

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY



*Thomas
Jefferson*

Planning District Commission

P. O. Box 1505, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Representing the Local Governments of:

**Albemarle County
City of Charlottesville
Fluvanna County
Greene County
Louisa County
Nelson County**

Keith Smith, *Chair*
Christine Jacobs, *Executive Director*
David Blount, *Director of Legislative Services*

June 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	p. 3
Approved Legislation	p. 3
Agriculture/Environment	p. 3
Education	p. 4
Finance	p. 4
Housing	p. 4
Human Services	p. 5
Land Use	p. 6
Local Government	p. 8
Public Safety	p. 9
Transportation	p. 9
Miscellaneous	p. 10
Studies and Resolutions	p. 12

OVERVIEW

The 2026 General Assembly finished its work on legislative bills and resolutions on March 14, approving just over 1150 bills and adopting more than 1,200 resolutions. At the one-day reconvened session in April, the legislature rejected amendments to three dozen bills suggested by Governor Spanberger. Of all the legislation presented to the governor, she signed 1124 bills and vetoed 31 bills.

This document summarizes approved legislation that impacts and/or is of interest to local governments in our region.

APPROVED LEGISLATION

Following are highlights of approved legislation in the areas of agriculture/environment, education, finance, housing, human services, land use, local government, public safety, and transportation. A number of other bills are included under the “Miscellaneous” section. Approved studies and resolutions also are listed. Bills take effect July 1, unless otherwise noted.

Agriculture and Environment

[HB 508](#) (McAuliff) and [SB 340](#) (Perry) **Small renewable energy projects; agrivoltaics definition.** Provide a definition of "agrivoltaics" for the purposes of small renewable energy projects, specifically to provide that it means the intentional co-location of agricultural production and solar energy generation on the same land that is designed to prioritize and sustain agricultural productivity while simultaneously integrating renewable energy generation.

[HB 735](#) (Leftwich) and [SB 132](#) (New Criag) **Board of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code; temporary tents used for agritourism purposes.** Direct the Board of Housing and Community Development to review 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 938](#) (Clark) and [SB 138](#) (McPike) **Department of Environmental Quality; industrial wastewater; publicly owned treatment works; PFAS monitoring.** Direct every publicly owned treatment works to require certain new or industrial users of such facility to perform and report the results of quarterly discharge monitoring for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for one year.

[HB 1011](#) (Tran) and [SB 226](#) (Surovell) **Local competitive bidding for compost, etc.; waste disposal infrastructure, civil penalty.** Allow any locality, by ordinance, to require that certain generators separate organic waste from other solid waste and ensure that such organic waste is diverted from final disposal in a refuse disposal system.

[HB 1072](#) (Laufer) **Local authority to test and monitor the land application of sewage sludge within its political boundaries.** Allows a locality to provide for testing and monitoring for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in sewage sludge.

[HB 1443](#) (Lopez) and [SB 386](#) (Stuart) **Owners of sewage treatment works; land application, marketing, or distribution of sewage sludge; perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; testing requirements.** Direct any owner of a sewage treatment works land applying, marketing, or distributing sewage sludge in the Commonwealth, beginning January 1, 2027, to collect representative samples of the sewage sludge and have them analyzed by an accredited laboratory

for PFAS. The bill mandates certain outcomes for the land application of such sewage sludge depending on the concentration of PFAS in such sewage sludge. The bills take effect January 1.

Education

HB 195 (McQuinn) and **SB 33** (Favola) **Programs for at-risk students; permissible uses of funding.** Include as covered programs eligible for funding under the At-Risk Program initiatives to support both the physical and mental health of students in public schools, the hiring of licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses.

HB 544 (Askew) and **SB 498** (Aird) **Commission on School Construction and Modernization; revisions; elimination of sunset.** Eliminate the July 1, 2026, expiration date of the Commission on School Construction and Modernization and direct it to complete a 10-year capital roadmap by November 1. The Department of Education is directed to update the inventory of all public school facilities by September 1.

Finance

HB 282 (Callsen) **Real property tax; classification of land and improvements.** Authorizes Charlottesville and several other localities to impose a real estate property tax on improvements to real property at a tax rate that is different than the rate applied to the land on which such improvements are located.

SB 649 (Obenshain) **Real property tax; special assessment for land use; notice requirements; civil penalty.** Establishes notice requirements for the sale of real estate that is valued, assessed, and taxed by a locality under a special assessment on the basis of use; the bill directs the Department of Taxation to create a written notice that may be provided to the purchaser of real estate in a land use program. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.

SB 181 (Williams Graves) **Real property tax; partial exemption for repurposing underutilized structures for residential use; local incentives.** Permits localities to provide partial real estate tax exemptions for converted real property, where such conversion establishes a residential structure that has set aside at least 30% of the structure for households with a per capita income at or below 80% of the locality's median income or where the building owner is subject to an agreement with the state or locality regarding the provision of affordable housing.

Housing

HB 4 (Bennett-Parker) **Preservation of affordable housing; definitions; civil penalty.** Creates a framework for localities, through adoption of a local ordinance, to preserve affordable housing by exercising a right of first refusal on publicly supported housing.

HB 14 (Price) and **SB 290** (Aird) **Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; enforcement by localities.** Provide that if there is material noncompliance by a landlord of a dwelling unit, the locality may institute an action on behalf of a tenant/occupant to try to remedy the violation.

HB 164 (Thomas) and **SB 328** (Perry) **Housing for local employees; grants for homeownership and workforce housing alternatives.** Eliminate the \$25,000 maximum amount a locality may provide to local employees, local school board employees, and employees of constitutional officers for homeownership grants to purchase primary residences in the locality.

HB 352 (Thomas) **Local authority; affordable housing performance grant programs.** Allows any locality that has created an industrial development authority or economic development authority to establish, by ordinance, an affordable housing performance grant program.

HB 356 (Thomas) and **SB 665** (Srinivasan) **Department of Housing and Community Development; local housing policy; report to Department.** Expand the range of local housing policy changes that are required to be submitted annually in a report to DHCD by any locality with a population greater than 3,500. These include 1) changes to cash proffer schedules; 2) zoning ordinance changes related to density, height, lot coverage, minimum lot size, setbacks, use permissions, parking requirements, or design standards; 3) housing related studies, reports, or analyses; and 4) the total number of residential development applications submitted during the preceding fiscal year. **SB 666** (Srinivasan) requires reporting of various data for new and existing housing developments and directs DHCD to make such data publicly available in a centralized database that is updated annually.

HB 375 (Krizek) **Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; right of first refusal; resident entities and localities.** Provides for a right of first refusal, under the Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act, for resident entities and localities in which a manufactured home park is located, when a manufactured home park owner enters into a contract to sell such park.

HB 806 (Carr) **Industrial development authorities; housing.** Allows any industrial development authority to exercise its powers, including new authority to issue bonds, for the construction of affordable housing.

HB 867 (Cousins) and **SB 74** (McPike) **Affordable housing; local zoning ordinance authority.** Authorize any locality to provide for an affordable housing dwelling unit program by amending the zoning ordinance of such locality; current law restricts such authorization to certain localities. In addition to optional increases in density, the bills provide that such program may include certain additional implementation measures, including lot size reductions and accessory housing unit allowances. The bills take effect July 1, 2027.

HB 1130 (Reid) **Workforce housing for employees of a county or county school board; lease of surplus property.** Allows any county board of supervisors or county school board to lease surplus or underutilized property and to partner with housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, or private developers to create dedicated workforce housing while retaining public ownership of the property.

HB 1144 (Martinez) **Water and sewer connection fees; first-time homebuyers; affordable housing.** Permits any locality to provide 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 1279 (J. Cole) and **SB 388** (McPike) **Affordable housing; religious organizations and other nonprofit tax-exempt properties.** Provide for administrative approval of housing on land owned by property tax-exempt religious organizations or certain nonprofits and that ordinances allow by-right housing development on property owned by such organizations, under certain conditions. The bills take effect on January 1, 2027, and expire after four years.

Human Services

HB 862 (Cousins) and **SB 391**(Stuart) **VASAP/ASAP authority and funding.** Update Code provisions regarding the governance and operations of the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) and community-based Alcohol Safety Action Programs (ASAPs). The bills add requirements for local funding contributions and requirement for a local fiscal agent for all ASAPs, effective January 1, 2028. A work group will examine the program’s funding structure, sustainability and other states’ programs.

HB 1366 (Callsen) **Department of Social Services; corrective action plans and assumption of temporary control of local boards and local departments.** Authorizes the Commissioner of Social Services to create and enforce corrective action plans for any local board/department that fails to administer public assistance and programs in accordance with law and regulations, or whose actions/inactions pose a substantial risk to the health, safety or well-being of a child or adult. A local department could request assistance with programs/services from the state. A task force is charged with developing a comprehensive improvement plan to address changes needed with state and local departments, including a study of funding and local match and the methodology used to allocate administrative funds.

HB 1490 (Tran) **Department of Social Services; centralized intake system for reports or complaints of child abuse or neglect; response to complaints within 24 hours for children under three years of age.** Establishes a state centralized hotline for reports and complaints of child abuse or neglect, eliminating the requirement that local departments of social services be capable of receiving and responding to such reports and complaints and instead requiring that any complaint of child abuse or neglect received by a local department be forwarded to the hotline. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.

SB 640 (Pillion) **Department of Social Services; corrective action plans; centralized hotline for reports or complaints of child abuse or neglect.** Incorporates the components of HB 1366 and HB 1490.

Land Use

HB 135 (Simon) **Virginia Code Commission; subdivision plats work group; report.** Extends by one year the work of the stakeholder group established by the Virginia Code Commission to review existing Code provisions related to the submission, review, and approval of subdivision plats and site plans.

HB 153 (Thomas) and **SB 94** (Roem) **Siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility.** Provide that a locality shall require a sound profile on schools and residences in the area of a proposed data center; a locality also may require assessment of other impacts of data centers.

HB 256 (Simonds) and **SB 425** (Bagby) **Comprehensive plan; environmental justice strategy.** Require cities with populations over 20,000 and counties with populations over 100,000 to consider, at the next and all subsequent reviews of the comprehensive plan, adopting an environmental justice strategy.

HB 257 (Simonds) **Comprehensive plan; social determinants of health.** Encourages localities to utilize relevant and available data and research related to social determinants of health to consider how the locality's adopted comprehensive plan will impact the locality's overall public health and access to health care services.

HB 277 (Seibold) **Zoning; wireless facility modifications; application process.** Prohibits a locality from denying an application for the modification of an existing wireless facility under certain conditions; the bill also stipulates various requirements for local approval within a specified timeframe and permits an applicant or locality to bring court claims related to the bill.

HB 594 (Simonds) **Expedited approval for certain affordable housing developments.** Allows a locality, by ordinance, to authorize a zoning administrator to use an administrative process to approve rezoning applications for certain affordable housing developments, under certain conditions. DHCD is authorized to give priority for grants and loans administered by the Department to a locality that has adopted such an ordinance.

[HB 655](#) (Maldonado) and [SB 346](#) (VanValkenburg) **Zoning; manufactured housing.** Amend 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. Localities shall not adopt or enforce any zoning, land use, or development regulation that treats manufactured homes differently or more restrictively than a single-family site-built dwelling allowed in the same zoning district.

[HB 711](#) (Herring) and [SB 347](#) (VanValkenburg) **Local regulation of solar facilities; special exceptions.** Provide that a ground-mounted, solar energy generation facility to be located on property zoned agricultural, commercial, or industrial, shall be considered pursuant to various criteria to be included in a local ordinance.

[HB 833](#) (McClure) **Land subdivision and development; optional provisions of a subdivision ordinance; electric vehicle charging stations; Department of Energy; report.** 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 for a development containing commercial, industrial, or multifamily residential uses.

[HB 876](#) (Shin) **Zoning; wireless facilities; temporary support structures.** Requires a locality to include in its zoning ordinance provisions that allow for the use of temporary support structures that meet certain requirements. Structures less than 80 feet tall, on wheels and erected for less than 30 days shall not be required to obtain a building permit; however, a building permit shall be required for taller structures erected for 30 days or more.

[HB 888](#) (Shin) **Minimum off-street parking requirements in certain areas.** Changes how local governments can restrict off-street parking for residential and mixed-use developments, including capping parking requirements in designated areas near mass transit.

[HB 891](#) (Shin) and [SB 443](#) (McPike) **Siting of battery energy storage projects; commercial solar photovoltaic generation facilities; permitted accessory use.** Make utility-scale battery energy storage systems a by-right use on any parcel previously approved for utility-scale solar and that is subject to an approved special use permit.

[HB 1212](#) (Sewell) **Small lot residential zoning districts.** 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 1234](#) (Sewell) and [SB 26](#) (Carroll Foy) **Land development; solar canopies in parking areas.** Allow localities to include in their land development ordinances a provision that requires an applicant to install a solar canopy over designated surface parking areas; the bills apply only to nonresidential parking areas with 100 or more new off-street, contiguous parking spaces and may require coverage of up to half of the surface parking area. The bills have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.

[HB 1463](#) (Thomas) **Zoning; nonconforming uses; manufactured homes.** Provides that a land owner or homeowner 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.

[SB 531](#) (Srinivasan) **Zoning; development and use of accessory dwelling units.** Requires a locality to include accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as a permitted accessory use in its zoning ordinances for single-family residential zoning districts. The bill takes effect July 1, 2027, and does not apply to any locality that adopted an ADU ordinance prior to January 1, 2026.

Local Government

[HB 5](#) (Convirs-Fowler) and [SB 199](#) (Favola) **Employment; paid sick leave; civil penalties; civil actions.** Require 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 bills require regulations for the implementation and enforcement of their provisions to be promulgated by July 1, 2027.

[HB 198](#) (Thomas) **Local governing body; review of decision by board of zoning appeals; procedures for filing petition.** Makes various changes and clarifications to certain procedures following the filing of a petition in a circuit court by a party aggrieved by a decision of a Board of Zoning Appeals.

[HB 388](#) (Callsen) and [SB 89](#) (Salim) **Powers of service districts; control of invasive plant species.** Allow 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 395](#) (Krizek) and [SB 250](#) (Surovell) **Electric utilities; small portable solar generation devices; local regulation; installation by tenants; consumer protection.** Govern the operation a small portable solar generation device and provide that localities cannot prohibit them.

[HB 505](#) (McAuliff) and [SB 648](#) (Perry) **Local government; certain towns; suspension of officers, study, remedial plan, and meeting requirements.** Provide that a member of a governing body in any locality, who has been employed by that agency 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 two years after terminating such employment. The bills took effect April 22.

[HB 549](#) (Hope) and [SB 589](#) (Salim) **Conservation and replacement of trees during development process; work group; report.** Expand certain existing local government authority to plant or replace trees during the development process by expanding such authority statewide.

[HB 802](#) (Carr) **Vacant building registration; registered agents.** 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 895](#) (Sullivan) and [SB 448](#) (Bagby) **Electric utilities; energy storage resources; Department of Energy to develop model ordinances; State Corporation Commission to conduct technology demonstration program.** Require, among other things, that the Department of Energy develop model ordinances for use by localities in regulating energy storage projects. The Department also shall make available online any resources developed by a work group to educate localities and others about energy storage.

[HB 1011](#) (Tran) and [SB 226](#) (Surovell) **Local competitive bidding for compost and other products containing organic soil amendments; waste disposal infrastructure; civil penalty.** Provide that localities may, by ordinance, require that certain generators separate

organic waste from other solid waste and ensure that such organic waste is diverted from final disposal in a refuse disposal system.

HB 1144 (Martinez) **Water and sewer connection fees; first-time homebuyers; affordable housing.** Provides that any locality may provide a full or partial reimbursement to a first-time homebuyer of water and sewer connection fees, capital recovery charges, and availability fees, and may waive such fees and charges under an affordable dwelling unit ordinance it has adopted.

HB 1150 (Hodges) **Impersonating any local, town, city, or county elected official; penalty.** Establishes a penalty for falsely assuming the role of, pretending to be, or impersonating any local, town, city, or county elected official.

HB 1404 (Guzman) **Appointment of youth representative to local governing body.** Allows a local governing body to appoint a youth representative to serve as a nonvoting member of the governing body.

SB 504 (Deeds) **Vested rights; rulings or orders of the local circuit court.** Redefines vested rights in certain situations by adding a rule that when a court order concerning the rezoning of more than 25 residential parcels would affect the rights of a landowner, the landowner's rights remain vested, so long as it is pursuing a project in a manner that otherwise establishes that the owner's rights are vested.

Public Safety

HB 994 (Seibold) **Photo speed monitoring devices; placement and operation.** Implements certain guardrails and reporting requirements for photo speed monitoring device program. **HB 1220** (Delaney) is a bill that only has the guardrails and reporting requirements for photo speed monitoring device programs. **SB 84** (Williams Graves) also contains the same guardrails, but also adds stop sign and pedestrian crossing enforcement into the camera provisions.

SB 219 (Jones) **Photo speed monitoring devices; placement and operation; summons.** Requires a second notice to be issued for speed violations issued under a photo speed enforcement program; requires that DMV place a hold on any new vehicle registration, renewal or issuance of license plates until the penalty is paid.

SB221 (Jones) **School crossing zones; active times.** Allows localities to increase duration of School Zone monitoring from 30 to 60 minutes.

SB436 (Bagby) **Photo speed monitoring devices; highway work zones; workers present.** Limits use of photo speed monitoring in work zones to when workers are present as affirmed by the photo speed monitoring device operator.

Transportation

HB 200 (McQuinn) **Certain transit entities; funding and administration.** 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.

HB 411 (Reid) and **SB 716** (Roem) **Commissioner of Highways; certain agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation; National Environmental Policy Act.** Authorize the Commissioner of Highways to enter into agreements for a term of five years with the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct environmental reviews on transportation projects.

[HB 547](#) (Helmer) and [SB 731](#) (Salim) **Private companies providing public transportation services; employee protections; report.** Require the governing body of any county or city that contracts with a private company to provide transportation services to (i) require such company to provide pay and benefits comparable to that of a public employee with a position requiring equivalent qualifications and years of service. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is charged with convening a work group to develop recommendations on how to implement the bill, which would apply only to acts taken after the effective date. The bills contain a reenactment clause, requiring it to be reenacted by the General Assembly in 2027 in order to take effect.

[HB 564](#) (Reid) and [SB 583](#) (Salim) **Parking, stopping, and standing enforcement; bus obstruction monitoring systems.** 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 or other specific vehicles during posted times.

[SB 832](#) (Srinivasan) **Department of Transportation; criteria and recommendations for the potential designation of vulnerable road user safety zones; report.** Requires VDOT to develop criteria and recommendations for the potential designation of vulnerable road user safety zones in areas that have experienced elevated rates of crashes, injuries, or fatalities involving pedestrians or cyclists. A report is due by November 1.

Miscellaneous

[HB 41](#) (Simon) **Elections; administration; procedures for removal of electoral board members and general registrars.** Allows the State Board of Elections to remove any member of an electoral board or a general registrar, under certain conditions, by a recorded two-thirds majority vote of all its members after a public hearing on related matters.

[HB 590](#) (Hernandez) and [SB 382](#) (Surovell) **Smart Solar Permitting Platform established; residential solar energy systems; work group; report.** Create the Smart Solar Permitting Platform for contractors to use to obtain permits for construction of certain residential solar energy systems and for localities to process applications for such permits. By July 1, 2028, a locality shall allow applications to be submitted for construction of a residential solar energy system, either through the platform or through an alternate automated platform. The Department of Energy shall convene a work group to determine the appropriateness of adding a surcharge to local government permitting fees to defray state costs for the platform.

[HB 630](#) (Callsen) and [SB 176](#) (VanValkenburg) **Elections; conduct of election; ranked choice voting; locally elected offices; report.** Expand the option to use ranked choice voting from only elections for county boards of supervisors and city councils to any local governing body. The Department of Elections is directed to review the testing and approval framework for voting equipment in the state.

[HB 862](#) (Cousins) and [SB 391](#) (Stuart) **Commission on the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP).** Restructure the governance structure and responsibilities of the VASAP Commission and expand its oversight authority over local alcohol safety action programs. Provisions of the bills related to a fiscal agent locality have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2028. The Commission also is directed to convene a work group to review the sustainability of the structure and funding model for VASAP.

[HB 967](#) (Price) **Elections; Voting Rights Act of Virginia.** Revises various provisions of the Voting Rights Act of Virginia related to various voter suppression and vote dilution provisions.

HB 1076 (Laufer) and **SB 527** (Deeds) **Pharmaceutical Substance Manufacturing Grant Fund.** Establish 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 in Albemarle County.

HB 1151 (Willett) and **SB 423** (Perry) **Electric utilities; delay in provision of service permitted.** Stipulate that a distributor of electric energy may delay 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. The bills take effect July 1, 2027.

HB 1491 (Singh) **Electric utilities; construction of certain electrical transmission lines; siting requirements.** Requires the State Corporation Commission, in order to approve construction of an electrical transmission line of 138 kilovolts or more, to determine that the corridor or route chosen for the line will avoid or reasonably minimize adverse impact to the greatest extent reasonably practicable on dwelling houses.

SB 87 (Stanley) **Local government sporting events and sporting facilities; automated external defibrillators.** 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 438 (Bagby) **Absentee voting in person; available the second and third Sunday before all elections.** Requires absentee voting in person to be made available for a minimum of five hours between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the second and third Sunday immediately preceding all elections.

FOIA/COIA:

HB 346 (McLaughlin) **Virginia Freedom of Information Act; exclusions to application of chapter; public utility account numbers.** Excludes account numbers of individuals or public bodies for an account with a public utility from mandatory disclosure under FOIA.

SB 530 (Srinivasan) **State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; electronic disclosure by local government officers and employees.** Requires local government officers and employees to file annual disclosure statements electronically with the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council. Electronic filing shall be available January 1, but shall be required for localities with populations in excess of 100,000 but not more than 250,000, beginning January 1, 2029; and for localities with populations not exceeding 100,000, beginning January 1, 2030.

HB 699 (Ebbin) **Virginia Freedom of Information Act; public bodies to post meeting agendas.** Requires public bodies to post the proposed agenda for a meeting 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 items added to an agenda after a meeting commences, unless the matter is time-sensitive or is the subject of a closed meeting.

Procurement:

HB 1046 (Carr) and **SB 324** (McPike) **Virginia Public Procurement Act; additional public works contract requirements; report.** Provide that public bodies shall require, effective July 1,

2027, the contractor and its subcontractors for construction contracts to complete certain safety training programs and to maintain records of compliance with applicable laws.

SB 575 (Reeves) **Virginia Public Procurement Act; joint and cooperative procurement; construction exception.** 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.

STUDIES AND RESOLUTIONS

HB 196 (Thomas), **HB 820** (Helmer), and **SB 490** (VanValkenburg) **Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); loans for the construction of mixed income housing; report.** Direct DHCD and Virginia Housing to create a two-year pilot program that would provide loan origination and servicing activities for mixed income housing.

HB 319 (Hernandez) and **SB 658** (Rouse) **Secretary of Administration; work group on automatic voter registration.** Direct the Department of Elections to convene a work group to examine the implementation of back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration in Virginia.

HB 527 (McClure) and **SB 628** (Locke) **Department of Housing and Community Development; Eviction Reduction Program; report.** Establish the Eviction Reduction Program within the DHCD to expand its work to promote housing stability, identify factors that contribute to eviction filings, and provide interventions to prevent or divert evictions.

HB 735 (Leftwich) and **SB 132** (New Craig) **Board of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code; temporary tents used for agritourism purposes.** Direct the Board of Housing and Community Development to review Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code regulations and consider amending them to allow temporary tents used for agritourism purposes to remain in place for up to 12 months on a single site.

HB 889 (Shin) and **SB 497** (Perry) **Policy of the Commonwealth; siting of certain new electric transmission facilities; Department of Transportation work group; report.** Provide that in the siting of new electric transmission facilities, it is the policy of the Commonwealth that existing infrastructure corridors be prioritized over new corridors; the bill directs the Department of Transportation to convene a work group to develop recommendations for amending regulations and permitting processes to facilitate siting of new electrical transmission infrastructure in existing state highway rights-of-way.

SB 519 (Deeds) **Department of Conservation and Recreation; permanent land conservation feasibility; report.** Directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to assess how to achieve permanent conservation by 2036 of (i) 20% of the land area of the state, and (ii) 10% of urban areas of the state.

SB 719 (Marsden) **Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry; Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan; report.** 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, to be focused on economic prosperity, diversification, and growth of the agriculture and forestry industries.

SJ 23 (Aird) **Study; JLARC; creation of Secretariat of Rural Affairs; report.** 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.

HB 963 (Price) and **SB 6** (Locke) **Constitutional amendment (voter referendum); qualifications of voters; right to vote; persons not entitled to vote.** Provides for a referendum at the November 3, 2026, general election to approve or reject an amendment that would provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during the period of incarceration, but is automatically invested with the right to vote upon release from incarceration.