

ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT

Enacted:

Bill Description	Va. Code Section	Bill	Page #
Local Foundation and Soil Management Fund. Give localities the authority to create a local foundation and soil management fund out of local money for granting funds to citizens for foundation management and soil settlement repairs on previously developed lands.	§ 15.2-958.7	HB1659	0001
Local officers; oath of office. States that local officers must take the oath of office and give bond if appropriate on or before the day on which the term of office begins.	§ 15.2-1522	HB2628 SB997	0002- 0003
Bond requirements for local treasurers. Increases the maximum amount of the surety bond that may be required for local treasurers based on the population of the county or city.	§ 15.2-1529 and 15.2-1530	HB2658	0004
Voter registration; time period for closing registration records before certain elections. To reduce from 21 to 10 the number of days during which registration records are closed before primary and general elections and from 13 to 10 the number of days during which registration records are closed before special elections that are not called by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, or President pro tempore of the Senate.	§ 24.2-416	HB1735 SB991	0005- 0006
Virginia Retirement System; disability benefits for certain emergency dispatchers. To require that, beginning July 1, 2026, emergency dispatchers who are not members of the hybrid retirement program become participants in the disability program for hybrid retirement plan members if the locality employing such dispatcher participates in such program. The employers of such dispatchers shall provide the costs required for funding participation in such program.	§§ 51.1-1150, 51.1-1153, 51.1-1161, and 51.1-1169	HB1705	0007- 0009
Persons with disabilities; rights to the full and free use of public playgrounds. To clarify that persons with disabilities have the same rights as other persons to the full and free use of public playgrounds.	§ 51.5-44	HB1800	0010- 0011

LAND USE

Enacted:

Bill Description	Va. Code Section	Bill	Page #
Planning and zoning; second hearing public notice. This legislation came at the request of VML members; it changes the second public hearing notice that a planning commission or governing body publishes for planning and zoning actions to be published 5 days before the date of the meeting instead of 7 days.	§ 15.2-2204	HB1996	0012-0013
Derelict buildings; expands authority of localities to impose civil penalties. Acts to include industrial properties as derelict buildings for the purpose of imposing a penalty.	§ 15.2-907.1	HB2128	0014-0015
Notice of certain land use actions; first-class mail to last known address, etc., or property owner. When there is a proposed change in the zoning map classification of 25 or fewer parcels of land, notice is currently sent by registered or certified mail. This legislation changes that to be one notice sent by registered, certified OR first-class mail to the last known address of certain property owners impacted by a proposed change in the zoning map classification of 25 or fewer parcels of land provided that a representative of the local planning commission shall make affidavit that such mailings have been made and file such affidavit in the file	§ 15.2-2204	HB2330	0016-0017
Zoning, development and use of accessory dwelling unit. Allows a locality to consider in the comprehensive plan tiny homes or accessory dwelling units. Tiny homes are defined as a dwelling of 400 square feet or less in floor area and accessory dwelling unit means an independent or attached dwelling unit as defined in the legislation. Note – the same bill after amendment <u>SB932</u>	§ 15.2-2223	HB2533	0018-0019
Subdivision ordinance; shortens timeframe for local approvals. Shortens the timeframes for various local government approvals of subdivision plats and site plans. It also calls on the Virginia Code Commission to convene a work group consisting of various stakeholders to review existing provisions related to the submission, review, and approval of subdivision plats and site plans. The work group shall develop recommendations to (i) organize procedural steps in a clear, logical, and sequential order to enhance ease of reference; (ii) clarify the processes, requirements, and timelines applicable to each type of plat or plan; (iii) standardize terminology to ensure consistency, reduce ambiguity, and minimize misinterpretation; and (iv) identify and eliminate redundant or duplicative provisions to streamline the Code and improve its usability	§ 15.2-2259 and § 15.2-2260	HB2660	0020-0023
Recovery residences; certification required, penalty, report. Amends the existing civil penalty for a violation of law	§ 37.2-431.1	SB838	0024-0025

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related to the operation of recovery residences to a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to (i) make recommendations related to oversight and transparency for recovery residences and (ii) develop credentialing guidelines for recovery residences.			
Subdivision ordinance; plan review by designated agent. Requires the review of a subdivision plat, site plan and plan of development to be completed administratively by the designated agent, except in a locality with a population of 5,000 or less, the Planning Commission may act as the designated agent. Note – <u>HB2293</u> (Coyner), which was the same as SB974, failed.	§ 15.2-2201, 15.2-2241, 15.2-2245, 15.2-2254, 15.2-2258, 15.2-2259, 15.2-2260, 15.2-2261, 15.2-2269, 15.2-2270, 15.2-2271, 15.2-2307	SB974	0026-0037
Civil penalties for certain repeat zoning violations in Planning District 23; appeals. <u>*Please note that changes to Board of Zoning Appeals code section of this bill apply to all localities.</u> Provides an enhanced level of civil penalties in Planning District 23 (Hampton Roads) for repeat violations involving nonpermitted commercial uses as defined in the bill. The bill also clarifies (i) that when a board of zoning appeals hears appeals from the decision of an administrative officer and alters the statutorily required order of evidence, it is a reversible error if the appellant lodges an objection citing this section and the board refuses to reorder the hearing and (ii) that the required statement of a right to appeal an administrative officer's decision must be sent to the aggrieved person by certified mail with proof of delivery.	§ 15.2-2209, 15.2-2309, 15.2-2311	SB992	0038-0041
Water and sewer connection fees; new residential development. Allows a locality to provide for the full or partial reimbursement of water and sewer connection fees, capital recovery charges, and availability fees remitted by an applicant in connection with any new residential development.	§ 15.2-2119	SB1263	0042-0043
Zoning; enhanced civil penalties; certain residential violations. Makes repeat violations of a zoning ordinance for multifamily residential purposes to be not more than \$1000 for a second violation and subsequent violations also are more with a cap of \$6000 for all violations within a 12-month period.	§ 15.2-2209	SB1267	0044
Zoning violations; appeals; fines. Deals with the conviction of the storage or disposal of nonagricultural excavation material, waste, and debris being punishable by a fine of \$2000 but if the problem is not abated within the specified time period the fine shall rise to \$5000 and \$7500 as outlined in the regulation.	§ 15.2-2286	SB1422	0045-0047
Vacant and blighted or derelict property; locality allowed to sell. A locality which has a vacant property for 5 years or more and is declared blighted or derelict and also has	§ 15.2-958.1:1	SB1476	0048

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delinquent taxes may petition the circuit court to appoint a special commissioner to convey the real estate to the locality, the locality's land bank entity or an existing nonprofit designated by the locality in lieu of a public auction. The bill includes technical steps and options for the locality to sell the property including requiring that repairs and renovations are made and that within 2 years the building be compliant with the building code. Note – <u>HB2745</u> (O'Quinn), which was the same as SB1476, failed.			
Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program Authority. Removes the restriction on localities that operate regulated municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) to only enter on those properties from which a discharge enters their MS4 and allows such localities to, at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances, enter any establishment or upon any property, public or private, for the purpose of obtaining information or conducting surveys or investigations necessary in the enforcement of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program. However, the bill restricts operators of an MS4 that are not a locality, or any duly authorized agent thereof, to only enter on those properties from which a discharge enters their MS4.	§ 62.1-44.15:39	HB2008 SB1093	0049- 0050
Replacement of trees during development process in localities; tree canopy fund. To allow localities by ordinance to establish a tree canopy fund to collect, maintain, and distribute fees collected from developers that cannot provide for full tree canopy requirements where the development project is situated. The bill requires the ordinance to establish cost units that are based on average costs of two-inch caliper nursery stock trees. The bill allows a locality to use moneys from the fund to (i) plant and maintain trees on public or private property or (ii) make disbursements to a community-based organization that is exempt from income tax pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is operated for tree planting, stewardship, or community-beautification missions that benefit the community at large. The bill requires any funds collected by localities to be spent within five years of the collection date.	§ 15.2-961.3	HB2630	0051- 0052
Water utilities and wastewater utilities; eligible infrastructure replacement and enhancement; cost recovery. To permit a water or wastewater utility to petition the State Corporation Commission for the approval of an eligible infrastructure replacement and enhancement plan, as defined in the bill. The bill requires that a water or wastewater utility that receives approval for an eligible infrastructure replacement and enhancement rider shall provide a proposed earnings test for informational purposes in each annual	Adding in Title 56, a chapter numbered 31, consisting of sections numbered §56-626 and 56-627	HB 2711 SB850	0053- 0058

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informational filing or base rate proceeding filed with the State Corporation Commission before December 1, 2030. The provisions of the bill expire on July 1, 2035. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the State Water Commission.			
Department of Health; waterworks; mandatory reporting. To require owners of waterworks to report any critical equipment failure or malfunction or contaminant release to the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water as soon as practicable but no more than two hours after discovery. The bill also requires owners of waterworks that are required to submit a monthly operating report to the Office to include any noncritical equipment failure or malfunction that could adversely affect water quality, public health, or service continuity in such report.	Adding in a section numbered §32.1-174.5	HB2749 SB1408	0059-0060
Subdivision ordinance; plan review by designated agent. To remove the planning commission and governing body as the approval authority for the administrative review process for subdivision plats and site plans and assigns such authority solely to a designated agent, defined in the bill. However, the bill provides that the local planning commission may serve as the designated agent of any locality with a population of 5,000 or less. The bill also expedites the review process by shortening the timeframe for forwarding plats and plans to state agencies for review.	Amends §§ 15.2-2201, 15.2-2241, 15.2-2245, 15.2-2254, 15.2-2258, 15.2-2259, 15.2-2260, 15.2-2261, 15.2-2269, 15.2-2270, 15.2-2271, and 15.2-2307	SB974	0061-0072

PROCUREMENT

Enacted:

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Virginia Public Procurement Act; environmental protection and product safety standards. Prohibits state and local agencies from including a provision in any request for proposal, procurement agreement, contract, ordinance, policy, permit, or accompanying document that directs the exclusion from use of any materials contained in or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing.	§2.2-4328.3	HB2024 SB1165	0073- 0074
Virginia Public Procurement Act; contract terms inconsistent with Virginia law. Provides that no public contract for information technology goods and services, as defined by the bill, may contain terms in conflict with Virginia law. The bill also provides that public contracts shall provide for the application of Virginia law and for jurisdiction in the state of Virginia regardless of the terms of the contract. The provisions of this bill only apply to a county, city, town, political subdivision, or public institution of higher education, or to a public body listed as an independent agency in the appropriation act, if its governing body has adopted such provisions as part of its procurement policies and procedures.	§2.2-4311.3	HB2150	0075
Virginia Public Procurement Act; discrimination prohibited; military family-owned businesses. Prohibits any public body from discriminating against a bidder or offeror in the solicitation or awarding of contracts on the basis of status as a military family, defined in the bill. The bill provides that all public bodies shall establish programs to facilitate the participation of military family-owned businesses, as defined in the bill, in procurement transactions.	§2.2-4310	HB 2751	0076- 0078
Virginia Public Procurement Act; procurement of imported goods; forced and child labor prohibition. Provides that a public body that enters into a public contract for goods or services that exceeds \$10,000 shall include in such a public contract provisions (i) prohibiting the use of forced or indentured child labor in the performance of the contract and (ii) requiring that the contractor include such prohibition in every subcontract or purchase order that exceeds \$10,000, so that the prohibition will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Manufacturing Development Commission	§2.2-43113.3	SB913	0079

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<p>Virginia Public Procurement Act; purchase of testing kits during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat exemption.</p> <p>Clarifies that the current exemption from the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act for the purchase of personal protective equipment by the Governor for private, nongovernmental entities during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat for which a state of emergency has been declared includes communicable disease testing kits and associated safety equipment and supplies. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth.</p>	§2.2-4343	SB1415	0080-0082

PUBLIC SAFETY

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Fire Programs Fund; aid to localities, requirement for emergency incidents reporting. For localities to remain eligible for funding from the Fire Programs Fund, they must report all emergency incidents through the National Emergency Response Information System while sharing such emergency incident data with the Department of Fire Programs. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026	§38.2-401	HB2065 SB1282	0083- 0086
Use of unmanned aircraft systems by public bodies; employees. Allows a law-enforcement officer or an employee of a law-enforcement agency to deploy an unmanned aircraft system without a warrant, under certain conditions.	§19.2-60.1	HB2177	0087
Surveillance technology; reporting by law-enforcement agencies and sheriff's departments. Adds any third-party service or third-party subscription that allows access to any form of surveillance technology or the data therefrom to the list of what is included in the definition of surveillance technology used in the provisions requiring all state and local law-enforcement agencies and sheriff's departments to annually provide to the Department of Criminal Justice Services a list of all surveillance technologies used, accessed, or procured by such agencies and departments. The bill specifies the list of surveillance technologies that shall be included. The bill also clarifies that the Department shall provide such information to the Virginia State Crime Commission and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science by December 1 of each year.	§9.1-116.10	HB2725	0088
Certain unclaimed property presumed abandoned; Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund. If funds or property in the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund (Fund) are unclaimed for more than five years after a member's forfeiture of his membership or dissolution of a volunteer emergency services or fire department they shall be presumed abandoned for purposes of the Virginia Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.	§55.1-2544	SB934	0089
Fire Prevention Code; prohibition on permit fees for fire departments, etc. for certain localities. Prohibits the State Fire Marshal from charging a fee for the approval and administration of a permit for explosives, blasting agents, theatrical flame effects and fireworks issued to fire departments and emergency medical services of a locality with a total population of less than 10,000.	§27-98	SB1248	0090
Trespass with an unmanned aircraft system; penalties. Creates a Class 4 felony for any person who without authorization, causes an unmanned aircraft system to enter the airspace over any public services or utilities, critical infrastructure, or maritime facilities.	§18-121.3	SB1272	0091
Forfeited assets; law enforcement use. To provide that a state or local agency that receives a forfeited asset or an equitable share of	§ 19.2- 386.14	SB1420	0092- 0093

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the net proceeds of a forfeited asset from the Department of Criminal Justice Services may use such proceeds for equipment and training for law-enforcement officers. The bill also provides that such forfeited property or proceeds shall only be used by law enforcement in the course of employment and in the performance of their official duties and not for personal use.			

Pending:

Bill Description	Va. Code Section	Bill	Page #
License Plate Recognition Systems; regulation of use by law enforcement agencies This bill requires the Department of General Services to determine and approve automatic license plate recognition (LPR) systems for use in the Commonwealth and requirements for use LPR systems by law-enforcement agencies. The bill limits the use of such systems by law-enforcement agencies to criminal investigations where there is a reasonable suspicion a crime was committed or as part of an active investigation related to a missing or endangered person or to receive notifications related to a missing or endangered person, a person with an outstanding warrant, a person associated with human trafficking, a stolen vehicle, or a stolen license plate. The bill requires law-enforcement officers collect data on whether a stop of a driver of a motor vehicle or stop or temporary detention of a person was based on a notification from an automatic license plate recognition system and if so, the specific reason for the notification as set forth in relevant law. This legislation also permits the use of LPRs on state right of way subject to VDOT right of way permitting. The bill requires systems approved for use in the Commonwealth be publicly posted by January 1, 2026. The bill also requires annual reports from law-enforcement agencies using LPR systems. Data collected using an LPR system can only be retained for 21 days under the bill as it passed by the General Assembly, however the Governor amended sent the bill back to the legislature to increase data retention to 30 days. (Amendments rejected)	§52-30.2 2.2-5517	HB2724	0094-0098

TAXATION

Enacted:

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License taxes; deduction for out-of-state receipts, effective date, report – As introduced, expanded BPOL licensing tax deductions for businesses operating in other states. Under current law, any receipts attributable to business conducted in another state or foreign country in which the taxpayer is liable for an income or other tax based upon income are deductible from gross receipts or gross purchases for license tax purposes. The bill proposed to expand the definition of “income or other tax based upon income” to mean “net income tax, as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 383, or any other tax the measure of which is based in whole or in part on gross or net income, or receipts.”		HB1743	0099
Local taxes; nonjudicial sale of tax delinquent real properties; threshold for nonjudicial sale. Increases threshold amounts that must be met in order to sell certain tax-delinquent properties.	§58.1-3975	HB1792	0100-0101
Real property tax exemption; surviving spouses of members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty; clarification for deaths resulting from suicide. Clarifies that the real property tax exemption currently available to the surviving spouse of any member of the U. S. armed forces who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the U.S. Department of Defense includes the death of any such member that was the result of suicide.	§58.1-3219.9	HB1868	0102-0103
Real property tax; exemption by classification. Provides that the property of an organization that is tax exempt by classification includes the property of a single member limited liability company whose sole member is such an organization.	§58.1-3606	HB1896	0104
(Deeds) Tax exempt property; nonprofit institutions of learning; emergency. Clarifies that institutions licensed by the Department of Education that provide services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or any school that is licensed by the Board of Education as a school for students with disabilities are institutions of learning not conducted for profit whose property is exempt from taxation pursuant to the Constitution of Virginia. The bill contains an emergency clause.	§58.1-3606.2	HB1970 SB1202	0105-0106
Real property tax; exemption for elderly and disabled individuals. Revises provisions of the local real property tax exemption and deferral program for elderly and disabled individuals.	§58.1-3212, 58.1-3213.1, 58.1-3215	HB2029 SB816	0107-0110
Real property tax; assessment of affordable rental housing. Changes current law by requiring that assessments for affordable housing be based on the income approach if the property is generating income (effective for assessments beginning on or after January 1, 2026). The income approach would only be required if adequate information was provided by the property owner to the local assessor to conduct the assessment. The bill also directs the Department of	§58.1-3295	HB2245	0111-0112

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Taxation to work with stakeholders to develop a uniform income and expense reporting form for use by owners of affordable rental housing properties prior to assessment of such affordable rental housing properties.			
Real property tax; exemption for religious buildings; rebuilding structure. Provides that the property tax exemption for property used for religious worship shall include property on which a church or other building for religious worship is being replaced or rebuilt. The property owner shall demonstrate the intention to use such structure exclusively for religious worship or for the residence of the minister of any church or religious body, as well as certain other requirements provided in the bill. This bill applies to tax years on and after January 1, 2023.	§58.1-3606	HB2302	0113
Transient occupancy tax; administration. Provides that an accommodations provider (i.e., Airbnb, Expedia, VRBO) shall not be required to transmit a transient occupancy tax return to a locality if (i) all retail sales of accommodations owned by the accommodations provider are facilitated by an accommodations intermediary and (ii) the accommodations provider attests to the locality that all such sales were facilitated by an accommodations intermediary. The bill was a compromise between Airbnb and the Commissioners of the Revenue.	§58.1-3 58.1-3826 58.1-3827	HB2383 SB1402	0114- 0123
Sale of real estate for delinquent taxes; procedure, enforcement of liens, orders of publication. To revise certain procedures relating to the sale of real estate to recover delinquent real estate taxes, including the enforcement of liens for taxes assessed upon real estate. The bill clarifies that any party or entity with an interest in the subject real estate, including a lienor, a person with a claim of title, or the beneficiary and trustees under a deed of trust, shall be named as party defendants in a proceeding for the sale of such real estate. The bill also makes the process by which notice by publication is given for a proceeding to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes consistent with other actions where notice by publication is authorized.	Amends §§ 8.01-268, 8.01-317, 8.01-318, 8.01-623, 58.1-3965, 58.1-3967, 58.1-3968, 58.1-3970.1, 58.1-3973, and 58.1- 3974 of the Code of Virginia and repeals § 8.01-321	HB2362	0124- 0128