

2018 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**

Genevieve Keller, *Chair*
Chip Boyles, *Executive Director*
David Blount, *Legislative Liaison*

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OVERVIEW

The 2018 General Assembly adjourned March 10, but with an agreement on a new state spending plan for FY19 and FY20 remaining elusive, the legislature convened in a special session on April 11. At this writing, there still is no approved budget for the next biennium, due to House and Senate leaders remaining deadlocked over closing the health care coverage gap. Thus, this summary highlights only actions taken on legislative bills during the regular legislative session. Please note that bills with a (*) await final action by the governor.

APPROVED LEGISLATION

Following are highlights of approved legislation in the areas of environment, finance, human services, land use, local government, public safety and transportation. Bills take effect July 1, unless otherwise noted. Approved studies and resolutions also are listed.

Environment

HB 192 (*Yancey*) directs the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt regulations regarding the use of gray water and rainwater, to include providing standards for the use of rainwater harvesting systems. The bill also directs the Department to consider recognizing rainwater as an independent source of fresh water.

HB 358 (*Bulova*) requires developers of subdivisions, located in designated ground water management areas and in which 30 or more lots are to be served by private wells, to apply for a nonbinding technical evaluation by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prior to final subdivision plat approval.

HB 494 (*Hodges*) authorizes any locality within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to adopt an ordinance providing for the planting and replacement of trees during the development process.

HB 887 (*Orrock*) provides that the adjustment or replacement of sewer lines, conveyance lines, distribution boxes or header lines is considered maintenance, unless otherwise provided by local ordinance, of an onsite sewage system, and thus does not require a state permit; under current law, adjustment and replacement of such equipment requires the system owner to obtain a permit.

HB 888 (*Orrock*) directs the DOH to take steps to eliminate evaluation and design services for onsite sewage systems and private wells provided by the Department, such that by July 1, 2023, it provides such services only in hardship cases.

HB 925 (*Bulova*) authorizes any locality that owns or operates a permitted municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) to adopt and administer an industrial and high-risk runoff program.

HB 1241 (*Hugo*) prohibits any locality from banning car-washing fundraisers that use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners; it also provides that any permit issued pursuant to the state water control law not prohibit the discharge of washwater from such activities from an MS4.

HB 1475 (*Poindexter*) and **SB 344** (*Peake*) direct the State Water Control Board (SWCB) not to adopt certain Environmental Protection Agency freshwater ammonia water quality criteria unless it includes a phased implementation program that includes consideration of local infrastructure needs and several other factors. The bill also directs the DEQ to identify and report on 1) any other states that have adopted such criteria; and 2) procedures for implementing the criteria that

will minimize the impact of such implementation on sewerage systems while complying with the Clean Water Act.

HB 1608 (*Poindexter*) and **SB 340** (*Peake*) authorize the DEQ to disburse funds from the Water Quality Improvement Fund for technologies to reduce nutrient loads of total phosphorus, total nitrogen or nitrogen-containing ammonia, in order to meet certain requirements of ammonia-related regulations that are more stringent than those adopted by the SWCB.

SB 211 (*Stuart*) authorizes a locality to show in its comprehensive plan the locality's long-range recommendations for groundwater and surface water availability, quality and sustainability. The bill requires the local planning commission to survey and study such groundwater and surface water issues when preparing a comprehensive plan.

SB 741 (*Ruff*) requires a Virginia Stormwater Management Program authority to recommend that the DEQ terminate coverage under a general permit for stormwater discharge from construction activities within 60 days of receiving a complete notice of termination from the operator of the construction activity.

Finance

HB 119 (*Thomas*) creates a separate class of a wholesaler's merchants' capital reported as inventory that is located, and normally located, in a structure that contains at least 100,000 square feet, with at least 100,000 square feet used solely to store such inventory; localities are authorized to levy a tax on this inventory at a lower rate than is levied on other merchants' capital.

HB 154 (*Ware*) and **SB 230** (*Hanger*) advance conformity of Virginia's tax code with the federal tax code to February 9, 2018, related to provisions creating an incentive for taxpayers to make contributions to hurricane relief efforts, and to provisions of Public Law 115-123, known as the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018," that affect taxable year 2017. The bills took effect in late February.

HB 190 (*Hope*) provides that applications for relief from real property assessments sent electronically to boards of equalization are deemed received on the date applicants send such application.

HB 495 (*Hodges*) authorizes local finance officials to disclose tax information to nongovernment entities with which their locality has contracted to provide services that assist the locality in processing refunds or in conducting other non-audit, tax administration services.

HB 591 (*Carr*) exempts from real property taxation leasehold interests in property acquired or used by a land bank entity.

HB 763 (*Jones*) creates a Revenue Reserve Fund to be used to offset shortfalls in the budget of two percent or less of general fund revenues collected. A deposit to the Fund may be required whenever there is a fiscal year in which general fund revenues do not result in a mandatory deposit to the Revenue Stabilization Fund.

HB 828 (*Bagby*) and **SB 268** (*Dunnivant*) create as a separate class of tangible personal property, for valuation purposes, for computer equipment and peripherals used in a data center, which shall be valued by means of a percentage of original cost or by any other method that reasonably may be expected to determine fair market value.

HB 871 (*Orrock*) makes several changes to the land use valuation program as follows: 1) expands the definitions of “real estate devoted to agricultural use” and “real estate devoted to horticultural use” to include property devoted to the production of products made from plants, animals, fruits, vegetables and nursery products on such property; 2) clarifies that a property not lose its use value designation solely because of its location in a newly created zoning district not requested by the property owner; 3) provides that the minimum time a parcel must be used for a qualifying purpose would include the time similar property was leased by the owner, in order to provide a shorter time for property with no prior qualifying use to qualify; and 4) allows a locality to require revalidation of the special classification at least every six years.

HB 894 (*Webert*) clarifies that the tax exemption by designation or classification for real or personal property, or both, owned by a nonprofit organization, includes property owned by a single member limited liability company whose sole member is a nonprofit organization.

HB 1022 (*Adams*) and **SB 314** (*Ruff*) clarify the definition of “agricultural products” for local property tax purposes to mean any livestock, aquaculture, poultry, horticultural, floricultural, viticulture, silvicultural, or other farm crops.

HB 1427 (*Kilgore*) and **SB 823** (*McDougle*) limit the fees that the State may charge for towers located in public rights-of-way.

HB 1495 (*Orrock*) would allow for an extension of the term for a board of equalization appointed by a circuit court; under current law, a board’s term expires one year after the effective date of the assessment for which it was appointed.

SB 902 (*Lucas*) alter the treatment of solar facilities for tax purposes, to stipulate a mandatory 80% local property tax exemption at facilities greater than 20 MW for which an initial interconnection request form has been filed before June 30, 2018. A 150 MW cap on the mandatory exemption would kick in for filings July 1 and after.

Human Services

HB 1017 (*Toscano*) and **SB 682** (*Deeds*) exempt from licensure any child day program that is offered by a local school division, staffed by local school division employees, and attended by children who are at least four years of age and enrolled in public school or a preschool program within such school division. Further, **SB 539** (*Hanger*) contains the same language, as well as additional provisions to exempt from licensure recreational activities offered by local governments, staffed by local government employees, and attended by school-age children. These programs will be subject to safety and supervisory standards established by the school board or local government offering the program. SB 539 takes effect July 1, 2019.

Land Use

HB 508 (*Hodges*) and **SB 429** (*Stanley*) allow roof and ground mounted solar facilities on residential, agriculture, commercial, industrial or mixed use property, provided they comply with any height and setback requirements in the zoning district and with any local historic, architectural preservation, or corridor protection district provisions. The provisions concerning ground-mounted solar energy facilities become effective on January 1, 2019; however, such facilities existing as of January 1, 2018, shall be deemed a legally existing, nonconforming use.

HB 509 (*Hodges*) and **SB 179** (*Stanley*) provide that a solar facility subject to being substantially in accord with a locality’s comprehensive plan, shall be deemed to be so, provided 1) such proposed solar facility is located in a zoning district that allows such solar facilities by right, or 2)

such facility is designed to serve the electricity or thermal needs of the property upon which such facility is located, or will be owned or operated by certain customer-generators.

HB 709 (*J. Bell*) increases the maximum fine for failure to correct a zoning violation, upon a second, subsequent failure to correct, from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

HB 796 (*Hope*) requires the granting of a variance for a reasonable modification to a property if it is shown such action would alleviate a hardship on a person with a disability; such modification may expire when the person benefited no longer is in need of the modification provided by the variance.

HB 1258 (*Kilgore*) and **SB 405** (*McDougle*) establish parameters regarding applications for zoning approvals for certain wireless support structures, including that those 50 feet or less and for the co-location on an existing structure of a wireless facility that is not a small cell facility, are exempt from local special exception, special use or variance requirements. A locality, however, may require administrative review for the issuance of any zoning permits or an acknowledgement that zoning approval is not required for such projects. The measures also require that wireless service providers annually, between January 1, 2019, and January 1, 2025, provide to the State a report detailing, by locality, enhanced service capacity in previously-served areas and expansion of service in previously-unserved geographic areas that are provided access to wireless service. Finally, the bills direct the Secretariats of Commerce and Trade and Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a group of stakeholders to develop a plan for expanding access to wireless services in unserved and underserved areas.

SB 993 (*Reeves*) prohibits localities from requiring pre-submission meetings for applicants submitting proposed plats or site plans to the locality.

Local Government

HB 161 (*Cole*) adds general government facilities to the types of facilities that may be constructed pursuant to the power granted to service districts.

HB 164 (*Yancey*) and **SB 529** (*Mason*) remove the requirement for an affidavit supporting a building permit applicant's written statement that he is not subject to licensure or certification as a contractor or subcontractor; only a written statement is required.

HB 220 (*Morefield*) and **SB 371** (*Chafin*) authorize a locality or park authority to establish, conduct and regulate a system of boating, canoeing, kayaking or tubing activities on waterways, and to exercise certain related powers.

HB 594 (*Carr*) and **SB 451** (*Dance*) authorize localities to enact an ordinance that requires corrective action to address criminal blight conditions on certain real property.

HB 609 (*Carr*) and **SB 391** (*Barker*) create a statewide standard for installing and maintaining smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in rental property; localities with a fire and carbon monoxide alarm ordinance must conform such ordinances with the new standards by July 1, 2019.

HB 640 (*Boysko*) provides that a locality's comprehensive plan shall consider strategies to provide broadband infrastructure sufficient to meet current and future needs of residents and businesses in the locality.

HB 859 (*Peace*) allows a locality to enter into an agreement with another locality to provide technical assistance with administration and enforcement of the Building Code.

HB 865 (*Orrock*) authorizes local governing bodies to adopt an ordinance requiring any pet shop selling dogs procured from outside Virginia to furnish a bond; the bill also authorizes localities to reduce or waive the bond requirement at its discretion.

HB 922 (*Bulova*) and **SB 908** (*McClellan*) authorize a locality to locate and operate a retail fee-based electric vehicle charging station on property it owns or leases. Such locality may provide that the use of the station is restricted to locality employees and authorized visitors, and may install signage that provides notice of such restriction.

HB 1148 (*Landes*) provides that all economic growth-sharing agreements have an annual report from each locality that is a recipient of funds as to the amount of funds transferred and the uses of such funds. Further, it requires parties to such an agreement that is at least 10 years to convene an annual meeting to discuss anticipated future plans for economic growth in the localities.

HB 1179 (*Pillion*) and **SB 448** (*Chafin*) allow localities to establish abandoned school revitalization zones to provide incentives to private entities to purchase or develop real property or to assemble parcels suitable for economic development that include an abandoned school site.

HB 1390 (*Aird*) authorizes counties to enact ordinances providing that bonds shall be repaid from food and beverage tax revenues, and that if a county enacts such an ordinance, the referendum submitted to the voters shall include, as a single question, the issuance of bonds and the enactment of a food and beverage tax; currently, the bond issuance and tax enactment questions are submitted as separate ballot questions.

HB 1546 (*R.B. Bell*) provides that the removal of any county courthouse, whether located on county or city property, that is entirely surrounded by a city, must meet certain petition and referendum requirements for removal or relocation. Meanwhile, **SB 538** (*Hanger*) provides that expansion of a courthouse to contiguous land within the same county or city shall not trigger a referendum requirement; existing law refers only to relocation within the same county.

***HB 1595** (*Wilt*) and ***SB 972** (*Obenshain*) provide that a property owner shall not be required to retrofit existing landscape cover materials (such as mulch, wood chips or rock) and shall not be prohibited from continuing to use, supplement or refurbish such materials at his property.

SB 14 (*Peterson*) removes the requirement that in an action against a county supervisor, officer, employee or agent, each member of the county board be served; instead, only the county attorney and the defendant need to be served.

SB 108 (*Lucas*) provides that an order of publication for the enforcement of a lien for taxes owed on real property valued at \$50,000 or less need be published only once; under current law, such order must be published at least once a week for two successive weeks.

SB 149 (*Edwards*) authorizes any locality to designate reasonable “no-smoking” areas within an outdoor amphitheater or concert venue owned by the locality. The bill contains a reenactment clause requiring it to be approved by the 2019 General Assembly to become effective.

SB 399 (*Lewis*) authorizes any county or city, or combination thereof, to establish a local or regional overdose fatality review team for a variety of purposes, including to review the death of any resident whose death was or is suspected to be due to overdose.

SB 474 (*Reeves*) authorizes localities to retain officers of election as independent contractors.

Public Safety

HB 364 (*Rush*) authorizes deputy sheriffs and jail officers employed by a local correctional facility to execute temporary detention orders issued for inmates of the facility.

HB 996 (*Gilbert*) and **SB 783** (*Peake*) require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to annually review each pretrial services agency to determine compliance with its biennial plan and operating standards.

HB 1163 (*Ingram*) allows fire departments, pursuant to a locally-adopted ordinance, to require applicants for employment to submit to fingerprinting for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information regarding such applicant.

HB 1388 (*Leftwich*) and **SB 513** (*Sutterlein*) establish requirements for the implementation of next generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) service, directing the 9-1-1 Services Board, by July 1, 2023, to develop and implement NG9-1-1 transition plans to migrate public service answering points and originating service providers from E-911 to NG9-1-1. The bills also change the formula and criteria for the distribution of funds from the Wireless E-911 Fund so that 40% of such funds are distributed to public safety answering points (PSAPs) based on grant requests.

HB 1412 (*Helsel*) and **SB 670** (*Deeds*) require fire departments and emergency medical services agencies to develop curricula for mental health awareness training for their personnel.

SB 418 (*Barker*) requires each PSAP, by July 1, 2020, to be able to receive and process calls for emergency assistance sent via text message; grant funding to offset any associated costs of this change will be available to localities through the 9-1-1 Services Board.

Transportation

HB 114 (*Webert*) authorizes, under certain conditions, the use of golf carts and utility vehicles to cross a one-lane or two-lane highway from one portion of a venue hosting an equine event to another portion.

HB 765 (*Jones*) makes a number of changes to transportation processes in the state, including the following: 1) It gives new oversight and coordination responsibilities to the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment; 2) it directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to commit funds from the State of Good Repair, High Priority Projects and Highway Construction District Grant programs only if the commitment is sufficient to complete a project; 3) it prohibits a member currently on a local governing body from serving on the CTB during his or her term of office; and 4) it makes several changes to the revenue-sharing program. This includes setting the Board's maximum equivalent matching allocation to any locality at \$5 million for use by a locality to improve, construct, maintain or reconstruct roads (the current maximum is \$10 million), and reducing the maximum amount that can be used for maintenance from \$5 million to \$2.5 million. Finally, the bill reduces the maximum amount of revenue-sharing funds available in any given fiscal year from \$200 million to \$100 million.

HB 1276 (*Garrett*) and **SB 504** (*Carrico*) direct the Department of Transportation (VDOT) to convene a work group to identify the implications of state participation in a federal data collection pilot program or project involving six-axle tractor truck semitrailer combinations weighing up to 91,000 pounds and utilizing interstate highways.

HB 1525 (*Yancey*) imposes a mandatory fine of \$250 for using a handheld personal communications device for reading emails or texting while operating a motor vehicle in a highway work zone when workers are present.

*[HB 1539](#) (*Hugo*) and *[SB 856](#) (*Saslaw*) primarily address funding allocations, oversight and reforms for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, but also include the following provisions: 1) The CTB is to establish a statewide prioritization processes to allocate transit capital funds from the Commonwealth Mass Transit (CMT) Fund. The process for “state of good repair” projects is to be based on transit asset management principles, while for major expansion projects, it is to be based on Smart Scale-type criteria. In developing the processes, the Board shall seek input from localities, MPOs, transit authorities, transportation authorities and stakeholders; 2) The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is to develop a process for distributing operating funds from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund (CMT) and the incorporation by transit systems of service delivery factors set forth in their transit development plans. The bills also call for DRPT to establish guidelines for the development of strategic plans for transit agencies that serve an urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more, and have a fleet consisting of at least 20 buses. To receive Commonwealth Mass Transit Funds, such agency shall develop a strategic plan and update it at least every five years.

Miscellaneous

[HB 228](#) (*Cole*) clarifies, in the Virginia Public Records Act, that a public record may be retained in an electronic medium, provided that it remains accessible for the duration of its retention schedule and meets all other requirements of the Act.

[HB 360](#) (*Toscano*) adds the Daughters of Zion Cemetery in Charlottesville to the list of those cemeteries for which qualified charitable organizations may receive funds from the Department of Historic Resources for the care of historical African American cemeteries and graves. [HB 284](#) (*McQuinn*) adds any locality or person that owns such a cemetery to the list of qualified organizations able to receive the funding; it also allows any locality to receive and hold such funds on behalf the organization until such time as it can receive or utilize the funds.

[HB 453](#) (*Yancey*) requires airport boards or authorities that receive funding from the Department of Aviation or Virginia Aviation Board to keep records and submit a public report regarding the receipt and disbursement of such funds.

[HB 489](#) (*Hurst*) clarifies that in localities that have an agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the DMV Commissioner to refuse to issue or renew vehicle registrations for persons with certain delinquent taxes or fees, an applicant may be issued an initial 90-day registration for a vehicle purchased after enforcement action has begun, allowing the applicant time to satisfy all requirements.

[HB 552](#) (*Freitas*) exempts from the definition of "restaurant" and from licensure as a restaurant, any bed-and-breakfast operation that prepares food for and offers food to guests, under certain conditions.

[HB 554](#) (*Freitas*) permits operators of bed and breakfast establishments to sell or offer for sale transportation for compensation to its guests.

[HB 590](#) (*Carr*) requires real estate assessors to consider several factors when determining the fair market value of structural improvements conveyed by a community land trust. When determining the fair market value of such real property owned by a community land trust in perpetuity, assessors must utilize the income approach; under current law, land owned by a community land trust is treated differently for landlord-tenant law purposes, but not for real property tax purposes.

[HB 690](#) (*Simon*) and [SB 556](#) (*Mason*) exempt counties and cities with a population of 25,000 or less from the requirement that a person appointed to serve as a general registrar must be a qualified voter of the county or city for which he is appointed.

[HB 767](#) (*Jones*) and [SB 972](#) (*Obenshain*) prohibit localities from creating, dividing, abolishing or consolidating any precincts, or otherwise changing precinct boundaries, between February 1, 2019, and May 15, 2021, except in certain circumstances.

[HB 883](#) (*Webert*) and [SB 20](#) (*Chase*) authorize a three-year regulatory reduction pilot program, beginning July 1, 2018, and ending July 1, 2021, in the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation and the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

[HB 1277](#) (*Garrett*) and [SB 580](#) (*Hanger*) amend the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act to facilitate the sharing of data among state agencies and between such agencies and political subdivisions. In addition, SB 580 creates the position of Chief Data Officer (CDO) in the office of the Secretary of Administration to develop guidelines regarding data usage, storage and privacy, and to coordinate and oversee data sharing. Further, it directs the CDO to focus initial efforts on developing a project for state, regional and local sharing and analysis of data related to substance abuse, with a focus on opioid addiction, abuse and overdose.

[HB 1328](#) (*Edmunds*) exempts certain physically-disabled hunters from any local ordinance requiring hunting from an elevated platform or tree stand.

Broadband:

[HB 901](#) (*Freitas*) directs VDOT to develop and submit for approval to the Federal Highway Administration an expedited land use permit process by which public or private utility companies that offer high speed internet services can apply to use any right-of-way of the Department.

[HB 999](#) (*Byron*) and [SB 991](#) (*Edwards*) extend the work of the Governor's Broadband Advisory Council for one additional year.

[HB 1583](#) (*Byron*) establishes the position of Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor within the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, to serve as Virginia's single point of contact and integration for broadband issues, efforts and initiatives.

Freedom of Information:

[HB 683](#) (*Pogge*) and [SB 921](#) (*Ebbin*) clarify that while information contained in engineering and construction drawings and plans for any single-family residential dwelling submitted for the purpose of complying with the statewide building or fire prevention codes shall not be subject to disclosure to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), such information shall not be deemed confidential.

[HB 906](#) (*Robinson*) clarifies the definition of electronic communication in FOIA by amending it to mean the use of technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities to transmit or receive information.

[HB 907](#) (*Robinson*) consolidates existing provisions concerning public meetings conducted by electronic communication means; it adds a provision stipulating that the remote location of participation by a public body member when the member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter, a disability or lengthy distance, need not be open to the public.

HB 909 (*Robinson*) clarifies that discretionary exemptions pertaining to law-enforcement and criminal records may be used by any public body. The bill also restricts the application of the discretionary exemption for certain portions of noncriminal incident or other noncriminal investigative reports or materials.

Procurement:

HB 97 (*J. Bell*) increases, from \$60,000 to \$80,000, the maximum permissible aggregate or sum of all phases of single or term contracts for professional services that may be procured without requiring competitive negotiation; and also increases the maximum sum of architectural or professional engineering services contracts performed in a one-year contract term, for localities with populations of 78,000 or less, from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

HB 134 (*J. Bell*) and **SB 125** (*Black*) increase the minimum project cost requiring the use of value engineering from \$5 million to \$15 million; the bill exempts projects utilizing a design-build contract or the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 from value engineering requirements.

HB 398 (*Davis*) reinserts a July 1, 2021, expiration date on provisions adopted last year to authorize a locality to waive bid bonds and performance and payment bonds for certain non-transportation construction contracts, without having to undertake a prequalification process for bidders with a current Class A contractor license. The sunset clause had been approved by the legislature last year, but it was dropped upon final adoption.

HB 574 (*Hodges*) and **SB 688** (*Ruff*) exclude the purchase of stream restoration and stormwater management practices, and all related construction and maintenance, from the prohibition on using cooperative procurement to purchase construction.

HB 760 (*Landes*) requires public bodies to solicit at least three bidders or offerors, if practicable, and include a written statement regarding the basis for awarding the contract, when purchasing Virginia-grown food products under the current Procurement Act exemption (annual cost not expected to exceed \$100,000 annually).

Unmanned Aircraft:

***HB 638** (*Collins*) and ***SB 526** (*Obenshain*) enact new trespass penalties related to the operation of unmanned aircraft, but also continue provisions that prohibit localities from regulating the use of such privately owned aircraft within its boundaries (which had been due to expire next year).

HB 1482 (*Thomas*) and **SB 508** (*Carrico*) authorize use of an unmanned aircraft system without a warrant by law-enforcement to survey the scene of an accident for the purpose of crash reconstruction and recording photographic or video images of the scene. **SB 186** (*Black*) authorizes a local government department or agency having jurisdiction over law enforcement or regulatory violations to utilize such system without a search warrant when used to support any locality for a purpose other than law enforcement.

SB 307 (*Cosgrove*) directs the Department of Aviation to convene a work group of stakeholders to explore issues related to unmanned aircraft system activities in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration and other responsible federal agencies.

Local Legislative Initiatives

The General Assembly approved a handful of measures submitted at the specific request of TJPDC localities:

[HB 775](#) (*Landes*) and [SB 684](#) (*Deeds*) authorize any county outside of Planning District 8 that has adopted the county executive form of government (currently, only Albemarle County) to enact an ordinance requiring the removal of snow and ice from public sidewalks.

[HB 776](#) (*Landes*) and [SB 679](#) (*Deeds*) add Albemarle County to the list of counties that may, by ordinance, regulate parking on secondary highways.

[SB 677](#) (*Deeds*) authorizes a member of a governing body of a locality to be elected or appointed by that governing body to be a member of a local convention, visitors or tourism board, authority or agency.

[HJ 531](#) (*Toscano*) commends the TJPDC and its member localities for their numerous, ongoing efforts to bring broadband internet to their residents.

STUDIES AND RESOLUTIONS

[HJ 6](#) (*Miyares*) and [SJ 76](#) (*Stuart*) are proposed Constitutional amendments that provide that the real property tax exemption for the principal residence of the surviving spouse of a disabled military veteran applies if the spouse moves to a different residence. The question posed by the resolutions will be before voters at this coming November's elections. [HB 71](#) and [SB 900](#) are the companion bills that provide direction for the ballot referendum.

[HJ 59](#) (*Head*) designates the Thursday before Memorial Day, in 2019 and in each succeeding year, as Celebrate Transportation Day.

[HJ 77](#) (*Boysko*) directs the Secretary of the Commerce and Trade to request the Center for Innovative Technology to study the feasibility of a statewide "dig once" policy.

[HJ 98](#) (*Byron*) requests the Department of Taxation to study and make recommendations on the appeals process for valuation of real and personal property of businesses. A report is due by December, 2019.

[SJ 19](#) (*Locke*) continues the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding for two additional years, through the 2019 interim.

[SJ 21](#) (*Lewis*) is a proposed Constitutional amendment that provides that the General Assembly may authorize a county, city or town to partially exempt any real estate subject to recurring flooding upon which flooding abatement, mitigation or resiliency efforts have been undertaken. The question posed by the resolution will be before voters at this coming November's elections. [SB 219](#) is the companion bill that provides direction for the ballot referendum.

[SJ 75](#) (*Norment*) establishes a two-year joint subcommittee to study the current ethics laws in the Commonwealth.