

LEGISLATIVE REPORT #2

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BILLS INTRODUCED

SB 7; HB 433 - Sen. Dick Saslaw, Fairfax County; Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy, Prince William County – **RE: Minimum Wage** – Gradual Increase- July 1-\$10/hr.; 7-1-21-\$11; '22-\$13; '23-\$14; '24-\$14; '25-\$15. For 7-1-26 & forward it would be adjusted to reflect increases in the CPI. It would apply to employees of any public body, and to persons whose employment is covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

REFERRED TO SENATE COMMERCE & LABOR & HOUSE _____
COMMITTEES

HJR 2 - Del. Bourne – Proposed Constitutional amendment to allow the General Assembly to authorize localities to fully or partially exempt affordable housing from **Real Estate Taxation**.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

SB 24 - Sen. Chap Petersen, Fairfax – **RE: Agritourism Activities** – to amend Section 3.2-6400 to include horseback riding, stabling.

REFERRED TO SENATE AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

SB 28 - Sen. Petersen – **RE: Eminent Domain** – to amend Section 25.1-245.1 re: costs, to eliminate the exception currently provided in subsection E for public service companies/corporations, railroads and **government utility corporations**.

REFERRED TO SENATE COMMITTEE FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

SB 31 - Sen. Petersen – **RE: Eminent Domain** – to amend Sections 25.1-310, 33.2-1021 & 1023 to provide that costs of filing a petition for distribution of funds due shall be taxed against the condemnor; the interest rate on funds represented by a CD from the date of filing of the certificate until the funds are paid to the court shall not be less than the judgment rate of interest.

REFERRED TO SENATE COMMITTEE FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

SB 106 - Sen. Scott Surovell, Fairfax County – **RE: Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area** – to prohibit hydraulic fracturing in this area.

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REFERRED TO SENATE AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SB 149 - Sen. Janet Howell, Fairfax County – **RE: Courthouse Security-Assessment** – to amend Section 53.1-120 to increase the assessment from \$10 to \$20 in each criminal or traffic case.

REFERRED TO SENATE COMMITTEE FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

HB 359 - Del. Alfonso Lopez, Arlington – **RE: Procurement** - to amend Section 2.2-4300 to allow public bodies to consider best value concepts when procuring construction services.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HBs 364, 620 - Del. Mark Cole, Spotsylvania County; Del. Joshua Cole, Stafford Co. – **RE: Transportation-SMART SCALE** – to amend Section 33.2-214.1 to require the CTB to evaluate 1) congestion mitigation on the basis of total traffic volumes, not just during weekdays, and 2) accessibility on the basis of the area of influence of a project for a radius of 55 miles.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 383 - Del. Kelly Convors-Fowler, Virginia Beach – **RE: Tuition Assistance for Law Enforcement Officers** – to amend Section 23.1-602 to create a fund from which grants would go to local law-enforcement agencies to cover costs of tuition, books, and mandatory fees at public colleges for up to 2 years for any law enforcement officer who agrees to remain with the department for a period at least as long as the length of the course of study undertaken and paid for by the grant. If he or she doesn't stay or does not complete the course work satisfactorily the money would have to be repaid. Sunsets on July 1, 2025.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 396 - Del. Kaye Kory, Falls Church – **RE: Members of Local Redevelopment & Housing Authorities** – to amend Section 36-11.1:1 to increase the cap on payments to housing authority members from \$150/month to \$500/month, in addition to allowed expenses.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 398 - Del. Mark Keam, Fairfax County – **RE: School Employees in Low Income Schools** – to require 1 school counselor and 1 social worker for every 250 students in each school with at least 50% of students eligible for federal free lunch.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

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HB 406 - Del. Suhas Subramanyam, Loudoun County – **RE: Local CAFR Reports to the State Auditor** – to change the submittal deadline from November 30 to December 15.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 413 - Del. Karrie Delaney, Fairfax County – **RE: Local Subdivision Ordinances** – to amend Section 15.2-2242 to allow local ordinances to include establishing minimum standards for energy efficiency and establishing and maintaining access to sources of renewable energy.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 421 - Del. Cia Price, Newport News – **RE: Guns** – to amend Section 15.2-915 to allow localities to regulate firearms.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 422 - Del. Price – to establish the **Youth & Gang Violence & Prevention Grant Fund & Program** – Specifies that Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond & Roanoke would get grants.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 424 - Del. John McGuire, Henrico County – to require a **School Resource Officer** in every school. A School Resource Officer Supplementary Fund would be created to help fund the requirement.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 438 - Del. Steve Heretick, Portsmouth – **RE: Workers' Compensation** – to provide that post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by law enforcement officers & firefighters is compensable.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 452 - Del. Kathleen Murphy, Fairfax County – **RE: Procurement** – to amend Section 2.2-4303G to allow procurement as a Small Purchase goods and services other than professional services and non-transportation-related construction if cost does not exceed \$200,000 (current cap is \$100,000).

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

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HB 467 - Del. Keam – **RE: Joint & Cooperative Procurement** – to amend Section 2.2-4304B. to allow cooperative procurement for construction projects not exceeding \$200,000.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 480 - Del. Subramanyam – **RE: VRS** – to add 911 dispatchers to those eligible for enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty. Only for persons hired starting in 2021.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 496 - Del. Danny Marshall, Danville – **RE: Tourism Marketing of Casinos** – to direct VTC to develop a state and local tourism marketing model for casinos in Virginia.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 505 - Del. Barry Knight, Virginia Beach – **RE: Boards of Zoning Appeals** – to amend Section 15.2-2314 to provide that once the court issues an allowance of a writ of certiorari, the BZA shall have 21 days to respond.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 508 - Del. Rodney Willett, Henrico County – **RE: Animal Control** – Overhaul of Section 3.1-6540 & 6570. One change is to **Require** that a law enforcement officer or animal control officer apply to a magistrate for a summons if they have reason to believe that a dog is a dangerous dog. There must be written notice to the owner of intent to secure a summons.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 537 - Del. Betsy Carr, Richmond – **RE: Property in Redevelopment or Conservation Areas or Rehab Districts** – to amend Section 58.1-3219.4 to increase the max duration of a local real estate tax exemption from 15 years to 30 years.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 542 - Del. Carr – **RE: Regional Water Resource Planning** – This bill directs the SWCB to predict the risk that each locality and region in the Commonwealth will experience water supply shortfalls, to encourage the development of cross-jurisdictional water supply projects, and to adopt regulations designating regional planning areas based primarily on river basin. It provides that each locality in a particular regional planning area shall participate in cross-jurisdictional, coordinated water resource planning, and all localities in each area shall together develop and submit a single

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regional water supply plan. The bill directs DEQ to facilitate the creation of the plan by ensuring that each regional plan identifies risks and proposes cost-effective strategies in response. The bill directs that the Board and the Department prioritize the allocation of funds to localities that sufficiently participate in regional planning.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 545 - Del. Carr – **RE: Inclusionary Housing; Zoning** – Applicable to **Cities and Towns**. To require cities and towns to develop and promulgate housing plans that address the supply of safe, sanitary and affordable shelter for all current and anticipated residents, to be reviewed and revised every 5 years. After the plan which has 7 components, the cities and towns can implement inclusionary housing programs.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 558 - Del. Joe Lindsey, Norfolk – **RE: Procurement** – to add new language to Title 15.2 to allow localities to enact ordinances that would enhance **micro-business** participation in local government procurement. “Micro-business is a small, women-owned or minority-owned business with up to 25 employees.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 561 - Del. Emily Brewer, Isle of Wight County – **RE: SMART SCALE** – to amend Section 33.2-214.1 to add primary evacuation routes to the factors to be considered.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 572 - Del. Keam – **RE: Distributed Renewable Energy** – A comprehensive energy bill re: third party sales, installation of solar & wind energy facilities by localities, renewable energy. It would enable any locality that is a non-jurisdictional customer of a public electric utility to (i) install solar-powered or wind-powered electric generation facilities with a rated capacity not exceeding five megawatts, whether the facilities are owned by the locality or owned and operated by a third party pursuant to a contract with the locality, on any locality-owned site within the locality and (ii) credit the electricity generated at a facility described in clause (i) as directed by the governing body of the locality to any one or more of the metered accounts of buildings or other facilities of the locality or the locality’s public school division that are located within the locality, without regard to whether the buildings and facilities are located at the same site where the electric generation facility is located or at site contiguous thereto. The amount of the credit for such electricity to the metered accounts of the locality or its public school division shall be identical, with respect to the rate structure, all retail rate components, and monthly charges, to the amount the locality or public school division would otherwise be charged for such

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amount of electricity under its contract with the public utility, without the assessment by the public utility of any distribution charges, service charges, or fees in connection with or arising out of such crediting. Another section gives this authority to “public bodies” (park authority, recreational facilities authorities, SWCDs, community development authorities, water and wastewater authorities).

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 582 - Del. Elizabeth Guzman, Prince William County – to allow **Collective Bargaining for Public Employees** – it proposes a Public Employee Relations Board.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 585 - Del. Guzman – **RE: Local Comprehensive Plans** – to add Section 15.2-2223.4 which would Require every locality to incorporate strategies to promote transit-oriented development.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HBs 588, 712 - Del. Guzman; Del. Patrick Hope, Arlington – **RE: Publication of Legal Notices** – to amend Section 8.01-324 to provide that all notices, ordinances, etc. required to be advertised in a newspaper may instead be published in an online publication and there are requirements for the publication to meet.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 589 - Del. Guzman – **RE: State Funding Allocation Formula for Community Services Boards** – to amend Section 37.2-509 to add 2 additional factors: total population of the area served; and level of need for services provided among the population of the area.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 597 - Del. Murphy – **RE: Group Homes** – to add Section 37.2-405.2 which is a list of detailed and specific information that would have to be submitted for licensure or license renewal to operate a group home in Virginia.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 608 - Del. Jason Miyares, Virginia Beach – to establish the **Health Enterprise Zone Program & Fund** – it is aimed at better targeting state resources to (i) reduce racial, ethnic & geographic health disparities; (ii) improve access in underserved communities; (iii) reduce hospital admissions & readiness; and (iv) reduce costs. A locality or localities would seek designation as a zone.

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REFERRED TO HOUSE

HB 617 - Del. Guzman – **RE: Workers Compensation** – to declare that **carpal tunnel syndrome** is an occupational disease.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 619 - Del. Joshua Cole – **RE: Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund** – to guarantee at least \$1 million annually to Fredericksburg Regional Transit.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 621 - Del. Willett – to amend several sections in order to allow localities to install and use **Speed Monitoring Systems** to record photos of vehicles traveling 10 or more mph above the speed limit. They could only be used in residential districts, school crossing zones and highway work zones.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 642 - Del. Dave LaRock, Loudoun County – **RE: SMART SCALE** – to amend Sections 33.2-214.1, 307 & 371 to direct in the factors to be considered that all project or strategy benefits shall be considered relative to the cost of such project during all phases of the prioritization process; to require that in the NOVA and Hampton Roads districts congestion mitigation would be weighted at least at 55%; to direct the CTB to ensure that the selection of projects or strategies for funding pursuant to the District Grant Program & the High Priority Projects Program remain completely separate and projects selected through one do not impact project selections in the other. In the High Priority Projects Program projects selected would have to be compared to all other eligible projects. In the Highway Construction District Grant Program, projects shall receive a district-specific score and an overall score.

REFERRED TO HOUSE

HB 649 - Del. Ronnie Campbell, Rockbridge County – **RE: Workers' Compensation** – to provide that hypertension or heart disease is an occupational disease for f-t salaried police dispatchers.

REFERRED TO HOUSE

HB 655 - Del. Heretick– **RE: Solar Projects** – to add in Title 15.2 a new section providing for conditional zoning for solar projects of more than 5 megawatts. Proffered conditions could include: dedication of real property of substantial value; substantial case payments for public improvements, the need for which does not have to be related to the solar project; or a rezoning.

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REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 656 - Del. Heretick – **RE: Solar Projects** – to amend Section 15.2-2286 to provide that local zoning ordinances can incorporate generally accepted national standards for solar projects.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 657 - Del. Heretick – **RE: Solar Projects** – to amend Section 15.2-2232 to exempt solar facilities that are 150 megawatts or less from the required review for substantial accord with the locality’s comprehensive plan.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 662 - Del. Michael Mullin, Newport News – **RE: Local Grievance Procedure** – to amend Section 15.2-1507 to add provisions that are in the State Grievance Procedure providing for appeals to the circuit court.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 672 - Del. Willett – **RE: Local Comprehensive Plans** – to Require incorporating reasonably foreseeable requirements that will arise as a result of **Climate Change**; the comp plan shall consider impacts of features or improvements in relation to the effects of climate change; climate change would also be incorporated in local zoning ordinances.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 679 - Del. LaRock – **RE: Real & Personal Property Tax Exemption** – to amend Section 58.1-3605 to **repeal** the property tax exemptions for all nonprofits that were granted by the General Assembly by designation effective 7-1-2025. Any locality may grant property tax exemptions to any such organizations effective on or after 7-1-2025.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 709 - Del. Nick Rush, Montgomery County – **RE: The Tobacco Commission** – to amend Section 3.2-3108 to provide for investment of up to 10% of the available balance from the taxable portion of the fund as of July 1, 2020 in Virginia Venture Capital accounts- no match required.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

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HB 726 - Del. David Reid, Loudoun County – **RE: Local Comprehensive Plans** – to amend Sections 15.2-2226 & 2229 to give localities 180 days to act on locality-initiated amendments.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 733 - Del. Reid – **RE: Workers' Compensation** – Same as **HBs 44, 121; SBs 9, 58** in **Report #1**.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 742 - Del. David Bulova, Fairfax County – **RE: Drones** – Same as **HB 311** in **Report #1**.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____

HB 755 – Del. Lashrecse Aird, Petersburg – **RE: Blighted Properties in Petersburg** – to amend Section 58.1-3965 and add Section 58.1-3221.6 to declare that blighted properties & the land they are on are a separate class of property for local real estate tax purposes. It would allow Petersburg to tax this property at a different rate (up to 10% higher). The real estate assessor would determine if it is a blighted property or a derelict structure. After 6 mos. of tax delinquency, the city could sell the property.

REFERRED TO HOUSE _____