties cannot adequately address limited resources of their fire departments and public safety operations who must be familiar with the layouts and protocols for each site and have adequate resources to respond to fire and emergency calls.

[HB 895](#) / [SB 448](#) Electric utilities; energy storage requirements, Department of Energy to develop model ordinance.

Chief Patrons: Sullivan and Bagby

Description: Raises energy storage targets for Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia and extends associated deadlines. Appalachian Power must petition the State Corporation Commission (SCC) for at least 780 megawatts of short-duration storage by 2040 and 520 megawatts of long-duration storage by 2045; Dominion must petition for at least 16,000 megawatts of short-duration and 4,000 megawatts of long-duration storage by 2045. The SCC must approve an independent auditor to assist with criteria development and RFP review, conduct a long-duration storage technology demonstration program, and enter a final order by March 1, 2031 on viability — with certain bill provisions contingent on that determination. The Department of Energy must develop model local ordinances for energy storage regulation by December 1, 2026, and the SCC must convene a technical conference on storage safety standards by September 1, 2026.

[HB 938](#) / [SB 138](#) Publicly owned treatment works; monitoring of PFAS.

Chief Patrons: Clark and McPike

Description: Directs every publicly owned treatment works (POTW) to require certain new or industrial users of such POTW to perform and report to such POTW no later than 30 days after receipt from a laboratory the results as received of quarterly discharge monitoring for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for an initial characterization period of one year, provided, however, that such POTW may discontinue remaining quarterly monitoring by an industrial user with proper monitoring results that are below the method detection level for the first two quarters.

[HB 950](#) Unmanned aircraft systems; use by public bodies, search warrant required, exceptions.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Adds the Department of Environmental Quality to the list of exceptions to the warrant requirement for the use of an unmanned aircraft system by public bodies for the implementation and civil enforcement of the Virginia Water Resources and Wetlands Protection Program, the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act, and erosion and sediment control in localities without a Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program against a permittee.

[HB 952](#) Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Credit Exchange Program; certain industrial stormwater permittees.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Provides that for the purposes of the industrial stormwater general permit nutrient reduction compliance for calendar years 2025 and 2026, the term “nutrient credit” shall include nutrient credits generated by point sources in accordance with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Credit Exchange Program, subject to certain conditions.

[HB 1002](#) Utilities, certain; notice procedures for nonpayment.

Chief Patron: Tran

Description: Requires certain utilities, for the purposes of required notices related to disconnections for nonpayment, to provide such notices in an additional language for customers residing in a locality that is required to provide voting or election materials in such additional language.

[HB 1011](#) / [SB 226](#) Compost and other products containing organic soil amendments infrastructure; DEQ tax policy option.

Chief Patrons: Tran and Surovell

Description: Allows localities to prefer locally produced compost in tie-bid situations for procurement contracts. Localities may also adopt ordinances requiring large organic waste generators to separate and divert organic waste from landfill disposal through specified diversion activities, with civil penalties for violations following an initial warning. Finally, the bill expresses legislative intent that new and renovated public school buildings include waste disposal infrastructure accommodating trash, recyclables, food scraps, and liquid waste.

[HB 1065](#) / [SB 508](#) Electric utilities; comprehensive assessments, surplus interconnection service.

Chief Patrons: Hernandez and VanValkenburg

Description: Directs Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia to undertake a comprehensive assessment of available interconnection capacity at each such utility's existing and planned intermittent electric generation facilities located in the Commonwealth. The bill also (1) directs the utilities to establish pilot programs for energy storage resources and solar generation facilities that utilize surplus interconnection service, as defined in the bill, including a request for proposals; and (2) requires the utilities to submit the results of such requests for proposals as part of their 2027 plans and

petitions for approval for the development of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity.

[HB 1072](#) Sewage sludge; local authority to test and monitor land application within its political boundaries.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Allows a locality to provide for testing and monitoring for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, as defined in relevant law, of the land application of sewage sludge within its political boundaries using an applicable test method established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The bill prohibits any expenses from such testing and monitoring from being eligible for reimbursement from the Sludge Management Fund.

[HB 1081](#) Working Lands Preservation, Office of; powers and duties, small renewable energy projects fees.

Chief Patron: Webert

Description: Requires the Office of Working Lands Preservation to serve as a trustee to administer the in-lieu fees in trust for small renewable energy projects.

[HB 1102](#) / [SB 252](#) Renewable energy portfolio standard program; energy from geothermal heating/cooling systems, report.

Chief Patrons: Singh and Surovell

Description: Requires, for purposes of the renewable energy portfolio standard program, Dominion Energy Virginia and American Electric Power to annually procure and retire certain percentages of renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems, as defined in the bill.

[HB 1149](#) Water distribution systems; lead status inspections for water service lines.

Chief Patron: Hodges

Description: Permits any locality that operates a water distribution system or any water authority that operates a water distribution system, or their respective duly authorized

agents, to, at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances, enter upon the exterior areas of any property, public or private, for the purpose of accessing and inspecting a water service line necessary to make the required system-side and customer-side service line material classifications for lead status to comply with federal law.

[HB 1151](#) / [SB 423](#) Electric utilities; duty to furnish adequate service, high-demand customers.

Chief Patrons: Willett and Perry

Description: Provides that a distributor of electric energy may delay the provision of service if such delay is necessary to maintain electric grid reliability, to avoid exceeding available generation or transmission capacity constraints, or to ensure compliance with load interconnection policies or rules issued by the State Corporation Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[HB 1191](#) / [SB 377](#) Electric substation construction agreements; electric cooperatives.

Chief Patrons: Shin and Surovell

Description: Permits an electric cooperative to enter into an agreement to construct a substation with a member receiving regulated electric service, with an electric demand of at least 20 megawatts during the most recent calendar year, that requires a point of interconnection with a transmission line system of 230 kilovolts or more.

[HB 1212](#) Zoning; small lot residential districts.

Chief Patron: Sewell

Description: Requires any locality with a population of 50,000 or more to adopt, maintain, and apply to land within its boundaries at least one zoning district classification that permits a single-family dwelling on a lot with a minimum lot area not exceeding 3,000 square feet.

[HB 1225](#) / [SB 407](#) Transportation electrification; integrated resource planning, fast-charging stations, etc.

Chief Patrons: Shin and Boysko

Description: Permits Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company to file a proposed tariff with the State Corporation Commission (the Commission) to provide utility owned and operated electrical distribution infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging stations.

[HB 1234](#) / [SB 26](#) Land development; definitions, solar canopies in surface parking areas, delayed effective date.

Chief Patrons: Sewell and Carroll Foy

Description: Provides that any locality may include in its land development ordinances a provision that requires that an applicant must install a solar canopy over designated surface parking areas.

[HB 1255](#) Net energy metering; standby charge, facility capacity.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Increases the minimum capacity from 15 kilowatts to an aggregate nameplate capacity of 20 kilowatts of alternating current for an electrical generating facility for which certain electric utility customers are required to pay a monthly standby charge as part of the net energy metering program.

[HB 1279](#) / [SB 388](#) Affordable housing; religious organizations and other nonprofit tax-exempt properties.

Chief Patrons: Cole and McPike

Description: Overrides local decision-making by allowing development of housing, with up to 30 percent of certain ground-floor non-residential uses, on land owned by property tax-exempt religious organizations or certain property tax-exempt nonprofit organizations. The legislation also mandates that zoning ordinances shall allow the “by-right” development of up to 20 units per acre on property owned by such organizations and includes the following key provisions:

- A qualifying religious or nonprofit

organization must own the property for five years prior to applying for a housing development application.

- At least 60 percent of the total housing units must be affordable at 80 percent or less AMI (area median income) for rental units, and up to 120 percent AMI for for-sale units.
- Affordability of units must be recorded and preserved for a minimum of 30 years by deed restrictions or other legally binding requirements.
- The property is served by or within an area planned for public water and sewer.
- It does not apply to property zoned for or adjacent to land zoned for industrial use provided there has been an active and operational industrial use as defined by the locality on the property within the previous five years.
- The provisions of the legislation become effective on January 1, 2027, and expire on January 1, 2031.

[HB 1350](#) Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program; assessment for violations, etc., civil penalties.

Chief Patron: Kent

Description: Increases the maximum civil penalty amount that the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality may assess for any special order to a person to comply with certain related laws, regulations, permits, and certifications from \$10,000 to \$32,500.

[HB 1381](#) / [SB 784](#) Bioslurry; prohibiting injection in wells in a groundwater management area.

Chief Patrons: Bloxom and Stuart

Description: Prohibits any person from conducting any bioslurry injection, as defined in the bill, in any well that has been drilled through any portion of a groundwater management area declared by regulation prior to January 1, 2020.

[HB 1401](#) Eminent domain; certificate of take, description of property.

Chief Patron: Franklin

Description: Clarifies that a certificate of take in any eminent domain matter may include a combination of one or more plats, drawings, or plans to provide the description of the property being taken as required by law.

[HB 1443](#) / [SB 386](#) Owners of sewage treatment works; land application, marketing, or distributing of sewage sludge.

Chief Patrons: Lopez and Stuart

Description: Requires owners of sewage treatment works to begin testing sewage sludge intended for land application, marketing, or distribution for PFAS contamination using accredited laboratory analysis starting January 1, 2027, with mandatory outcomes based on PFAS concentration levels. The Department of Environmental Quality must update relevant Virginia Pollution Abatement and Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits as soon as practicable. The Department must also utilize the PFAS Expert Advisory Committee or convene a work group to recommend strategies for reducing PFAS in sewage sludge, with findings reported to the Governor and relevant legislative committee chairs by November 1, 2027.

[HB 1444](#) / [SB 225](#) Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank; created, report, membership.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Creates 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. An advisory board consisting of nonlegislative citizen members and ex officio members shall oversee the Bank and provide recommendations related to the Bank and its effectiveness. The bill contains provisions for (i) the powers and duties of the Bank, (ii) lending practices, (iii) a strategic

plan, (iv) an investment strategy, (v) public outreach requirements, (vi) audits, and (vii) reporting requirements.

[HB 1463](#) Zoning; nonconforming uses, manufactured homes.

Chief Patron: Thomas

Description: Provides that a land owner or home owner may place a manufactured home that meets the current HUD manufactured housing code upon any open lot in a valid nonconforming mobile or manufactured home park regardless of whether a valid nonconforming manufactured home is currently located on such lot.

[HB 1487](#) / [SB 827](#) Underground transmission lines; pilot program, clarifies qualifying projects, report.

Chief Patrons: Singh and Srinivasan

Description: Expands the underground electric transmission line pilot program by authorizing the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to approve up to four applications for 500-kilovolt lines filed between January 1, 2025, and July 1, 2033, to be built wholly or partially underground, with expedited review available. To qualify, a project must demonstrate technical feasibility, provide cost projections, have support from each affected locality, and be found reasonable and in the public interest by the SCC. Localities must cover at least 50 percent of the marginal underground construction costs through a customer levy, general obligation bond referendum, local funds, or a combination thereof. The SCC's final pilot program report deadline is extended to December 1, 2034.

[HB 1491](#) Electric utilities; construction of new overhead transmission lines, siting requirements.

Chief Patron: Singh

Description: Requires the State Corporation Commission to find that any proposed 138-kilovolt or greater transmission line corridor avoids or reasonably minimizes adverse impacts on dwelling houses. For Dominion Energy Virginia overhead lines of

500 kilovolts or more, the Commission must prioritize routes centered at least 150 feet from dwelling houses, schools, day cares, and places of worship, unless no practicable alternative exists.

[SB 44](#) Cemeteries on private property; registration by localities.

Chief Patron: Roem

Description: Clarifies that the requirement for the governing body of a locality to publish the sale of any publicly owned property that contains a known cemetery, graveyard, or other place of burial on its website shall not meet the requirement for a newspaper publication of such sale required by state law.

[SB 197](#) Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; loan and grant program, deferment of interest accrual.

Chief Patron: Williams Graves

Description: Provides that for funds disbursed to localities, federally recognized tribes, and Virginia recognized tribes primarily for the purpose of implementing flood prevention and protection projects and studies in areas that are subject to recurrent flooding, interest on loans shall not accrue and repayment obligations shall not come into effect for loans or grants until completion of the project or study for which such funds are disbursed.

[SB 293](#) Richmond Internatl. Airport; discontinuing use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting materials, report.

Chief Patron: Aird

Description: Directs the Capital Region Airport Commission to develop a plan for discontinuing by January 1, 2030, the use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting materials at Richmond International Airport and to complete such plan and provide a report to the Virginia Aviation Board no later than November 15, 2026.

[SB 342](#) Condemnation of conservation or open-space easement; compensation.

Chief Patron: Perry

Description: Provides that if a person takes by condemnation any land subject

to a conservation easement or open-space easement, such person shall compensate the Commonwealth and the locality in which such land is located for certain tax credits and values enumerated in the bill.

[SB 453](#) Intentional discharge of untreated sewage onto land or into waters of the Commonwealth; penalty.

Chief Patron: Stuart

Description: Establishes a maximum civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation for any person found to have intentionally discharged untreated sewage onto land or into waters of the Commonwealth.

[SB 504](#) Vested rights; rulings or orders of the local circuit court, residential project.

Chief Patron: Deeds

Description: Provides that a landowner's vested rights in a specific residential project shall not be affected by a subsequent ruling or order of the local circuit court applicable to a zoning ordinance amendment when such ruling or order affects at least 25 individual parcels within a locality unless the significant affirmative governmental act approving such residential project is the direct subject of the ruling or order.

[SB 515](#) Electric Utility Regulation, Commission on; scope and name changes to Energy Commission of Virginia.

Chief Patron: Deeds

Description: Renames the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation as the Energy Commission of Virginia. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation.

[SB 531](#) Zoning; development and use of accessory dwelling units, delayed effective date.

Chief Patron: Srinivasan

Description: Requires 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.

[SB 577](#) Virginia Residential Property Disclosure Act; required disclosures for buyer beware.

Chief Patron: Reeves

Description: Adds a property's proximity to any military ground installation to the residential property disclosure statement provided by the Real Estate Board on its website for the buyer to beware as to whether a property may be impacted by related noise or other effects of military operations.

[SB 645](#) Air Pollution Control Board; regulations, small renewable energy projects, anaerobic tech., report.

Chief Patron: Surovell

Description: Provides that for the purposes of a permit by rule for a small renewable energy project under existing law, a small renewable energy project includes an electrical generation facility in a locality in Planning District 8 with a rated capacity not exceeding 100 megawatts that generates electricity from biomass, energy from waste, or municipal solid waste and its dedicated associated interconnection facilities, provided that such facility is capable of processing the majority of its organic waste, including food waste and municipal sludge, with anaerobic digestion technology by January 1, 2030.

[SB 683](#) Public waterworks; appointments of receiver for waterworks.

Chief Patron: Reeves

Description: Allows the Commissioner of Health to petition the circuit court for the jurisdiction in which any public or private waterworks is located for the appointment of a receiver for such waterworks. Currently such appointment of receivership is only for private waterworks.

[SB 779](#) Eminent domain; condemnation proceedings, entry of order and recordation of certificate.

Chief Patron: Obenshain

Description: Provides that the clerk of a circuit court shall, upon entry of an order in a condemnation proceeding and unless

otherwise directed, promptly disburse any just compensation in the amount specified in such order and any interest accrued.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

[HB 86](#) Mattress Stewardship Program; established, definitions, report.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Would have established the Mattress Stewardship Program that allows certain industry associations to administer the Program as a mattress recycling organization with the approval and certification from the Department of Environmental Quality. **(Vetoed)**

[HB 642](#) / [SB 542](#) Cannabis control; establishes framework for creation of retail marijuana market, penalties, report.

Chief Patrons: Krizek and Aird

Description: 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 provided that no retail sales may occur prior to January 1, 2027. **(Vetoed)**

[HB 804](#) / [SB 488](#) Localities; statewide housing targets.

Chief Patrons: Helmer and VanValkenburg

Description: Would have directed local Boards of Zoning Appeals to overturn local land use decisions in order to increase the supply of housing in a locality, if a locality has not made a “good faith effort” to meet required housing targets over a five-year period. After January 1, 2033, an applicant who seeks local government approval for a residential development that will increase the number of housing units in a locality and has that application rejected may appeal such decision to the Board of Zoning Appeals. **(Failed)**

[HB 816](#) / [SB 454](#) Zoning; by-right multifamily residential development.

Chief Patrons: Helmer and VanValkenburg

Description: Required local zoning ordinances to allow for the by-right development and

construction of multifamily residential and mixed-use residential development on at least 50 percent of all land contained in commercial or business zoning district classifications and that ... *are served by public water and sewer or are located within an area designated for public water and sewer service in the locality's comprehensive plan.* The bill also (1) required that the zoning ordinance provisions must exempt any proposed development that converts an existing building to a multifamily residential use from any setback, height, or frontage requirements; and (2) prohibited localities from approving any commercial or business use on a property adjacent to the approved multifamily residential development that is different from the use that had been established at the time the multifamily residential development was approved. Both bills were amended in committee to limit their application to cities and towns having a population of more than 20,000, or any locality within a federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO). 34 Virginia counties are currently located within designated MPOs. **(Failed)**

[SB 717](#) Transit-oriented housing overlay districts; definitions, ordinances, report, sunset.

Chief Patron: Salim

Description: Would have required localities to adopt “transit-oriented housing overlay districts” within one mile of major transit stops and transit corridors and that within such districts allow for by-right development of dwelling units at specified minimum densities. Specifically, the legislation required localities to allow for (1) development of 30 units per acre - at a minimum six stories in height - within one-quarter of a mile of major transit stops; and (2) two units per lot and four units per corner lot between one-quarter of a mile and one mile of such a stop. As specified in the legislation “major transit stop” is defined as ... *a station or stop served by heavy rail, light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, or other high-capacity transit service designated by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.* **(Continued to 2027)**

FINANCE AND ELECTIONS

PASSED LEGISLATION

Taxation and Finance

[HB 167](#) Tax exemptions; Confederacy organizations.

Chief Patron: Askew

Description: Eliminates the exemption from state recordation taxes for the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and eliminates the tax-exempt designation for real and personal property owned by the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and certain other organizations.

[HB 282](#) Real property tax; classification of land and improvement in Cities of Charlottesville/Falls Church.

Chief Patron: Callsen

Description: Adds the Cities of Charlottesville, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, and Newport News to the list of cities authorized to levy a tax on the improvements to real property at a different rate than the tax imposed upon the land.

[HB 341](#) Plastic bag tax; distribution to towns.

Chief Patron: Martinez

Description: Requires that any county that has imposed a disposable plastic bag tax must distribute a portion of these tax revenues to any town located within the county based on the local sales tax distribution formula for appropriations to towns.

[HB 474](#) Real estate with delinquent taxes or liens; apptmt. of special commissioner, increases value.

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Description: Increases from \$75,000 to \$125,000 the maximum assessed value of

an individual parcel of land that may be subject to a locality's appointment of a special commissioner to convey property with delinquent taxes or liens to the locality, to the locality's land bank entity, or to an existing nonprofit entity designated by the locality to carry out the functions of a land bank entity, in lieu of sale at public auction.

[HB 550](#) / [SB 400](#) Admissions tax in counties; retail sales and use tax dedicated to promotion of tourism.

Chief Patrons: Anderson and Diggs

Description: Allows a county in which a state sales and use tax of at least one percent is imposed that is at least partially dedicated to the promotion of tourism to levy a tax on admissions for attendance at an event.

[HB 557](#) Tangible personal property tax; establishes classification for electric landscaping equipment.

Chief Patron: Reaser

Description: Establishes a separate classification of tangible personal property for electric-powered landscaping equipment employed in a trade or business and used to maintain commercial, public, or private gardens, lawns, trees, shrubs, or other plants, including lawn mowers, edgers, trimmers, leaf blowers, and chainsaws. Allows a local governing body to levy taxes on such property at different rates from the tax levied on other tangible personal property, as long as the rate does not exceed the rate applicable to the general class of personal property.

[HB 854](#) Real property tax; local classification or designation for property, nonprofit organizations.

Chief Patron: Cousins

Description: Clarifies that, in accordance with the Constitution of Virginia and by adoption of a local ordinance, any locality may by designation or classification exempt from real or personal property taxes, or both, property owned by an ownership entity of which a controlling interest of the managing member or general partner of such ownership entity

is held, directly or indirectly, by one or more nonprofit organizations, notwithstanding any for-profit ownership interests, that is used for the provision of affordable housing.

[HB 915](#) Local taxation; tax extension for federal government shutdown.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Allows a local governing body to provide an extension on personal property taxes owed by federal employees who are furloughed due to a federal government shutdown and essential federal employees who continue to work during such shutdown but do not receive immediate payment for such work.

[HB 954](#) Rounding procedures; taxes and fees calculated, report.

Chief Patron: Watts

Description: Provides for rounding procedures in certain cash transactions and authorizes the governing body of a locality to by ordinance set temporary procedures for the adjustment of bills and account balances for taxes and other charges due to the locality to account for the cessation of production of the penny coin by the United States Mint until July 1, 2027. These temporary procedures may provide for rounding or the write-down or write-off of sums due that are less than five cents. Directs the Department of Taxation to evaluate options and recommend a uniform procedure for localities to address adjustments of bills and account balances in light of shortages of penny coins; a report is due November 1, 2026.

[HB 1100](#) / [SB 597](#) Wage garnishments; treasurers' liens for unpaid taxes and charges.

Chief Patrons: Hernandez and Aird

Description: Caps treasurer's wage garnishment liens for unpaid local taxes at 25 percent of a delinquent taxpayer's disposable earnings per pay period. The cap does not apply if the taxpayer's adjusted gross income exceeds 250 percent of the federal poverty guideline for their household size, if a court of appropriate jurisdiction determines by clear and convincing evidence that the taxpayer

may flee or attempt to flee the jurisdiction or is improperly disposing of assets to avoid collection, or if the garnished amount consists of funds the taxpayer collected and holds in trust for remittance to the locality.

[HB 1180](#) / [SB 591](#) Income tax, state; free tax filing program for individuals

Chief Patrons: Pope Adams and McPike

Description: Directs the Tax Commissioner to develop and offer a free individual state income tax electronic filing program for taxable years beginning January 1, 2028.

[HB 1358](#) / [SB 649](#) Real property tax; special assessment on basis of use, notice requirements.

Chief Patrons: Runion and Obenshain

Description: Establishes notice requirements for the sale of real estate advising a purchaser to exercise due diligence to determine whether property may be valued, assessed, and taxed by a locality under a special assessment on the basis of use and may be subject to roll-back taxes and interest due to a change in use.

[SB 181](#) Real property tax; partial exemption for repurposing underutilized structures for residential use.

Chief Patron: Williams Graves

Description: Permits localities to provide partial real estate taxation exemptions for property converted from retail, commercial, or religious use to residential use under certain circumstances, including a requirement that at least 30 percent of the residential units are set aside for households with a per capita income at or below 80 percent of the locality's median per capita income or where the building owner is subject to an agreement with the Commonwealth or the locality regarding the provision of affordable housing. The partial exemption may be an amount equal to the increase in assessed value resulting from the conversion of the property, but may not exceed the expenses incurred in connection with the conversion of the building. The bill also authorizes a locality to establish a program to grant tax incentives or regulatory flexibility,

including a reduction in permit fees, a streamlined process for permit approvals, or a reduction in gross receipts taxes, to encourage qualifying residential conversions.

Constitutional Officers

HB 520 / SB 82 Clerk fees; secure remote access to nonconfidential court records by certain attorneys.

Chief Patron: Hernandez and Salim

Description: Provides that no clerk shall charge a fee to an attorney for secure remote access to nonconfidential court records when such attorney is certified by the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission in the jurisdiction served by such clerk, provided that such attorney is currently appointed to represent a defendant in such jurisdiction and agrees to continue accepting appointments in such jurisdiction.

HB 1235 Clerks of circuit court; fees, restitution, online payment systems, report.

Chief Patron: Delaney

Description: Provides that if a clerk's office allows payment through an already established online payment system for the collection of court fines and fees or costs, it must offer such payment method for all restitution payments.

SB 725 Circuit court clerks; fees, allocation of Technology Trust Fund Fee.

Chief Patron: Jones

Description: Increases the Technology Trust Fund Fee from \$5 to \$8 and requires \$6 of each \$8 fee to be used for purposes outlined in current law, with the remaining \$2 of the fee to be allocated to individual circuit court clerks' offices for one of the purposes described in current law. The bill also provides that no recordation tax shall be required of a quitclaim deed or deed to correct a fraudulently recorded deed, including a deed of trust, between a grantor and grantee when no consideration has passed between the parties. Finally, the bill directs (i) the clerk in each circuit court

to report to the Compensation Board and the Auditor of Public Accounts on the total amount of local Technology Trust Fund Fee revenue collected and expended and (ii) the Compensation Board to submit a report summarizing the information to the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by December 1, 2026.

Elections

HB 41 Elections; procedures for removal of electoral board members and general registrars.

Chief Patron: Simon

Description: Allows the State Board of Elections to remove any member of an electoral board or general registrar by a recorded two-thirds majority vote of all its members for certain enumerated reasons after a public hearing on related matters. Also allows a local electoral board to remove a general registrar for certain enumerated reasons by a recorded unanimous vote of all members; such action could be appealed to the State Board of Elections.

HB 59 / SB 88 Reapportionment; reallocation of populations, population data, civil commitment facilities.

Chief Patrons: Ware and Mulchi

Description: Requires persons civilly committed to a residential behavioral health facility administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to be counted and reallocated for redistricting and reapportionment purposes. A person whose address at the time of civil commitment was located within the Commonwealth is to be deemed to reside at such address, and a person whose address at the time of civil commitment was located outside the Commonwealth, or cannot be determined, is to be deemed to reside at the location of the facility in which the person is civilly committed.

[HB 78](#) Elections administration; duties of local electoral boards, certification of election, etc.

Chief Patron: Price

Description: Provides that the certification of the results of an election is a clear ministerial duty of the local electoral boards and that a member of the local electoral board who neglects or refuses to perform such duty in accordance with law shall be subject to removal proceedings by the State Board of Elections and assessed a civil penalty not exceeding \$1,000. Authorizes the State Board of Elections to perform duties related to certification of an election if a local electoral board fails to do so.

[HB 82](#) / [SB 58](#) Elections; deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and certain other information, etc.

Chief Patrons: McClure and Favola

Description: Moves the deadline for receipt of an absentee ballot, information required to cure an absentee ballot, or proof of identification to accompany a provisional ballot from noon to 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the election. The bills have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.

[HB 113](#) Elections; soliciting or accepting bribe to influence or procure voter registration, penalty.

Chief Patron: Helmer

Description: Prohibits any person from soliciting or accepting any money or any thing of value in exchange for his or another's decision to register or not register to vote, with certain exceptions, such as granting time off to an employee to vote or to register to vote.

[HB 168](#) / [SB 51](#) Election of certain governing bodies; conversion to single-member districts.

Chief Patron: Askew and Rouse

Description: Requires localities with populations of 400,000 or more to elect governing body members by individual single-member district in municipal elections, though presiding officers may still be elected at large.

[HB 215](#) Voter registration; list maintenance, third-party data exchanges approved by State Bd. of Elections.

Chief Patron: Henson

Description: Requires the Commissioner of Elections, prior to entering into or terminating a memorandum of understanding or modifying the terms of an existing memorandum of understanding with any third party for the exchange of voter registration data, to submit the proposed memorandum of understanding, the reason for termination, or the proposed modifications, as appropriate, to the State Board of Elections for review and approval. Approval of the memorandum of understanding, or modification or termination, requires a vote of two-thirds of the State Board. Directs the Commissioner to take steps to rejoin the Electronic Registration Information Center.

[HB 234](#) Elections; general provisions, electoral board members to wear identification, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Pope Adams

Description: Requires electoral board members to wear standardized identification badges issued by the Department of Elections while conducting official duties on the day of an election.

[HB 630](#) / [SB 176](#) Elections; ranked choice voting; locally elected offices, report.

Chief Patrons: Callsen and VanValkenburg

Description: Expands the option to use ranked choice voting from only elections for county board of supervisors and city councils to any local governing body and sets out certain administrative procedures for conducting an election via ranked-choice voting.

[HB 640](#) Elections; challenges to a voter or voter's registration, filing of petition, notice of appeal.

Chief Patron: Krizek

Description: Eliminates the process by which any voter could challenge, in a polling place on the day of an election, the right of any other

voter to cast a ballot, as well as the process by which three voters could challenge a voter's registration before the general registrar.

[HB 773](#) Elections; absentee voting, cure process, delayed effective date.

Chief Patron: Thornton

Description: Removes the requirement that absentee ballots be received by the Friday immediately preceding the day of the election for the general registrar to implement the process of curing errors or failures in such absentee ballots. Extends the deadline for the voter to make any necessary corrections from noon on the third day after the election to noon on the Monday after the election.

[HB 774](#) Elections; absentee and provisional ballots, cure process, delayed effective date.

Chief Patron: Thornton

Description: Requires registrars to review provisional ballot forms prior to the determination of the validity of provisional ballots by the electoral board and promptly notify a voter by telephone or email of any material omissions and how to correct such omissions. Allows the voter to make necessary corrections by noon on the Monday after the election. Directs the State Board of Elections to promulgate regulations on the uniform review and processing of voter registration applications that are incomplete, and directs the Department of Elections to issue guidance on the uniform processing and counting of provisional ballots, including same-day registration ballots. Directs the Secretary of Administration to convene a workgroup to study potential changes to the same day registration provisional vote process. The bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

[HB 835](#) / [SB 632](#) Elections; candidates and elected officials, confidentiality of personally identifiable information.

Chief Patrons: McClure and Aird

Description: Allows any person who is or has been an elected official to provide a post office box address in lieu of his or her street

address for inclusion in lists of registered voters and other public documents, and bars the disclosure of the address, phone number, or email address of a candidate under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act without written consent of the candidate.

[HB 909](#) Elections; certain conduct prohibited at polling places applicable to locations for absentee voting.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Clarifies that the provisions of law prohibiting certain activities or conduct in and around a polling place also apply to locations where absentee voting in person is available. Prohibits knowingly carrying a firearm within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place, the building used by the local electoral board to meet and ascertain election results, and other locations used for elections-related activities.

[HB 964](#) / [SB 162](#) Voter registration; restoration of political rights upon release from incarceration.

Chief Patrons: Price and Locke

Description: Provides that any person who loses his political rights as a result of a felony conviction shall be invested with those rights upon his release from incarceration and shall be entitled to register to vote and sets out related administrative processes. The legislation takes effect January 1, 2026, contingent on passage of the associated Constitutional amendment at the November 2026 election.

[HB 965](#) / [SB 322](#) National Popular Vote Compact; enters Virginia into an interstate compact.

Chief Patrons: Price and Ebbin

Description: Enters Virginia into an interstate compact known as the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote, which takes effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of electoral votes have enacted the agreement in substantially the same form.

[HB 967](#) Voting Rights Act of Virginia; revises provisions.

Chief Patron: Price

Description: Revises provisions of the Voting Rights Act of Virginia (the Act) by (i) clarifying the legal standards for evaluating claims of alleged voter suppression and vote dilution, (ii) providing guidance to the courts to follow when determining whether a violation of the prohibition against voter suppression or vote dilution has occurred, and (iii) outlining the factors that the courts are permitted to consider and those factors that the courts are prohibited from considering. Expands who may challenge a covered practice (such as a change to district boundaries or change in polling places) to include any organization whose membership includes persons who will be subject to or affected by the covered practice; and expands who has standing to initiate a cause of action for an alleged violation to include any organization whose membership includes members of a protected class or whose mission would be frustrated by a violation of the Act.

[HB 968](#) Election results; counting machine-readable ballots, processing absentee ballots.

Chief Patron: Price

Description: Requires ballot scanner machines to be used to count machine-readable ballots and prohibits such ballots from being counted by hand unless (i) the ballot scanner machine is inoperative, (ii) there is no other available scanner, and (iii) it would be unreasonable to wait for repairs or the delivery of a replacement ballot scanner machine.

[HB 972](#) Voter registration; list maintenance activities, cancellation procedures, required record matches.

Chief Patron: Price

Description: Requires certain, specified identification information to be included on the lists received by the Department of Elections for list maintenance purposes and requires

the Department, upon receiving any such list, to do an initial comparison of the information included on such list with the list of registered voters and to determine the confidence score for any match. Records with confidence scores in excess of the threshold set by regulation are to be transmitted to the appropriate general registrar. Requires an annual review of all sources of data used for list maintenance to determine reliability of the information. Limits use of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program to individual citizenship verification of voters in Virginia's voter registration system. Requires notice to a voter prior to cancellation of voter registration and requires a cancellation record to be created.

[HB 1014](#) / [SB 34](#) Incapacitated persons; finding of lack of capacity to understand act of voting.

Chief Patrons: Tran and Favola

Description: Provides that a finding that a person is incapacitated in a proceeding for guardianship or conservatorship shall not be synonymous with a finding that such person lacks the capacity to understand the act of voting and therefore is not qualified to vote in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Virginia. Requires a court to make a specific finding that a person lacks the capacity to understand the act of voting in order for someone to be deemed disqualified to vote.

[HB 1244](#) Absentee voting; emergency application for absentee ballot.

Chief Patron: Anthony

Description: Provides that a qualified voter may apply for an emergency absentee ballot if he has applied to receive an absentee ballot by the deadline but has not received his ballot within 10 days of the election and will be unable to vote on election day due to his hospitalization or illness, the hospitalization, illness, or death of a spouse, child, or parent, or other emergency found to justify receipt of an emergency absentee ballot.

[HB 1321](#) Primaries; abstract of votes, law-enforcement officer to obtain returns not forwarded.

Chief Patron: Anthony

Description: Removes the requirement that if the abstract of votes is not received by the State Board of Elections from any county or city within six days after any state primary election, the State Board shall dispatch a law-enforcement officer to obtain it.

[HB 1483](#) Local government; elections, single-member districts required.

Chief Patron: Convirs-Fowler

Description: Requires every locality with a population of 400,000 or greater to elect the members of its governing body from single-member districts. This bill applies to municipal elections held after July 1, 2026.

[HB 1528](#) General Assembly; special election to fill certain vacancies, deadline for parties to nominate.

Chief Patron: McGuire

Description: Requires parties to nominate candidates for any special election to fill a vacancy in the General Assembly occurring between December 10 and March 1 within seven days of any writ of election or order calling such special election.

[SB 57](#) Voter registration; requiring membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Chief Patron: VanValkenburg

Description: Requires the Commissioner of Elections to apply for, enter into, and maintain membership for the Commonwealth in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

[SB 126](#) Primary election; when filings to be made, extension for incumbent's failure to file.

Chief Patron: Pekarsky

Description: Provides that if an incumbent office holder fails to file the necessary paperwork to qualify to be on the ballot for a

primary election for the office he holds by the deadline for filing such paperwork, then the deadline for such paperwork is extended by five days for any filer other than the incumbent. This bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

[SB 169](#) Candidates for office; challenges to candidate qualifications.

Chief Patron: Pekarsky

Description: Requires any legal action relating to a person's eligibility to appear on the ballot on the basis that such person did not meet all qualifications or fulfill all requirements for candidacy to be filed in a circuit court and served on all parties (i) at least 90 days before the date of a general election; (ii) at least 65 days before the date of a primary election; (iii) at least 70 days before the date of a special election held on the same date as the general election; or (iv) for any special election held at a time other than a general election, (a) at least 55 days before the date of the special election or (b) within 10 days of any writ of election or order calling for a special election to be held less than 60 days after the issuance of the writ or order. Sets deadlines for the court's decision and any appeals and bars any challenges to the qualifications of a candidate who was nominated in a primary on the basis of facts that were present prior to the primary election.

[SB 438](#) Absentee voting in person; available the second and third Sunday before all elections.

Chief Patron: Bagby

Description: Requires absentee voting in person to be made available for a minimum of five hours between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the second and third Sunday immediately preceding all elections.

[SB 582](#) Absentee & provisional ballots; process & timing for rejected applications, rejected prov. ballots.

Chief Patron: Salim

Description: Requires registrars to review provisional ballot forms prior to the determination of the validity of provisional

ballots by the electoral board and promptly notify a voter by telephone or email of any material omissions and how to correct such omissions. Allows the voter to make necessary corrections by noon on the Monday after the election. Requires absentee ballot applicant lists to be updated daily and include acceptance or rejection status with reasons, entered into the voter registration system and accessible to voters through a free Department of Elections portal. The bill removes the requirement that absentee ballots be received by the Friday before the election to trigger the cure process, and extends the absentee ballot application cure deadline from three days after the election to noon on the Monday following. Includes the same directives as HB 774 regarding promulgation of regulations on the processing of voter registration applications and processing of provisional ballots and the convening of the workgroup on the same day registration provisional vote process. The bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

[HB 13](#) and [HB 703](#) / [SB 9](#) Retail Sales and Use Tax; food for human consumption and essential personal hygiene products
Chief Patrons: McNamara, Tata, and Suetterlein

Description: Would eliminate the remaining 1 percent local sales and use tax that is imposed on food purchased for human consumption and essential personal hygiene products and distribute an equivalent amount of revenue to cities and counties on a monthly basis.
(Continued to 2027)

[HB 68](#) Real property; effect on rate when assessment results in tax increase, consideration of inflation.

Chief Patron: McNamara
Description: Would factor inflation into the calculation of the assessed value of real property in a locality for purposes of

determining the lowered tax rate necessary to offset increases in assessment that must be provided in certain public notices. *(Continued to 2027)*

[HB 111](#) Voter registration; cancellation of registration, sources of data.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Would have barred a general registrar from cancelling the registration of any voter based on data or reports from any source other than the Department of Elections or a state agency approved to provide such data or reports by the State Board of Elections, except on the basis of (i) a written request from the voter to have his registration cancelled or (ii) a certified or authenticated copy of a death certificate purporting to be issued by a governmental official or agency. Also would have barred the registrar from cancelling the registration of certain active-duty servicemembers or other persons temporarily residing outside of the United States based on certain notices from the Department of Motor Vehicles. *(Vetoed)*

[HB 162](#) Public campaign financing; counties and cities may establish for certain offices.

Chief Patron: Simon

Description: Would authorize local governing bodies of counties or cities to establish a system of public campaign financing for elected local offices. *(Continued to 2027)*

[HB 175](#) and [SB 8](#) Real property; tax exemption, surviving spouses of members of Armed Forces who died in line of duty.

Chief Patrons: Feggans and DeSteph

Description: Would authorize localities to provide a total exemption from real property taxes for surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty. Existing law mandates an exemption for the value of the dwelling that is not in excess of the average assessed value of a dwelling situated on property that is zoned as single family residential, with the remainder of the value subject to taxation. *(Continued to 2027)*

[HB 639](#) Elections; administration, acceptance of certain gifts and funding, approval required.

Chief Patron: Krizek

Description: Would have removed the prohibition on accepting property and services provided by a private individual or nongovernmental entity for the purpose of funding voter education and outreach programs, voter registration programs, or any other expense incurred in the conduct of elections. Would have required a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the State Board of Elections or the local governing body to accept funding from a private individual or nongovernmental entity in excess of \$1,000.

(Vetoed)

[HB 956](#) License taxes; deduction for out-of-state receipts.

Chief Patron: Watts

Description: Would have expanded the deduction for out-of-state receipts to include receipts from net income taxes or business activity taxes based in whole or in part on gross or net income or receipts. *(Failed)*

[HB 960](#) Personal property taxes; valuation, effective clause.

Chief Patron: Watts

Description: Would require that tangible personal property employed in a trade or business, other than such property set out for different valuation in current law, be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost to the taxpayer. *(Continued to 2027)*

[SB 202](#) Elections; filling vacancies in county and city governing bodies.

Chief Patron: Suetterlein

Description: Would remove the ability to fill a vacancy in a county or city governing body by an interim appointment and require that a special election be held to fill any such vacancy. *(Continued to 2027)*

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PASSED LEGISLATION

[HB 1](#) / [SB 1](#) Minimum wage; increases incrementally to \$15.00 per hour by January 1, 2028.

Chief Patrons: Ward and Lucas

Description: Increases the minimum wage incrementally to \$15.00 per hour by January 1, 2028. The bill codifies the adjusted state hourly minimum wage of \$12.77 per hour that is effective January 1, 2026, and increases the minimum wage to \$13.75 per hour effective January 1, 2027, and to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2028. Effective January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter, the bill requires the minimum wage to be adjusted to reflect increases in the consumer price index.

[HB 5](#) / [SB 199](#) Employment; paid sick leave, civil penalties.

Chief Patron: Convis-Fowler and Favola

Description: Requires one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked for all employees of private employers and state and local governments, with certain exceptions. The bill requires that employees who are employed and compensated on a fee-for-service basis accrue paid sick leave in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The bill provides that employees transferred to a separate division or location remain entitled to previously accrued paid sick leave and that employees retain their accrued paid sick leave under any successor employer. The bill allows employers to provide a more generous paid sick leave policy than prescribed by its provisions and specifies that employees, in addition to using paid sick leave for their physical or mental illness or to care for a family member, may use paid sick leave to seek or obtain certain services or to relocate or secure an existing home due to domestic abuse,

sexual assault, or stalking. The bill requires the Commissioner to promulgate regulations for the implementation and enforcement of the bill's provisions by July 1, 2027, among other provisions.

[HB 16](#) Community service work in lieu of payment of fines and costs; work performed while incarcerated.

Chief Patron: Price

Description: Requires courts to establish programs allowing individuals to discharge fines and costs through community service performed before or after imprisonment or through work performed while incarcerated. The program must be available during imprisonment in local, regional, or state correctional facilities, and incarcerated workers are credited at the community service rate minus any wages received. Current law makes offering such a program mandatory but participating optional; this bill makes the option itself mandatory. Correctional facilities must provide confirmation of hours worked and credits earned upon request.

[HB 17](#) / [SB 180](#) Fines and costs; period of limitations on collection, responsibility for collections.

Chief Patrons: Price and Williams Graves

Description: Changes the period of limitations for the collection of court fines and costs from within 60 years from the date of the offense or delinquency giving rise to imposition of such penalty if imposed by a circuit court or within 30 years if imposed by a general district court to within 10 years from the date of the judgment whether imposed by a circuit court or general district court.

[HB 27](#) / [SB 28](#) Overtime for certain employees; pay for domestic workers, delayed effective date.

Chief Patrons: Henson and Carroll Foy

Description: Adds domestic workers, as defined in the bill, to provisions related to overtime pay. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.

[HB 77](#) / [SB 81](#) Law-enforcement officers, state and local; enforcement of federal traffic infractions.

Chief Patrons: Krizek and Surovell

Description: Provides that state and local law-enforcement officers may enforce federal traffic infractions on any highway within Planning District 8.

[HB 118](#) / [SB 24](#) Discovery; methods of delivery, accused may request of any materials or evidence, etc., report.

Chief Patrons: Keys-Gamarra and Carroll Foy

Description: Requires the Commonwealth, upon request by the accused or his counsel, to copy or photograph any discovery materials or evidence the accused is permitted to inspect and review, and requires the Commonwealth to provide copies to the accused or his counsel, subject to the redaction, restricted dissemination, and protective order provisions of the relevant Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia and unless such material is prohibited from being distributed by law.

[HB 126](#) Local, regional, and community correctional facilities; access to counsel for inmates.

Chief Patron: Callsen

Description: Requires the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to establish additional standards no later than January 1, 2027, to ensure access to legal counsel for inmates held in any local, regional, or community correctional facility.

[HB 169](#) / [SB 98](#) Emergency management; Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Secretary shall convene work group to evaluate.

Chief Patrons: Askew and Stanley

Description: Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to establish a work group to evaluate existing emergency management needs, analyze sustainability of current funding of such needs, and review alternative funding models for such needs in other states, and to report the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of

the House Committees on Appropriations and General Laws and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology on or before October 1, 2026.

[HB 177](#) Fee for passing bad checks to localities; payment order not paid by recipient.

Chief Patron: Anthony

Description: Makes clarifying amendments to existing provisions related to the imposition of a fee by a locality for the passing of a bad check and adds a reference to electronic payment orders to such provisions.

[HB 223](#) Public defender; local funding for positions.

Chief Patron: Hope

Description: Allows the governing body of any county or city to fund positions in the office of the public defender.

[HB 226](#) County manager plan of government; independent policing auditor.

Chief Patron: Hope

Description: Allows the governing body of any county with the county manager plan of government (Arlington County) to appoint an independent policing auditor.

[HB 230](#) Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems, certain emergency medical services personnel exempted.

Chief Patron: McQuinn

Description: Exempts from the requirements for the use of safety belt systems emergency medical services personnel while in the patient compartment of an emergency medical services vehicle providing necessary care, as defined in the bill, to a patient, among other provisions.

[HB 238](#) Minimum wage and overtime wages; payment, definitions, misclassification of workers, civil actions.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Provides that an employer that violates provisions relating to minimum wage, overtime wages, the misclassification of workers, or the prevailing wage rate

is subject to civil actions for applicable remedies, damages, or other relief. The bill also prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee who reports in good faith any information that, if true, would amount to a violation of any federal or state law or regulation.

[HB 248](#) / [SB 317](#) Interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements; development of behavioral health co-response teams.

Chief Patrons: Watts and Perry

Description: Provides that interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements may allow for the development of co-response teams staffed by one or more law-enforcement agencies that respond to behavioral health-related calls in multiple jurisdictions.

[HB 273](#) Law-enforcement officers; duty to render aid upon danger to life or limb, civil immunity.

Chief Patron: Helmer

Description: Establishes a duty for law-enforcement officers to render aid to persons suffering serious bodily injury or life-threatening conditions when circumstances permit and doing so does not endanger the officer or others. Officers are granted civil immunity for injury or wrongful death resulting from rendering or withholding such aid, unless gross negligence or willful misconduct is involved. The Department of Criminal Justice Services must adopt regulations providing officers with basic medical and emergency first aid training.

[HB 308](#) / [SB 620](#) Va. ABC Authority; permitting of retail tobacco product retailers, etc.

Chief Patrons: Hope and Ebbin

Description: Transitions and provides a more comprehensive structure for the current licensing and enforcement responsibilities related to liquid nicotine and retail tobacco products from the Department of Taxation to a permitting system administered by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority.

[HB 325](#) / [SB 140](#) Fire Programs, Department of; development of mental health awareness training.

Chief Patrons: Sullivan and McPike

Description: Provides that the Department of Fire Programs shall develop a standardized, two-hour virtual asynchronous training program on mental health awareness tailored to firefighters that includes training on each subject matter set forth in current law.

[HB 338](#) / [SB 430](#) Service employees; authority of local governments, definition.

Chief Patrons: Lopez and Bagby

Description: Permits a locality to provide for certain requirements concerning successor service employers, defined in the bill, by local ordinance or resolution, among other provisions.

[HB 346](#) Va. Freedom of Information Act; exclusion to application of chapter, public utility account numbers.

Chief Patron: McLaughlin

Description: Excludes account numbers of any person or public body for an account with a public utility, as defined in the bill, from the mandatory disclosure provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

[HB 347](#) Military and emergency laws; local emergency management plans.

Chief Patron: McLaughlin

Description: Changes from every four years to every five years the frequency with which every local and interjurisdictional agency has to review and update its emergency operations plan.

[HB 426](#) Workers' compensation; employer's offset in event of recovery.

Chief Patron: LeVere Bolling

Description: Clarifies and modifies workers' compensation employer's offset provisions in the event of a third-party recovery by an injured employee, among other provisions.

[HB 505](#) / [SB 648](#) Counties, cities, & towns; members of governing body, continuing personal interest in transactions.

Chief Patrons: McAuliff and Perry

Description: Provides that any member of a governing body in any locality, who has been employed by any governmental agency that is a component part of and that is subject to the ultimate control of the governing body of which he is a member, is deemed to have continuing personal interest in that agency for a period of two years following the termination of such employment.

[HB 569](#) / [SB 518](#) Public works contracts; prevailing wage rate, definitions, civil penalty.

Chief Patrons: Feggans and Rouse

Description: Expands prevailing wage requirements to apply to all state and local public works contracts paid with public funds, requiring contractors and subcontractors to pay mechanics, laborers, and workers no less than the prevailing wage rate, among other provisions. VACo actively engaged throughout the session to ensure that these proposals did not impose unfunded mandates or disrupt local procurement practices.

[HB 618](#) / [SB 626](#) Health insurance; reporting requirements.

Chief Patrons: Shin and Obenshain

Description: Amends various reporting requirements related to health insurance, including by requiring the State Corporation Commission to maintain and publicly post an inventory of mandated benefits and providers, requiring health carriers to report annually on provider terminations and reinstatements, and consolidating reports related to balance billing and arbitration. The bill repeals reporting requirements related to the Comparable Health Care Service Incentive Program and Virginia Health Savings Account Plan.

[HB 625](#) / [SB 161](#) Health insurance; limit on cost-sharing payments for prescription drugs under certain plans.

Chief Patrons: Henson and Perry

Description: Requires each carrier that offers a health plan in either the individual or small group market to ensure that at least one health plan in each of the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels of coverage in each rating area in the individual and small group market conform with the following: (i) a plan that offers a platinum level of coverage shall limit a person's cost-sharing payment for prescription drugs covered under the plan to an amount that does not exceed \$150 per 30-day supply of the prescription drug; (ii) a plan that offers a gold level of coverage shall limit a person's cost-sharing payment for prescription drugs covered under the plan to an amount that does not exceed \$200 per 30-day supply of the prescription drug; (iii) a plan that offers a silver level of coverage shall limit a person's cost-sharing payment for prescription drugs covered under the plan to an amount that does not exceed \$250 per 30-day supply of the prescription drug; and (iv) a plan that offers a bronze level of coverage shall limit a person's cost-sharing payment for prescription drugs covered under the plan to an amount that does not exceed \$300 per 30-day supply of the prescription drug.

[HB 636](#) / [SB 215](#) Prospective employer; prohibited from seeking wage or salary history of prospective employees.

Chief Patrons: Maldonado and Boysko

Description: Prohibits a prospective employer from (i) seeking the wage or salary history of a prospective employee; (ii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in considering the prospective employee for employment; (iii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in determining the wages or salary the prospective employee is to be paid upon

hire; (iv) refusing to interview, hire, employ, or promote or otherwise retaliating against a prospective or current employee for not providing wage or salary history or requesting a wage or salary range; (v) failing or refusing to disclose in each public and internal posting for each job, promotion, transfer, or other employment opportunity the wage, salary, or wage or salary range; and (vi) failing to set a wage or salary range in good faith.

[HB 670](#) Labor & employment provisions; application of law, protection of employees, definition of employer.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Description: Provides that the exemption for the Commonwealth, any of its agencies, institutions, or political subdivisions, or any public body under Title 40.1 does not apply when expressly provided otherwise. The bill defines “public body” as the term relates to labor and employment and provides that for the purposes of various requirements related to the protection of employees, the definition of “employer” includes the Commonwealth and its agencies, institutions, and political subdivisions, and any public body. The bill must reenacted by the 2027 Session of the General Assembly.

[HB 675](#) Protection of employees; coercion or threat based on immigration status, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Description: Prohibits employers, including state and local government entities, from using immigration status as a basis for coercion or threats against employees in connection with wage law violations. Aggrieved employees may file a complaint with the Commissioner of Labor and Industry within 180 days of the alleged conduct. Civil penalties for substantiated violations are up to \$5,000 for a first offense, \$9,000 for a second, and \$12,000 for subsequent violations, with proceeds deposited into the General Fund. The Commissioner may also seek injunctive relief for enforcement purposes.

[HB 702](#) Local law-enforcement agencies; firearm give-back or buy-back programs.

Chief Patron: Cole

Description: Allows for any county or city law-enforcement agency and any town law-enforcement agency to develop policies and procedures to implement either a firearm give-back program or a firearm buy-back program by January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter.

[HB 862](#) / [SB 391](#) Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP), Commission on; structure and responsibilities.

Chief Patrons: Cousins and Stuart

Description: Restructures the existing governance structure and responsibilities of the Commission on VASAP and expands its oversight authority over local alcohol safety action programs. Requires each local program to have a locality serving as its fiscal agent and requires each locality that has established, or jointly participates in, a local alcohol safety action program to provide for its financial support through annual appropriations in its local budget or through such other funding mechanisms as may be agreed upon by the participating localities; these provisions take effect January 1, 2028. The bill also directs the Commission on VASAP to convene a work group with relevant stakeholders to review the sustainability of the structure and funding model for VASAP and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Commission on VASAP and the Chairs of specified legislative committees by October 1, 2026.

[HB 925](#) Virginia Human Rights Act; unlawful discriminatory practices, civil actions, statute of limitations.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Provides that a complaint alleging discrimination in employment in violation of the Virginia Human Rights Act shall be filed no later than two years from the day upon which the alleged discriminatory practice occurred.

[HB 1046](#) / [SB 324](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; additional public works contract requirements.

Chief Patrons: Carr and McPike

Description: Requires contractors and subcontractors on public construction contracts to complete specified safety training programs and maintain compliance records, among other provisions.

[HB 1067](#) Regional emergency communications authorities; creation and powers.

Chief Patron: Hodges

Description: Authorizes localities to create a regional authority to operate and manage emergency communication services including public safety answering points.

[HB 1092](#) / [SB 288](#) Protection of employees; standards for heat illness prevention, report.

Chief Patrons: Hernandez and Aird

Description: Requires the Department of Labor and Industry to adopt standards for heat illness prevention for outdoor and indoor workers, and directs a report on implementation and effectiveness to the General Assembly, among other provisions.

[HB 1115](#) Nonemergency medical transportation providers; fee disclosure.

Chief Patron: Nivar

Description: Requires nonemergency medical transportation providers or the arranging medical facility to provide patients or their representatives with a standardized disclosure form detailing all fees and charges the patient will owe prior to transport. Providers must also supply the form to the arranging medical facility. These requirements take effect January 1, 2027. The Department of Health must develop and publish the standardized form on its website by October 1, 2026.

[HB 1150](#) Impersonating any local, town, city, or county elected official; penalty.

Chief Patron: Hodges

Description: Prohibits any person from

willfully and intentionally (i) falsely assuming or exercising the functions, powers, duties, and privileges incident to the office of any local, town, city, or county elected official; (ii) falsely assuming or pretending to be any such elected official with intent to defraud or obtain access, information, service, or thing of value; or (iii) impersonating any such elected official with the intent to make another believe he is such elected official with intent to defraud or obtain access, information, service, or thing of value.

[HB 1173](#) / [SB 258](#) Virginia Human Rights Act; reasonable accommodation for known limitations related to menopause.

Chief Patrons: Tran and Pekarsky

Description: Prohibits discrimination under the Virginia Human Rights Act on the basis of menopause or perimenopause for purposes of nondiscrimination in government programs, public accommodation, employment hiring, and reasonable employer accommodation.

(Pending final action by the Governor.)

[HB 1207](#) / [SB 2](#) Paid family & med. leave insurance program; definitions, notice requirements, civil action, report.

Chief Patrons: Sewell and Boysko

Description: Requires the Virginia Employment Commission to establish and administer a paid family and medical leave insurance program with benefits beginning April 1, 2028. Under the program, benefits are paid to covered individuals, as defined in the bill, for family and medical leave. Funding for the program is provided through premiums assessed to employers and employees beginning April 1, 2028. The bill provides that the amount of a benefit is 80 percent of the employee's average weekly net earnings, not to exceed 100 percent of the statewide average weekly net earnings, which amount is required to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the statewide average weekly wage. The bill caps the duration of paid leave at 12 weeks in any application year and provides self-employed individuals the option of participating in the program.

[HB 1214](#) Health insurance; cost-sharing payments for insulin and diabetes equipment and supplies, limit.

Chief Patron: Delaney

Description: Decreases the cap on the cost-sharing payment that a covered person is required to pay for a covered prescription insulin drug from \$50 to \$35 for a 30-day supply of the prescription insulin drug and provides such cap is an aggregate cap that applies in situations where the covered person is prescribed more than one insulin drug. The bill also establishes such an aggregate cap of \$35 for a 30-day supply of diabetes equipment and supplies.

[HB 1219](#) / [SB 647](#) Unmanned aircraft systems; use by law-enforcement officers, search warrants.

Chief Patrons: Sewell and Pillion

Description: Expedites the issuance of a search warrant for unmanned aircraft systems by law-enforcement officers upon a finding of reasonable and probable cause by an authorized judicial official, as defined in the bill, and permits the use of unmanned aircraft systems without a search warrant when law enforcement is surveying the scene of a crime or to respond to a public safety call for service when such crime scene or call for service is located on public property, to locate a person when such person has fled the offense location during the initial response to an incident, or to provide real-time aerial observation to increase on-scene safety and security.

[HB 1308](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; adds to definition of professional services.

Chief Patron: Pope Adams

Description: Adds to the definition of “professional services,” for use throughout the Virginia Public Procurement Act, services of a licensed investment advisor, financial advisor, or insurance broker procured by the Department of the Treasury.

[HB 1313](#) Workers’ compensation; law-enforcement officers and firefighters, post-traumatic stress disorder.

Chief Patron: Callsen

Description: Provides that, for the purposes of workers’ compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by a law-enforcement officer or firefighter, an incident or exposure without any accompanying physical injury occurring in the line of duty on or after January 1, 2027, is a qualifying event, as defined in the bill. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.

[HB 1320](#) / [SB 759](#) Unemployment benefits; increase weekly benefit amount.

Chief Patrons: Martinez and Ebbin

Description: Provides that, for unemployment compensation claims effective on or after July 1, 2026, an eligible individual’s weekly benefit amount shall be \$48 higher than the current weekly benefit amount, as denoted in the table in the printed bill.

[HB 1333](#) Paid firefighters; hours of work.

Chief Patron: Feggans

Description: Provides that the Department of Fire Programs shall encourage employers to implement work schedules that do not require any paid firefighter’s normally scheduled shifts to exceed 42 hours per workweek.

[HB 1343](#) / [SB 532](#) Alcoholic beverage control; banquet license, municipality or nonprofit.

Chief Patrons: Bulova and Stuart

Description: Allows a manufacturer, bottler, broker, importer, or wholesaler to sponsor or provide support, including equipment, staff, financial, and other support, for a special event for which a municipality or nonprofit organization has been issued a banquet license when such special event is to be held on the grounds of a museum or a government-registered national, state, or local historic site at which the municipality or nonprofit

organization is licensed to operate a gift shop, provided that any retail license issued to the premises has been deactivated by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority for the duration of such special event.

[HB 1395](#) Loitering; curfew for minors, age restrictions on trick-or-treating, effective clause.

Chief Patron: Convors-Fowler

Description: Prohibits localities from imposing age restrictions on trick-or-treating that exceed current loitering and curfew provisions. The provisions of the bill do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2027 Session of the General Assembly.

[HB 1404](#) Local government; appointment of youth representative.

Chief Patron: Guzman

Description: Allows a local governing body to appoint a youth representative to serve as a nonvoting member of the governing body.

[HB 1441](#) / [SB 783](#) Law-enforcement agencies; agreements with federal authority for immigration enforcement.

Chief Patrons: Lopez and Salim

Description: Prohibits any state or local law-enforcement agency, defined in the bill, from maintaining, renewing, or entering into any federal immigration agreement unless such agreement contains certain provisions. The bill also prohibits any person acting in his capacity as a law-enforcement officer to assist, cooperate with, or use any law-enforcement resources to facilitate any operation that seeks to identify, arrest, or otherwise impose a penalty upon an individual for any violation of federal civil immigration law. The bill provides that such prohibition shall not apply (i) if the authority to enforce such laws is otherwise permitted or required by law; (ii) if the person acting in his capacity as a law-enforcement officer is presented with a valid judicial warrant or judicial subpoena that authorizes such enforcement; or (iii) to the transfer of custody of an adult convicted of certain

violent felonies from a state, local, or regional correctional facility upon such correctional facility's receipt of a federal immigration detainer.

[HB 1476](#) Law-enforcement civilian oversight bodies; disclosure of certain law-enforcement records.

Chief Patron: Schmidt

Description: Allows law-enforcement civilian oversight bodies to hold closed meetings when discussing criminal investigative files, audit findings, and deliberations related to specific complaints involving certain offenses, providing a FOIA exemption for such sessions. Oversight bodies and appointed independent policing auditors may inspect law-enforcement records concerning juveniles when necessary to perform their duties. The bill also permits disclosure of records related to sexual assault, sexual abuse, or family abuse cases to civilian oversight bodies and their appointed support personnel.

[HB 1482](#) / [SB 352](#) Law-enforcement officers; restrictions on wearing of facial coverings, exceptions, penalty.

Chief Patrons: Schmidt and Salim

Description: Prohibits law-enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings while on duty, with exceptions for protective coverings against disease, infection, or toxic substances and for SWAT team members during operations. Violations may result in disciplinary action including dismissal, demotion, suspension, transfer, or decertification, and constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor unless the employing agency has adopted a written facial covering policy. The Department of Criminal Justice Services must develop a model policy on law-enforcement facial covering use.

[SB 87](#) Local government sporting events and sporting facilities; automated external defibrillators.

Chief Patron: Stanley

Description: Requires localities to ensure that operational automated external defibrillators

are available at local government sporting events and sporting facilities. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2028.

[SB 100](#) Volunteer emergency responders; protection of employees, civil action.

Chief Patron: Stanley

Description: Prohibits an employer from discharging, disciplining, threatening, discriminating against, or penalizing an employee or taking other retaliatory action regarding an employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment solely because the employee fails to report for work because such employee is serving as a voluntary emergency responder, as defined in the bill, and is actively responding to an emergency alarm or during a state of emergency, provided that certain requirements are met.

[SB 170](#) Protection of employees; covenants not to compete, discharged employees.

Chief Patron: McPike

Description: Provides that no covenant not to compete, as such term is defined in existing law, between an employer and an employee is enforceable if such employer discharges such employee from employment without providing severance benefits or other monetary payment to such employee that is disclosed upon execution of the covenant not to compete, unless the employee is discharged for cause.

[SB 326](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; cooperative procurement.

Chief Patron: McPike

Description: Excludes roofing maintenance, repair, restoration, and component replacement of existing facilities that do not involve modification to the structure from the prohibition on using cooperative procurement to purchase construction.

[SB 433](#) Unemployment insurance; benefit eligibility conditions, etc.

Chief Patron: Bagby

Description: Amends the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act's labor

dispute disqualification provision 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.

[SB 530](#) Conflict of Interests Act, State/Local Gov't.; electronic discl. by local govt officers & employees.

Chief Patron: Srinivasan

Description: Requires local government officers and employees to file annual disclosure statements electronically with the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council in accordance with approved standards, among other provisions.

[SB 543](#) Marijuana and hemp products; enforcement.

Chief Patron: Aird

Description: Amends various provisions of law to increase enforcement and penalties related to the illegal sale of marijuana or marijuana products by persons licensed by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, and the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA), among other provisions.

[SB 575](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; joint and cooperative procurement, construction exception.

Chief Patron: Reeves

Description: Excludes certain intergovernmental support agreements pursuant to federal law from provisions of law under the Virginia Public Procurement Act that

provide an exception for construction where a public body may purchase from another public body's contract if the request for proposal or invitation to bid specified that the procurement was a cooperative procurement being conducted on behalf of other public bodies.

[SB 637 Virginia Human Rights Act; nondiscrimination, procedures for charge of unlawful discrimination.](#)

Chief Patron: Ebbin

Description: Provides that, for the purposes of nondiscrimination in places of public accommodation, places of public accommodation includes educational institutions. The bill reduces from 15 to five the number of employees in the definition of "employer" for purposes of nondiscrimination in employment. The bill also amends from 300 days to two years the timeframe for filing a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination with the Office of the Attorney General.

[SB 699 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; public bodies to post meeting agendas.](#)

Chief Patron: Ebbin

Description: Requires public bodies subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to post the proposed agenda on the public body's official government website, if any, prior to the meeting. The bill provides that no final action may be taken on any items added to an agenda after a meeting commences unless the matter is time-sensitive or is the subject of a closed meeting properly identified in a motion in accordance with FOIA requirements and defines "final action." This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

[SB 713 Sheriffs; courthouse and courtroom security, concurrent jurisdiction of certain officers, etc.](#)

Chief Patron: Deeds

Description: Clarifies that, where a courtroom of a locality is located within the courthouse of a different county, city, or town, the sheriff,

any deputy sheriff, or any law-enforcement officer of such locality shall have (i) the same police powers within and on the surrounding property of the courthouse as in his own jurisdiction and (ii) concurrent jurisdiction while present within or on the surrounding property of such courthouse, or while traveling to and returning from such courthouse, and engaged in the performance of his official duties to enforce certain laws of the Commonwealth.

[SB 714 Local pretrial services officers; duties and responsibilities, defendant interviews, assessments.](#)

Chief Patron: Deeds

Description: Requires a local pretrial services officer to conduct a risk assessment of defendants arrested on state and local warrants and who are detained in jails located in jurisdictions served by the local pretrial services agency while awaiting a hearing before any court that is considering or reconsidering bail, at initial appearance, advisement or arraignment, or at other subsequent hearings.

[SB 771 Workers' compensation; burial expenses, annual adjustment.](#)

Chief Patron: McPike

Description: Provides for an annual adjustment of workers' compensation burial expense benefits to account for increases in the cost of living, among other provisions.

**CONTINUED AND FAILED
LEGISLATION**

[HB 130 Workers' compensation; presumption of certain cancers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs.](#)

Chief Patron: Cornett

Description: Would have expanded the workers' compensation presumption of compensability for certain cancers causing the death or disability of certain employees who have completed five years of service in their position to include sheriffs or deputy sheriffs. *(Failed)*

[HB 394](#) Fire Programs Fund; increases assessment.

Chief Patron: Askew

Description: Would have increased the fire insurance assessment from one percent of total direct gross premium income for such insurance to (i) 1.5 percent on and after July 1, 2026, but before July 1, 2027, and (ii) two percent on and after July 1, 2027. *(Failed)*

[HB 650](#) / [SB 351](#) Courthouses; certain civil arrests prohibited, penalty.

Chief Patrons: Callsen and Salim

Description: Would have prohibited certain federal civil immigration enforcement activities in certain protected areas including any courthouse, within 40 feet of any polling place or building used as a meeting place for the local electoral board while the electoral board meets to ascertain the results of an election, and any place or facility owned by the Commonwealth that is a hospital or other health care facility, a school or public institution of higher education, or an office of the attorney for the Commonwealth. *(Vetoed)*

[HB 707](#) State government; transaction of public business, prohibited website domains.

Chief Patron: Hayes

Description: Would have prohibited a public body, defined in the bill, from maintaining an official website for public use with a domain other than a .gov, .edu, or .museum domain. The bill provides that any email address that a public body provides to its employees shall utilize a .gov domain and directs the Virginia Information Technologies Agency to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2029. Sent to JCOTS for study. *(Continued to 2027)*

[HB 986](#) Fire Programs Fund; allocation, Virginia At Risk Fire Grant Program established.

Chief Patron: Garrett

Description: Would have increased the assessment on certain insurance companies

from one percent to 1.5 percent. The bill provided that the portion of the Fire Programs Fund allocated to localities may be used for the additional purposes of (i) constructing, improving, or expanding fire station facilities; (ii) providing mental health resources for fire personnel; or (iii) hiring additional fire personnel and funding recruitment and retention programs. The bill also establishes the Virginia At Risk Fire Grant Program, to be funded by 0.25 percent of the assessments on insurance companies, for the purposes of providing assistance to localities with fire departments that are determined to be most at risk of being unable to provide fire suppression or rescue activities or maintain compliance with relevant laws and regulations among other provisions. *(Failed)*

[HB 1054](#) / [SB 80](#) Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.

Chief Patrons: Phillips and Mulchi

Description: Would have created the Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program. This would have established a competitive grant program administered by the Department of Fire Programs to support local fire and EMS agencies. Eligible uses under the program would include; hiring additional firefighters, transitioning part-time or volunteer personnel to full-time positions, purchasing fire and EMS vehicles, and acquiring operational equipment and protective gear, among other provisions. *(HB 1054 Failed; SB 80 Continued to 2027)*

[HB 1263](#) / [SB 378](#) Public employees; repeals existing prohibition on collective bargaining, etc.

Chief Patrons: Tran and Surovell

Description: Would significantly expand collective bargaining rights for public employees in Virginia by repealing the existing prohibition on collective bargaining for state employees and replacing the current local-option framework with a statewide mandatory system for both state and local government employers. The legislation established a new Public Employee Relations Board (PERB)

to oversee bargaining unit determinations, certification elections, unfair labor practice complaints, mediation, and dispute resolution. Under the bill, local governments would be required to recognize and bargain with certified employee organizations if employees petition for representation and vote to form a bargaining unit. The measure also included arbitration provisions in certain disputes and limits local discretion once collective bargaining agreements are in place. Existing local agreements would eventually transition into the new state-administered structure upon expiration. VACo has continued to oppose the legislation, arguing that it undermines local decision-making authority, creates substantial and uncertain fiscal impacts for counties, imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate on diverse localities, and establishes a state regulatory framework without guaranteed local government representation. **(Vetoed)**

HB 1392 Correctional facilities, local and regional, and courthouse security; powers & duties for operation.

Chief Patron: Keys-Gamarra

Description: Would have required sheriffs who exempt courthouse employees or law-enforcement officers from security screening to extend the same exemption to attorneys displaying a valid Virginia State Bar card and government-issued ID. Attorneys with suspended or revoked licenses who display a bar card to bypass screening commit a Class 1 misdemeanor. Additionally, sheriffs and jail superintendents operating local or regional correctional facilities would be required to provide a confidential communication channel for prisoners to contact their attorneys through any telephonic, electronic, or web-based system offered at the facility. **(Vetoed)**

SB 50 Lobbying; expands definition to include influencing/attempting to influence local government action.

Chief Patron: Rouse

Description: Would have expanded the definition of “lobbying” to include influencing or attempting to influence local government action, defined in the bill, or solicitation of others to influence a local government official, also defined in the bill. Current law limits such influencing to executive or legislative action and soliciting to executive or legislative officials. The bill required the Secretary of the Commonwealth to prepare a list of the positions and names of local government officials to be revised at least semi-annually and made available to lobbyists to assist them in complying with the provisions of the bill. The bill has a delayed effective date of May 1, 2027. **(Failed)**

SB 228 - Localities; liability insurance, certain waiver of sovereign immunity.

Chief Patron: Surovell

Description: Would have provided that a locality or political subdivision may provide liability insurance, including self-insurance, to cover damages or other expenses in certain civil actions arising out of an act or omission of certain officers, employees, board or commission members, or volunteers while such person is acting within the scope of his official duties. The bill provided that the provision of such liability insurance or self-insurance shall constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity in an amount not to exceed the combined total of any self-insurance coverage, insurance coverage under a group self-insurance pool, or any coverage pursuant to a policy purchased from an insurance company, including any excess or reserve coverage. The bill also provided that the insurer or self-insured shall not have a duty

to defend or indemnify any covered person in cases where the act or omission took place outside the scope of such covered person's employment or official duties, where such act or omission was done maliciously or occurred as a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct, or is otherwise excluded by the terms of the policy. *(Continued to 2027)*

SB 756 Casino gaming; eligible host localities.

Chief Patron: Surovell

Description: Would have added Fairfax County to the list of localities eligible to host a casino in the Commonwealth and provided that any proposed site for a casino gaming establishment considered by Fairfax County shall be (i) located within one-quarter of a mile of an existing station on the Metro Silver Line, (ii) part of a coordinated mixed-use project development consisting of no less than 1.5 million square feet, (iii) within two miles of a regional enclosed mall containing not less than 1.5 million square feet of gross building area, and (iv) outside of the Interstate 495 Beltway. *(Vetoed)*

Health and Human Resources

PASSED LEGISLATION

Aging and Individuals with Disabilities

[HB 37](#) Developmental disability waivers; financial eligibility standards, Developmental disability waivers; financial eligibility standards, sunset repeal.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Repeals the July 1, 2026, sunset on provisions directing the Department of Medical Assistance Services to disregard Social Security Disability Insurance income above the maximum monthly Supplemental Security Income when determining financial eligibility for developmental disability waivers.

[HB 717](#) / [SB 247](#) Nursing homes; application to Commissioner of Health for change of operator license, civil penalty.

Chief Patrons: Willett and Favola

Description: Requires a person taking over the daily operations and management of a nursing home when change of ownership or control occurs to apply to the Commissioner of Health for a change of operator license. The bill establishes the requirements for the application for and for the granting of such license and establishes a civil penalty for failing to provide the Commissioner with information or documentation, effectuating a change of operator without applying for a change of operator license, or providing fraudulent information on an application.

[HB 1522](#) Nursing homes and assisted living facilities; licensure, automated external defibrillators.

Chief Patron: McGuire

Description: Requires nursing homes and assisted living facilities to have and maintain an automated external defibrillator and have staff trained to use such automated external defibrillator.

[SB 260](#) Aging, Commonwealth Council on; advising strategies for reducing social isolation among seniors.

Chief Patron: Stanley

Description: Requires the Commonwealth Council on Aging to advise the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services on strategies for reducing social isolation and loneliness among seniors and promoting volunteer engagement.

[SB 429](#) Health, Department of, and State Health Commissioner; nursing home oversight and accountability.

Chief Patron: Head

Description: Requires all nursing homes to provide certain notifications if a federally required physician visit does not take place. Directs the Department of Health and State Health Commissioner to take steps to improve care quality, protect residents, and strengthen oversight and accountability of nursing homes in the Commonwealth, to include developing and implementing a plan to expand workforce capacity in the Office of Licensure and Certification and fill all open medical facilities inspector positions.

Behavioral Health

[HB 225](#) / [SB 514](#) Marcus Alert Evaluation Task Force; created.

Chief Patrons: Hope and Deeds

Description: Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to convene the Marcus Alert Evaluation Task

Force to study and make recommendations on the implementation of the Marcus Alert System for mental health crisis response.

[HB 249](#) Marcus alert system; external database information removal.

Chief Patron: Watts

Description: Clarifies that an individual's information may continue to appear on a voluntary Marcus alert system external database after such individual reaches 18 years of age if the database cannot be modified by a locality. Under current law, this information must be removed when the individual reaches 18 years of age unless the person or his/her guardian requests that the information remain.

[HB 453](#) / [SB 513](#) Comprehensive mental health, substance abuse, & development disability crisis services; written plan.

Chief Patrons: Willett and Deeds

Description: Allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, in collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, to amend the Marcus Alert implementation plan that was required to be produced by July 1, 2021, provided that designated stakeholders are consulted and a public comment period of no less than 30 days is held prior to the finalization of such written plan.

[HB 454](#) / [SB 690](#) DCJS; removes requirement to develop model addiction recovery program.

Chief Patrons: Willett and Srinivasan

Description: Removes the requirement that the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, develop a model addiction recovery program that may be administered in any local or regional jail.

[HB 455](#) / [SB 599](#) Virginia Opioid Use Red. & Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Trtmt. and Transition Fund; grant procedure.

Chief Patron: Willett

Description: Requires the grant procedure to govern funds awarded to local and regional

jails for the planning or operation of substance use disorder treatment and transition services to include a requirement that an applicant submit a plan demonstrating how such applicant will become independently financially viable within the time period for which the grant is awarded.

[HB 513](#) Suicide fatality review teams, local and regional; established, membership, penalty.

Chief Patron: Martinez

Description: Permits localities or combinations of localities to establish a local or regional suicide fatality review team.

[HB 656](#) / [SB 524](#) Mental health & substance abuse disorders; network adequacy standards, comparative analyses, report.

Chief Patrons: Willett and Deeds

Description: Directs the Board of Health to issue regulations for managed care health insurance plans that include quantitative network adequacy standards for timely access to care, travel time, and geographical distance that are at least as stringent as those imposed for qualified health and dental plans available through the state health insurance marketplace. Requires reporting of specified data for medical and surgical benefits, mental health benefits, and substance use disorder benefits by health carriers to the Bureau of Insurance and authorizes the Bureau to evaluate compliance with state and federal laws regarding coverage for mental health and substance use disorder services.

[HB 681](#) Retired law-enforcement officers; emergency and temporary detention admissions.

Chief Patron: Hayes

Description: Clarifies that the term "law-enforcement officer" includes retired law-enforcement officers, defined in the bill, for the purposes of laws related to emergency custody and involuntary temporary detention. [SB 75](#) (Lucas) contains these provisions as well.

[HB 712 / SB 641](#) Office-based buprenorphine treatment; Board of Medicine to amend regulations.

Chief Patrons: Wachsmann and Pillion

Description: Directs the Board of Medicine to amend its regulations regarding office-based buprenorphine treatment to require providers to offer counseling or referral to counseling to each patient as clinically necessary and mutually agreed-upon; a patient's refusal of counseling may not preclude the patient from receiving office-based buprenorphine treatment.

[HB 976](#) Person in temporary detention process; alternative transportation provider.

Chief Patron: Price

Description: Provides that an alternative transportation provider shall be deemed to be able to provide transportation of a person in the temporary detention process in a safe manner if the alternative transportation provider is (i) an employee of or a contractor with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or (ii) an employee of a private or state hospital within the confines of the Commonwealth. The bill also permits law-enforcement agencies or alternative transportation providers to transfer custody of a minor to a facility or location where the minor is awaiting transport if such facility or location (i) agrees to accept custody of the minor and (ii) is capable of providing the level of security necessary to protect the minor and others from harm. [SB 75](#) (Lucas) contains these provisions as well.

[HB 1097](#) Driver communication improvement program; drivers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, etc.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Requires law-enforcement officers and emergency medical service providers, as a condition of such providers' certification and recertification, to undergo education on the driver communication improvement program for drivers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

[SB 421](#) Pharmacist; remote verification and counseling in opioid treatment programs.

Chief Patron: Favola

Description: Authorizes a pharmacist licensed in the Commonwealth to exercise verification, counseling, and supervision duties remotely when a pharmacy technician or other authorized personnel dispenses medication prescribed for the management of opioid use disorder at a federally certified opioid treatment program.

[SB 706](#) Opioid antagonist; distribution program, reports.

Chief Patron: Srinivasan

Description: Directs the Department of Health to maintain a list of agencies and organizations that submit requests for and receive opioid antagonists through its distribution program and requires the Department to provide certain reports on its distribution of opioid antagonists. Directs the Department to develop a methodology to estimate annual opioid antagonist distribution program costs and to provide estimates of the program costs for the following fiscal year annually by December 1.

Health

[HB 222](#) Public pools; regulations.

Chief Patron: Hope

Description: Directs 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.

[HB 450](#) Vital Records, Office of; fees for certified copies, annual report.

Chief Patron: Willett

Description: Permits the Board of Health to set a fee of up to \$15 for a certified copy of vital records and directs the Department of Motor Vehicles to collect a fee of \$15 for each certified copy of a vital record that it issues. Directs the Office of Vital Records to review its fee structure for certified copies of vital records and submit an annual report to the

General Assembly on fees collected and any recommended changes.

[HB 674](#) Department of Health; collection and publication of food insecurity information.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Description: Directs the Department of Health, as part of its participation in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, to collect information on food insecurity and publish such information on its website.

[HB 1347](#) / [SB 379](#) Psilocybin; Board of Pharmacy to reschedule upon federal scheduling changes.

Chief Patrons: Cohen and Boysko

Description: Directs the Board of Pharmacy to reschedule psilocybin consistent with federal scheduling upon approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration of a formulation of psilocybin designed to be administered by a health care professional in a health care setting.

[SB 633](#) Emergency medical services and medical support; VDH to publish resources regarding large events.

Chief Patron: Srinivasan

Description: Directs the Department of Health to publish on its website a document for event planners and event venues to provide to prospective clients containing (i) notice that emergency medical services personnel may be made available for events, (ii) information regarding the benefits of appropriate medical support for large or high-risk events, and (iii) a list of emergency medical services providers available to provide services at event venues in each locality of the Commonwealth.

[HB 817](#) / [SB 736](#) State/Local Hospitalization Program; repealing provisions relating to Program.

Chief Patrons: Downey and Hackworth

Description: Eliminates the State/Local Hospitalization Program. Under current law, the program assists indigent persons with certain inpatient and outpatient

hospital expenses with such funds as may be appropriated by the General Assembly. No funds have been expended for this program since FY 2009.

[SB 73](#) Medicaid billing navigation for certain school services; DMAS to train local school division staff.

Chief Patron: Srinivasan

Description: Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to provide training to local school division staff regarding the laws, policies, rules, regulations, and guidelines governing Medicaid billing for reimbursable services rendered at school sites.

Human Trafficking

[HB 191](#) Victims of sex trafficking; immunity for minors to arrest or prosecution for prostitution.

Chief Patron: Convis-Fowler

Description: Provides that no minor shall be subject to arrest or prosecution for certain offenses, if at the time of the offense, the minor was a victim of sex trafficking.

[HB 1298](#) / [SB 748](#) Human trafficking; issuance of vacatur for victims, definitions.

Chief Patrons: Delaney and Locke

Description: Expands the current process for the issuance of writs of vacatur for victims of human trafficking to include ancillary matters, defined in the bill, and any charge or arrest related to a qualifying offense.

Social Services

[HB 73](#) / [SB 206](#) Juvenile and domestic relations district courts; petitions for relief of care and custody.

Chief Patrons: Cole, J. and Suetterlein

Description: Allows the custodian of a child to file a petition for relief of the care and custody of such child in a juvenile and domestic relations district court. Current law only authorizes the parent or parents of a child to file such petition for relief of care and custody.

Requires the petitioning parent or custodian to cooperate with any services provided by a local department of social services during the initial investigation after such petition for relief of care and custody has been filed.

[HB 283](#) Child abuse or neglect; prenatal use of a controlled substance or drug as prescribed.

Chief Patron: Gardner

Description: Clarifies that a pregnant woman's prenatal use of a controlled substance or drug as prescribed by such woman's health care provider for opioid addiction recovery shall not solely be a reason to suspect that a child is abused or neglected.

[HB 632](#) / [SB 305](#) Kinship foster care; barrier crime waiver, report.

Chief Patrons: Callsen and Pekarsky

Description: Establishes a process by which a local department of social services may apply for a barrier crime waiver on behalf of an individual who has been convicted of a Virginia barrier crime that (i) is not (a) included on the list of federal barrier crimes; (b) a violent felony offense; or (c) an offense requiring registration under the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Act and (ii) does not otherwise fall under a barrier crime exception for foster or adoptive homes for the purpose of approval of the individual's home as a kinship foster home.

[HB 727](#) Social services, local boards of; appointments, terms of office.

Chief Patron: Davis

Description: Changes the limit on consecutive terms of office from two consecutive full terms to three consecutive full terms for appointed members of local boards of social services.

[HB 879](#) Public assistance; requests for records or information concerning applicants for and recipients.

Chief Patron: Shin

Description: Requires the Commissioner of Social Services to make a public notice

available on the Department of Social Services' website within 10 days of receiving a request for a record or information concerning 25 or more applicants for or recipients of public assistance or child support for a purpose not directly connected to the administration of such programs. If a local department receives such a request, the local director must forward such request to the Commissioner.

[HB 942](#) Custody and visitation of a child; possession or consumption of authorized substances.

Chief Patron: Clark

Description: Provides that no person shall be denied custody or visitation of a child, based only on the fact that the child's parent or other person responsible for his care, or the person petitioning for custody or visitation of the child, possessed or consumed legally authorized substances.

[HB 1060](#) Foster and adoptive homes; barrier crimes, exceptions.

Chief Patron: Callsen

Description: Consolidates existing barrier crime exceptions for foster or adoptive homes, expands these provisions to cover kinship foster homes, and clarifies applicability to any adult household member in a foster or adoptive home, including a kinship foster home.

[HB 1366](#) Local boards & departments; DSS to create corrective action plans & assumption of temporary control.

Chief Patron: Callsen

Description: Grants the Commissioner of Social Services the authority to create and enforce a corrective action plan for any local board of social services or local department of social services that (i) fails to administer public assistance and social services programs in accordance with applicable laws and regulations or (ii) takes any action or fails to act in a manner that poses a substantial risk to the health, safety, or well-being of a child or adult. [SB 640](#) (Pillion) also contains these provisions.

HB 1405 Social services, local dept. of social services allowed to pay reasonable funeral expense.

Chief Patron: McClure

Description: Permits the State Board of Social Services to promulgate regulations allowing local departments of social services to pay the reasonable funeral expenses of a decedent who was a recipient of public assistance or Supplemental Security Income.

HB 1414 Children; certain injuries to be reported by physicians, etc., penalties for failure to report.

Chief Patron: McQuinn

Description: Creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person required to file a report who fails to do so as soon as possible, but not longer than 24 hours after having reason to suspect a reportable offense of child abuse or neglect where such reportable offense is alleged to have occurred at a private or state-operated hospital, institution, or facility to which children have been committed or where children have been placed for care and treatment. The bill also provides that a second or subsequent conviction is a Class 6 felony. Expands the mandatory reporting requirements for certain enumerated persons in their professional or official capacities to include certain offenses related to children and certain obscenity and related offenses and applies all such mandatory reporting requirements to all public and private school athletics program coaches, directors, and adult volunteers, including those associated with interscholastic teams and clubs.

HB 1490 Child abuse or neglect; establishes centralized hotline for reports or complaints, report.

Chief Patron: Tran

Description: Requires the Department of Social Services to establish and maintain a hotline for reports and complaints of child abuse or neglect. Once the bill's provisions are fully implemented, the Department would be responsible for receiving reports or complaints of child abuse and neglect and determining the

validity of these reports. Under current law, validity determinations are the responsibility of local departments of social services. Under the new process, the Department would refer valid complaints to local departments of social services for an investigation or a family assessment. The State Board of Social Services is required to promulgate regulations to implement the legislation by July 1, 2027; centralized intake is to be implemented through a phased process that would begin July 1, 2028, and conclude July 1, 2030. **SB 640** (Pillion) also contains these provisions.

SB 125 Children's Ombudsman, Office of the; powers and duties, report.

Chief Patron: Favola

Description: The bill expands the Office of the Children's Ombudsman's access to certain records and reports and allows the Office to report certain complaints related to a child receiving protective or foster care services in any facility to the Office of the Inspector General.

Juvenile Justice

HB 438 / SB 70 Delinquency petition; referral to court service unit.

Chief Patrons: LeVere Bolling and Favola

Description: Provides that at any point prior to the commencement of an adjudication hearing on a petition alleging that a child is delinquent, the court, upon request of the child with consent of the attorney for the Commonwealth, if a party to the case, may refer the delinquency charge back to the court service unit in writing and the intake officer shall proceed informally pursuant to relevant law.

SB 64 Juveniles; commitment to DJJ, petition to extend duration of indeterminate commitment.

Chief Patron: Favola

Description: Creates a process by which the Department of Juvenile Justice, upon determining that a juvenile currently committed to the Department should continue such commitment beyond the high end of the

length of stay guidelines established by the State Board of Juvenile Justice, may petition the court that ordered a juvenile's indeterminate commitment to the Department to extend such juvenile's commitment.

CONTINUED AND FAILED LEGISLATION

HB 66 Federal benefit programs; DMAS & DSS shall study technology systems used to administer.

Chief Patron: Feggans

Description: Would have directed the Department of Social Services and the Department of Medical Assistance Services to contract with a third-party vendor to study and create a plan for the modernization of the technological systems used to administer federal benefit programs in the Commonwealth. *(Continued to 2027)*

HB 246 / SB 335 Mental illness, neurocognitive disorder, etc.; affirmative defense or reduced penalty.

Chief Patrons: Watts and Boysko

Description: Would have provided an affirmative defense to prosecution of a person for assault or assault and battery against certain specified persons if such person proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that at the time of the assault or assault and battery (i) the person's behaviors were a result of (a) mental illness or (b) a neurocognitive disorder, including dementia, or an intellectual disability or a developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, or (ii) the person met the criteria for issuance of an emergency custody order. *(Vetoed)*

HB 483 / SB 271 Prescription Drug Affordability Board; established.

Chief Patrons: Delaney and Deeds

Description: Would have directed the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to establish the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Panel to conduct data analyses, develop policy recommendations, and identify implementation barriers related to strategies to improve prescription drug affordability, enhance price transparency, and strengthen data collection practices for prescription drugs across public and private payers. Would have prohibited prescription drug manufacturers or wholesale distributors permitted or licensed in the Commonwealth from accepting payment at an amount higher than the maximum fair price established by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services for the sale of certain drugs intended for use by individuals in the Commonwealth. *(Vetoed)*

HB 578 Foster care; federal benefits, representative payees.

Chief Patron: Glass

Description: Would have required local departments of social services to screen any child in foster care for eligibility for certain federal benefits and to apply for such benefits for which the child may be eligible, to conserve such benefits in an appropriate trust instrument or protected account, and to release the conserved benefits to the child in a manner determined appropriate when the child leaves foster care. *(Failed)*

HB 1222 Social services, local departments of; child abuse and neglect, recorded interviews.

Chief Patron: Delaney

Description: Would have required local departments of social services to record any interview of a child conducted as part of a child welfare interview or a family assessment. *(Vetoed)*

[SB 468](#) Juvenile secure detention facilities; placement of juveniles referred from another locality.

Chief Patron: Marsden

Description: As introduced, would have required the statewide plan developed by the Department of Juvenile Justice for the establishment and maintenance of a range of services to be reasonably accessible to each court to include (i) a plan for juvenile secure detention facilities in the Commonwealth, which would designate the total number of facilities to be in operation in the Commonwealth, the location of each facility, the localities each facility would serve, and the number of beds required for each facility and (ii) procedures for determining the appropriate placement of juveniles pursuant to the plan. The bill also set out certain requirements for situations in which a locality or commission operating a juvenile secure detention facility accepts a juvenile referred from another locality. *(Continued to 2027)*

TRANSPORTATION

PASSED LEGISLATION

[HB 55](#) Noise abatement monitoring systems; local authorities to place and operate, civil penalties.

Chief Patron: Sullivan

Description: Authorizes counties and cities in Planning Districts 8, 9, and 15 to place and operate noise abatement monitoring systems, defined in the bill, on any highway located in the locality for the purpose of recording and enforcing exhaust system violations.

[HB 94](#) Vehicle registration fees; disabled veterans.

Chief Patron: Bennett-Parker

Description: Extends the current exemption from annual vehicle registration fees for disabled veterans or their unremarried surviving spouse to eligible vehicles displaying a standard passenger license plate; under current law, such vehicles must display special license plates.

[HB 141](#) Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; certain exemptions.

Chief Patron: Reid

Description: Exempts the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority from certain requirements, procurement and technology procedures, fees, and charges and expands certain existing exemptions to which it is already entitled.

[HB 200](#) Transit Entities, certain; funding and administration.

Chief Patron: McQuinn

Description: Changes the purposes and geographic applicability of the Transit Ridership Incentive Program, removes various other requirements related to the program's administration and use of funds, and specifies a November 1 deadline for the annual report on the program. The bill also extends from July 1,

2027, to July 1, 2028, the sunset on provisions delegating to local building officials the enforcement of the Uniform Statewide Building Code for bus shelters to be constructed for transit agencies receiving state funds from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund.

[HB 330](#) Signs & advertisements adjacent to certain highways; signs affixed to real property owned by WMATA.

Chief Patron: McClure

Description: Adds to the list of signs exempt from certain requirements for outdoor advertising in sight of public highways signs containing advertisements or notices that have been authorized by a county or a city and that are securely affixed to real property that is owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, provided that such signs comply with any applicable federal requirements.

[HB 343](#) Helmets; wearing whenever riding/carried on skateboard or scooter or nonmotorized scooter.

Chief Patron: Martinez

Description: Permits localities to adopt ordinances requiring children 14 years of age or younger to wear protective helmets whenever riding or being carried on a motorized skateboard or scooter or a nonmotorized scooter.

[HB 411](#) / [SB 716](#) Commissioner of Highways; certain agreements with U.S. Department of Transportation.

Chief Patrons: Reid and Roem

Description: Authorizes the Commissioner of Highways to enter into agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation to assume federal responsibilities for environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), specifically for categorical exclusions and the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program.

[HB 446](#) Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; expands authority to exercise power of eminent domain.

Chief Patron: Simon

Description: Expands the authority of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority to exercise the power of eminent domain.

[HB 547](#) / [SB 731](#) Private companies providing public transportation services; employee protections.

Chief Patrons: Helmer and Salim

Description: Counties and cities that contract with private companies for public transportation must require those companies to pay workers wages and benefits equivalent to comparable public employees, use their own employees rather than subcontractors, and ensure workers are offered continued employment without loss of pay or benefits if a successor company takes over the contract. If a locality later transitions to its own public transit system, it must establish collective bargaining and offer all private company employees jobs with no reduction in compensation or benefits. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation must convene a work group to develop implementation guidance and report findings to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026. Provisions only apply to actions taken on or after July 1, 2027, and the bill must be reenacted by the 2027 General Assembly session to take effect.

[HB 564](#) / [SB 583](#) Bus obstruction monitoring systems; parking, stopping, and standing enforcement.

Chief Patrons: Reid and Salim

Description: Allows localities to authorize the use of bus obstruction monitoring systems by a public transit agency operating within the locality for the purpose of enforcing local ordinances related to parking, stopping, or standing in bus stop zones or in lanes reserved for transit buses during posted times.

[HB 684](#) / [SB 59](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; photo-monitoring systems for traffic signals, proof of violation.

Chief Patrons: Hayes and Diggs

Description: Authorizes retired sworn law-enforcement officers, registered special conservators of the peace, and technicians employed by a locality to swear to or to affirm certificates for the purposes of enforcement of violations recorded by traffic light signal violation monitoring systems, traffic control device violation monitoring systems, photo speed monitoring devices, or school bus video-monitoring systems upon completion of a training course developed and approved by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

[HB 783](#) / [SB 67](#) Parking enforcement; high tourism localities.

Chief Patrons: Anderson and Diggs

Description: Removes the population requirement for a locality to be authorized to, by ordinance, authorize law-enforcement officers, other uniformed employees of the locality, and uniformed personnel serving under contract with the locality to issue a summons or parking ticket for a violation of an ordinance regulating the parking, stopping, and standing of vehicles.

[HB 812](#) Traffic regulation; bicycles, and certain other devices, bicycle signals.

Chief Patron: Carr

Description: Requires a person operating a bicycle or other device lawfully permitted in a bicycle lane or on a shared-use path in or approaching an intersection with a bicycle signal to obey such bicycle signal.

[HB 819](#) Pedestrians; walking on roadways that are part of divided highways.

Chief Patron: Carr

Description: Permits pedestrians, when walking on a roadway that is part of a highway divided by a physical barrier or barriers or an unpaved area, and when there are no shoulders

of the highway present, to keep to the extreme right side or edge of the roadway, regardless of the direction of traffic they face.

[HB 908](#) Towing advisory boards; changes membership.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Description: Changes the membership of a towing advisory board appointed by a local governing body to an equal number of representatives of local law-enforcement agencies, representatives of licensed towing and recovery operators, and members of the general public, specifies that such membership requirements apply to voting members, and provides that vacancies of members of the general public shall not prevent the advisory board from meeting or taking any authorized action.

[HB 994](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; placement and operation.

Chief Patron: Seibold

Description: Authorizes localities in Planning District 8 to place photo speed monitoring devices in designated “safety red zones.” Directs the Supreme Court of Virginia to create a standardized summons for these violations, and failure to follow device operating requirements renders any summons invalid. The bill updates rules around the use of funds generated, signage, data retention, calibration, public disclosures, vendor requirements, and reporting, with civil penalties established for non-compliance. In highway work zones, devices may only operate when workers are physically present. The Commissioner of Highways must also develop criteria for designating high-risk pedestrian corridors to help identify safety red zones. Certain provisions have delayed effective dates.

[HB 1220](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; placement and operation.

Chief Patron: Delaney

Description: Directs the Supreme Court of Virginia to create a standardized summons for these violations, and failure to follow device

operating requirements renders any summons invalid. The bill updates rules around the use of funds generated, signage, data retention, calibration, public disclosures, vendor requirements, reporting, and enforcement actions with civil penalties established for non-compliance. In highway work zones, devices may only operate when workers are physically present. The Commissioner of Highways must also develop criteria for designating high-risk pedestrian corridors to help identify safety red zones. Certain provisions have delayed effective dates.

[HB 1231](#) Commonwealth Aviation Fund; changes allocation amounts.

Chief Patron: Delaney

Description: Changes (i) the allocation amounts from the Commonwealth Aviation Fund, (ii) the entity to which certain funds from such Fund are allocated from air carrier airports to commercial service airport sponsors, and (iii) the classification of airports from air carrier airport and reliever airport to commercial service airport and regional business airport, respectively.

[HB 1241](#) Hampton Roads Infrastructure Coordination and Readiness Framework; HRTPO to develop, report.

Chief Patron: Anthony

Description: Directs the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) to develop an infrastructure coordination and fiscal readiness framework for Planning District 23, to be known as the Hampton Roads Infrastructure Coordination and Readiness Framework (the Framework), and to coordinate and consult with certain other entities in the development of the Framework.

[SB 41](#) Motor Vehicles, Department of; electronic transactions, voluntary contributions.

Chief Patron: Roem

Description: Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide a method by which an individual conducting certain electronic

Department transactions may make a voluntary contribution to the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program.

SB 84 Photo speed monitoring devices, etc.; placement and operation, civil penalty, report.

Chief Patron: Williams Graves

Description: Authorizes state and local law-enforcement agencies to place and operate pedestrian crossing violation and stop sign violation monitoring systems in school crossing zones, highway work zones, and high-risk speed corridors for purposes of recording pedestrian crossing and stop sign violations. The bill makes various changes to the requirements for the use of these devices, including the use of funds from collected civil penalties, signage, data retention and storage, photo speed monitoring device calibration, making certain information available to the public, requirements for private vendors, and reporting.

SB 219 Photo speed monitoring devices; summons, reports.

Chief Patron: Jones

Description: Requires a second summons for a vehicle speed violation captured by a photo speed monitoring device to be mailed if a summoned person fails to appear on the date of return set out in the first summons mailed. If the summoned person fails to appear after the second summons, the bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to refuse to issue or renew the vehicle registration certificate or the license plate issued for such vehicle until the required civil penalties and any administrative fees have been paid and any applicable reinstatement processes required by the Department of Motor Vehicles have been completed. The bill makes various changes to the requirements for the use of photo speed monitoring devices, including the use of funds from collected civil penalties, signage, data retention and storage, photo speed monitoring device calibration,

making certain information available to the public, requirements for private vendors, and reporting.

SB 321 Abandonment of highway; section of the secondary state highway system, local authority.

Chief Patron: McPike

Description: Removes the requirement that a section of the secondary state highway system be in a residence district for a county to find that such section is no longer necessary for the purpose of abandoning such section of highway as a public highway.

SB 436 Photo speed monitoring devices; highway work zones, workers present.

Chief Patron: Bagby

Description: Limits the use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work zones to when workers are present, as defined in the bill.

**CONTINUED AND FAILED
LEGISLATION**

HB 57 Vehicles designed and used for transportation of passengers; fees, funds returned to a locality.

Chief Patron: Askew

Description: Would have expanded the permitted use of funds returned to a locality from certain vehicle fees to include the purchase or maintenance of necessary equipment, supplies, facilities, and vehicles permitted by the Office of Emergency Medical Services and other operating expenses deemed necessary by the locality to ensure the provision of emergency medical services in such locality by nonprofit emergency medical services agencies. Under current law, such funds may be used for the purchase of necessary equipment and supplies for use in the locality for emergency medical services provided by nonprofit emergency medical services agencies. *(Continued to 2027)*

[HB 818](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; reduced-speed segments.

Chief Patron: Carr

Description: Would have authorized a locality without its own law-enforcement agency to place and operate a photo speed monitoring device at a reduced-speed segment within the locality for the purpose of recording violations resulting from the operation of a vehicle in excess of the speed limit. *(Failed)*

[HB 821](#) Photo speed monitoring devices; historic district segments.

Chief Patron: Carr

Description: Would have permitted a state or local law-enforcement agency to place and operate a photo speed monitoring device at a historic district segment located within the locality for the purpose of recording violations resulting from the operation of a vehicle in excess of the speed limit. *(Failed)*

[HB 1143](#) Registration decals; discontinued.

Chief Patron: Austin

Description: Would have discontinued the requirement for and issuance of decals displaying the expiration month and year of motor vehicle registration to be displayed on license plates. The bill does not eliminate existing requirements that vehicles are to be registered. *(Continued to 2027)*

[SB 670](#) Fully autonomous vehicles; commercial use, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Salim

Description: Would have provided requirements for the operation of fully autonomous vehicles operated to transport property or passengers in furtherance of a commercial enterprise. *(Continued to 2027)*

Studies and Workgroups from the 2026 Session

[HJ 16](#) Recurrent Flooding, Joint Subcommittee on; study continued.

Chief Patron: Convors-Fowler

Description: Continues the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding for an additional year, through the 2027 interim. This joint resolution is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding.

[HJ 28](#) Hampton Rds; joint subcommittee to study public transit systems to ensure it meets needs of region.

Chief Patron: Askew

Description: Creates a 13-member joint subcommittee for a two-year study on options for providing long-term, sustainable, and dedicated operations and capital funding with cost-containment controls to ensure that the public transit systems that serve Hampton Roads meet the growing public transit needs of the region.

[HJ 32](#) Higher educational institutions; JLARC to study artificial intelligence use policies.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Description: Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study artificial intelligence use policies in place at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.

[SJ 23](#) Rural Affairs, Secretariat of; JLARC to study need for and feasibility of creating.

Chief Patron: Aird

Description: Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the need for and feasibility of creating a Secretariat of Rural Affairs in the Commonwealth.

[SJ 26](#) Parole; JLARC to study expansion of discretionary eligibility.

Chief Patron: Marsden

Description: Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the potential impacts of expanded discretionary parole eligibility.

[HB 3](#) / [SB 5](#) Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force; Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force; established, report.

Chief Patrons: LeVere Bolling and Locke

Description: Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish, in collaboration with the Department of Energy, and with assistance from the Department of Social Services, the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force to determine barriers to access and enrollment in the current energy efficiency programs for income-qualified energy customers and to evaluate and develop a plan to address any necessary improvements regarding coordination among state and federal government agencies for utility services and resources to more effectively deliver energy-efficient housing, weatherization resources, and energy efficiency upgrades for income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth.

[HB 319](#) / [SB 658](#) Back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration; work group to study implementation.

Chief Patrons: Hernandez and Rouse

Description: Directs the Department of Elections to convene a work group for the purpose of studying the implementation of back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration (AVR) in the Commonwealth.

[HB 544](#) / [SB 498](#) School Construction and Modernization, Commission on; revisions, elimination of sunset.

Chief Patrons: Askew and Aird

Description: Eliminates the expiration date of the Commission on School Construction and

Modernization, which, pursuant to current law, is set to expire on July 1, 2026.

[HB 549](#) / [SB 589](#) Trees; conservation and replacement during development process in certain localities, report.

Chief Patrons: Hope and Salim

Description: Among other provisions, the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience must convene a work group to review tree canopy laws and report findings to relevant legislative committees by November 1, 2026.

[HB 605](#) Nursing facilities; Joint Commission on Health Care shall evaluate workforce.

Chief Patron: Willett

Description: Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to evaluate the workforce in Virginia's nursing facilities.

[HB 652](#) / [SB 133](#) Parental prenatal & postnatal substance use; work group to evaluate Commonwealth's response to use.

Chief Patrons: Hayes and Locke

Description: Directs the Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and Department of Health to convene a work group to evaluate the Commonwealth's response to parental prenatal and postnatal substance use, the services available to address such substance use, and the effects of such substance use on newborns and children.

[HB 794](#) / [SB 308](#) Drug overdose and drug overdose deaths; VDH to develop plan for opioid overdose response.

Chief Patrons: Reaser and Pekarsky

Description: Directs the Department of Health to develop a strategic plan for opioid overdose response to reduce rates of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth and to provide a report on the status of such strategic plan and its implementation by November 1, 2026, and annually thereafter.

[HB 797](#) / [SB 384](#) Artificial intelligence; framework for person/entity acting as an independent verification org.

Chief Patrons: Hayes and Williams Graves

Description: Directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) to evaluate the feasibility and impact of developing a framework for any person or entity seeking to act as an independent verification organization that assesses artificial intelligence models' or applications' adherence to standards reflecting best practices for the prevention of personal injury and property damage.

[HB 860](#) Local & Reg. Jails, St. Bd.; standards, etc., regarding lactation policies for incarcerated persons

Chief Patron: Cousins

Description: Directs the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to set minimum standards and regulations regarding lactation policies for incarcerated persons and their infants by December 1, 2028.

[HB 1120](#) Electric power-assisted bicycles, etc.; improving safety for operators and general public, report.

Chief Patron: Singh

Description: Directs the Department of Motor Vehicles to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders to examine and make recommendations for options and measures for improving the safety of electric power-assisted bicycles, motorized skateboards and scooters, electric personal assistive mobility devices, and mopeds for operators and the general public and submit a report of its findings to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation no later than November 1, 2026.

[HB 1124](#) Autonomous vehicles; work group to conduct and assessment of workforce impacts, etc.

Chief Patron: Clark

Description: Directs the existing work group convened by the Secretary of Transportation regarding autonomous driving systems to

(i) conduct an assessment of the workforce impacts created by autonomous vehicles, including an overview of job losses and gains; (ii) identify and include stakeholders and representatives from the auto manufacturing industry and labor representatives from the passenger and product carrier business; and (iii) conduct an assessment of labor impacts created by autonomous vehicles no later than November 1, 2026.

[HB 1189](#) State of preparedness; feasibility & impact of program to prioritize prevention/mitigation, etc.

Chief Patron: O'Quinn

Description: Directs the Department of Emergency Management to assess the feasibility and impact of developing a program to prioritize the prevention and mitigation of damage, loss, hardship, or suffering due to the anticipated impacts of an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration of a state of preparedness or an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency. The Department of Emergency Management shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology and the House Committee on Appropriations by November 1, 2026.

[HB 1337](#) / [SB 239](#) State Health Services Plan Task Force; designated areas of state in need of additional project.

Chief Patrons: Clark and Head

Description: Directs the State Health Services Plan Task Force to develop recommendations for designating areas of the state with an identifiable need for additional projects, taking into account certain specified barriers in access to health care.

[HB 1353](#) Statewide maternal health safety initiative; Commissioner of Health, et al., to evaluate, report.

Chief Patron: Cohen

Description: Directs the Commissioner of Health to convene a stakeholder work group to evaluate the feasibility of a statewide maternal health safety initiative. The bill directs the Commissioner to submit an interim report of the work group by November 1, 2026, and a final report with the work group's recommendations no later than July 1, 2027.

[HB 1357](#) Nursing facilities; comprehensive study of quality of care, etc., and operational practices.

Chief Patron: McQuinn

Description: Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the quality of care, resident safety, and operational practices of nursing facilities in the Commonwealth and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations and Health and Human Services and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and Education and Health by December 1, 2027.

[HB 1403](#) Severe Maternal Mortality Surveillance and Review Program; established.

Chief Patron: Franklin, M.

Description: Creates the Severe Maternal Morbidity Surveillance and Review Program to identify, analyze, and review instances of severe maternal morbidity. The bill directs the Department of Health to develop a reporting system for hospitals and freestanding birthing centers to report findings and recommendations, as well as a model protocol for conducting reviews of severe maternal morbidity. The bill requires all hospitals and freestanding birthing centers to participate in the Program and report their findings and recommendations to the Department of Health on an annual basis.

[HB 1421](#) Local and Regional Jails, State Board of; transferring administrative and supervisory authority.

Chief Patron: Keys-Gamarra

Description: Directs the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group to evaluate the feasibility of transferring the administrative and supervisory authority of the State Board of Local and Regional Jails from the Department of Corrections to another state agency or an independent oversight body.

[SB 233](#) Fire Programs Fund; distribution of fund.

Chief Patron: Head

Description: Directs the Department of Fire Programs to establish a work group to evaluate the funding formula for the distribution of aid to localities through the Fire Programs Fund. VACo is a named member of the workgroup.

[SB 832](#) Vulnerable road user safety zones; VDOT to develop criteria & recommendations for designation.

Chief Patron: Srinivasan

Description: Requires the Department of Transportation to develop criteria and recommendations for the potential designation of vulnerable road user safety zones in the Commonwealth in areas that have experienced elevated rates of crashes, injuries, or fatalities involving pedestrians or cyclists.

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