



County of Hanover

Board Meeting: November 25, 2014

Subject: Legislative Agenda Update

Summary of Agenda Item: The County Attorney will review the Board's Legislative Agenda, provide an overview of the VACo Legislative Agenda and discuss several bills that have been prefiled for the 2015 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The Board's meeting with members of the General Assembly representing Hanover County will be on December 4, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in the Brock Commons Student Center at Randolph-Macon College.

County Administrator's Recommended Board Motion: N/A



HANOVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2015 General Assembly Session

2015 Legislative Agenda Action Items

- Request that the General Assembly fully fund the Line of Duty Act benefits for law enforcement and public safety personnel as it did from the time that the General Assembly created these benefits in 1995 until the 2012 fiscal year.
- Request that the General Assembly ensure that the state continues to appropriate adequate monies to fund its pro rata share of the required contributions for VRS benefits for state funded teacher salaries and that the state make its contributions directly to VRS so that the state liability will be accurately reported under applicable accounting standards.
- To help local governments provide for the stormwater quality programs and facilities necessary to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, request that the General Assembly create a mechanism to provide for a stable and adequate source of the funding required to implement these programs.
- Request that Va. Code section 8.01-407 be amended to provide that attorneys may not issue subpoenas in custody and visitation proceedings under Chapter 6.1 (Section 20-124.1 et seq.) of Title 20 when the person whose attendance is sought is an employee of a school division, community services board, behavioral health authority or local department of social services and the testimony sought is related to such employment.
- Request that the Department of Environmental Quality conduct or commission a comprehensive study to determine the potential environmental and health risks of the land application of industrial residuals and to establish regulations specifically designed for industrial residuals based on the characteristics of residuals from different sources, including testing parameters, application methods, setbacks, record keeping, inspection protocols and enforcement authority.
- Request that the date of primary elections held in the month of June be changed from the second Tuesday to the third Tuesday in June and to change candidate filing deadlines to reflect that change of date. Because many localities use public school buildings for polling places, this change would minimize the number of occasions when primary elections held in June would take place while public schools are still in session. This change would reduce interference with school functions, enhance student safety and facilitate the conduct of primary elections.
- Request that the General Assembly amend the Code of Virginia to require that all bills that have a local fiscal impact—whether to localities or local school divisions—be filed on

the first day of a Session of the General Assembly to provide time for fiscal impact analysis.

Positions on Legislation Anticipated to Come before the 2015 Session

- Support legislation that would provide counties with the same local taxing authority as cities in order that counties might reduce their dependence on real estate and personal property taxes.
- Support the development of alternative and equivalent additional revenue sources for localities prior to any repeal of the current authority for machinery and tools taxes and business professional occupation license taxes.
- Support maintenance of the existing provisions of Va. Code § 22.1-79.1 governing the date for the opening of the school year.
- Support legislation that would prohibit private ownership of dangerous, wild animals, except for licensed zoos, research facilities and animal sanctuaries.
- Support for a study by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) of Medicaid-funded transportation services; such study would be separate and apart from any additional studies regarding those who are eligible for Medicaid or the provision of Medicaid services in Virginia.

Legislative Policy Statements

- Support protection of existing authority regarding local budget decisions and oppose any shifting of funding responsibility from the state to localities for new or existing programs.
- Support the protection of existing local government authority in all areas including revenue and land use.
- Support only environmental regulations and programs that are scientifically valid and reasonably cost effective and that will result in substantial and demonstrable improvements to the environment.
- Support equitable reallocation of revenue and service responsibilities between the state and localities to provide for ongoing stability in taxation and the delivery of government services.
- Support the development of alternative funding sources for capital improvements required to serve new development.
- Support additional legislative and regulatory requirements for public K-12 education only if they are reasonably cost effective, will result in demonstrable improvements to educational outcomes or student health and safety and are funded by the state on an ongoing basis.