

Legislative Update



HANOVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

JANUARY 22, 2014

HB 0035 School Calendar.

Patron: Kaye Kory

Makes local school boards responsible for setting the school calendar and determining the opening day of the school year and eliminates the post-Labor Day opening requirement and “good cause” scenarios for which the Board of Education may grant waivers of this requirement. The bill contains technical amendments.

HB 0066 School resource officers; local school board to place officer in each public school.

Patron: David I. Ramadan

Requires each local school board to place a school resource officer in each public elementary and secondary school. All costs resulting from the requirement shall be paid from the Lottery Proceeds Fund.

HB 0067 Composition of Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Patron: David I. Ramadan

Increases the total membership of the Commonwealth Transportation Board to 22 members by doubling the representation for the Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Northern Virginia highway constructions districts.

HB 0178 Virginia Retirement System; assumed rate of return on investments.

Patron: Peter F. Farrell

Provides that if the General Assembly adopts an assumed rate of return on investments that is different from the rate used by the Board of the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) in determining employer contribution rates for contributions to VRS, the Board shall recalculate the employer contribution rate for each employer to incorporate the assumed rate of return adopted by the General Assembly. The Board is required to provide each employer with its adjusted employer contribution rate as soon as possible.

HB 0199 Legislation affecting local government expenditures or reductions.

Patron: R. Steven Landes

Requires the Division of Legislative Services to identify and forward to the Commission on Local Government (Commission) joint resolutions introduced calling for a study of local government expenditures or revenues. The bill also authorizes the Department of Planning and Budget and the Department of Taxation to forward to the Commission bills introduced requiring additional local government expenditures or a reduction in local government revenues.

SB 0431 State and local tax reform; study; report.

Patron: James M. LeMunyon

Creates a joint legislative subcommittee to perform a two-year study on reforming state and local taxes. The joint subcommittee will assume the tasks of the Joint Subcommittee to Evaluate Tax Preferences, which the bill dissolves.

SB 0434 Machinery and tools, merchants' capital and BPOL taxes; maximum rates established.

Patron: James M. LeMunyon

Prohibits a locality from increasing its business machinery and tools tax, merchants' capital tax, and local license (BPOL) fees and taxes above the locality's rates in effect as of January 1, 2014.

HB 0513 Removal of certain local government appointees.

Patron: Rick L. Morris

Provides that any appointee of a local governing body to a local board, commission, or committee, whether pursuant to § 15.2-1411 or any other provision of the Code, shall serve at the pleasure of the local governing body and may be removed at any time.

HB 0527 Group homes; zoning.

Patron: Brenda L. Pogge

Provides that for purposes of zoning, a residential facility in which no more than eight individuals with mental illness, intellectual disability, or developmental disabilities reside, with one or more resident or nonresident staff persons, shall be considered a residential occupancy by a single family. Currently, such facilities are required to have one or more resident counselors or other staff persons to qualify for this zoning designation.

HB 0597 Richmond Metropolitan Authority; name; composition of Board of Directors; powers.

Patron: G. Manoli Loupassi

receiving health insurance or other benefits as compensation
Renames the Authority as the Richmond Regional Transportation Authority and equalizes Board representation among the City of Richmond, Chesterfield County, and Henrico County. The bill requires that certain actions of the Authority related to construction or acquisition of limited access highways or acquisition of rights to operate existing toll roads receive approval from the local governing bodies. Local approval also is required for the issuance of bonds by the Authority. The bill allows the governing body of each locality to appoint one of its own members as a member of the Board of the Authority, clarifies the appointment process for the three Richmond representatives on the Board, and prohibits Board members from for their service on the Board.

HB 0617 Personal property tax; classification.

Patron: Glen R. Davis-Elect

Creates a classification for personal property tax rate purposes of property owned by a business during its first two years of operation, if the business's annual gross revenues do not exceed \$100,000. A locality may impose a rate of tax on such property that is lower than the rate on the general class of tangible personal property.

HB 0633 Local fiscal impact bills; first day introduction.

Patron: Terry G. Kilgore

Requires local fiscal impact bills to be introduced no later than the first day of the session.

HB 0697 Local implementation of Stormwater Management Program.

Patron: Charles D. Poindexter

Delays the date that local governments will have to assume responsibility for administering the Stormwater Management Program from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015.

HB 0788 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; out-of-state requests for records.

Patron: James M. LeMunyon

Sets out the process for public bodies to respond to record requests made by out-of-state requesters.

HB 1088 Capital Regional Airport Commission.

Patron: Riley E. Ingram

Updates the police power provision of the Commission.

HB 1127 Voting equipment; DREs; Voting Equipment Grant Program and Fund.

Patron: David I. Ramadan

Prohibits the use of direct recording electronic machines (DREs) and requires the use of ballot scanning systems in all elections beginning January 1, 2019. The bill establishes the Voting Equipment Grant Program and Fund, through which the governing body of a county or city may apply for a grant for an amount equal to 50 percent of the cost of the new ballot scanning systems purchased, leased, or otherwise acquired by the governing body in the period of time beginning July 1, 2014, and ending December 31, 2018.

HB 1230 Line of Duty Act; funding and review.

Patron: Mark D. Sickles

Creates a Line of Duty Death and Health Benefits Fund and provides for the funding of Line of Duty claims. The bill also establishes an advisory review board to assist the Comptroller in the review of claims involving a claimant who has not received a disability determination from the Virginia Retirement System, Social Security Administration, Workers' Compensation Commission, or any recognized retirement system or who is, as of the time the claim for benefits had been filed, working in an alternative position.

HJ 040 Study; JLARC; Medicaid-funded transportation services in the Commonwealth; report.

Patron: David B. Albo

Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to review the Commonwealth's contract with Logisticare for Medicaid-funded transportation services, identify remedies and alternatives available to the Commonwealth to resolve the issues surrounding Logisticare's questionable performance, and review the Department of Medical Assistance Service's oversight of the Commonwealth's contract with Logisticare. The resolution provides that the Commonwealth's contract with Logisticare not be renewed or extended prior to the completion of this study. The resolution requests that JLARC report its findings no later than the first day of the 2015 Regular Session.

SB 0048 Prohibition on oil and gas drilling.

Patron: Richard H. Stuart

Prohibits the drilling for oil and gas in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area. When the General Assembly enacted the Groundwater Management Act in 1973, it declared that the continued, unrestricted usage of groundwater is contributing and will contribute to pollution and the shortage of groundwater, thereby jeopardizing the public welfare, safety, and health. The Act recognized that the state has the right to the reasonable control of all groundwater resources in order to conserve, protect, and beneficially utilize the groundwater of the Commonwealth. The bill would apply to groundwater and the associated aquifers in the coastal plain of Virginia. The bill would also require the Department of Environmental Quality to adopt regulations protecting surface and ground water resources before the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy issues a drilling permit in those areas of Tidewater where such activity is allowed.

SB 523 Local fiscal impact bills; first day introduction.

Patron: Frank M. Ruff, Jr.

Requires local fiscal impact bills to be introduced no later than the first day of the session.

HB 0519 Zoning; attorney fees.

Patron: Rick L. Morris

Provides that a court may award reasonable attorney fees, expenses, and court costs to any person, group, or entity that prevails in a zoning action brought against it or that successfully challenge the validity of a zoning ordinance.