



Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
Legislative Bills Discussion
December 18, 2019

PRINCIPLES (Consent)

Firearms

HB2 Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Kenneth R. Plum

Summary: Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks; penalty. Requires a background check for any firearm transfer and directs the Department of State Police (the Department) to establish a process for transferors to obtain such a check from licensed firearms dealers. A transferor who sells a firearm to another person without obtaining the required background check is guilty of a Class 6 felony. The bill also provides that a transferee who receives a firearm from another person without obtaining the required background check is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts transfers (i) between immediate family members; (ii) that occur by operation of law; (iii) by the executor or administrator of an estate or by the trustee of a testamentary trust; (iv) at firearms shows in accordance with law; (v) that are part of a buy-back or give-back program; (vi) of antique firearms; (vii) that occur at a shooting range, shooting gallery, or any other area designed for the purpose of target shooting, for use during target practice, a firearms safety or training course or class, a shooting competition, or any similar lawful activity; or (viii) that are temporary transfers that (a) occur within the continuous presence of the owner of the firearm or (b) are necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm. The bill removes the provision that makes background checks of prospective purchasers or transferees at firearms shows voluntary. The bill also provides that the Department shall have three business days to complete a criminal history record information check before a firearm may be transferred. The bill establishes an appropriation for the fiscal impact of the bill and authorizes the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget to allocate such appropriation among the agencies and programs impacted by the bill.

HB9 Firearms; reporting those lost or stolen, civil penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jeffrey M. Bourne

Summary: Reporting lost or stolen firearms; civil penalty. Requires that, if a firearm is lost or stolen from a person who lawfully possessed it, such person shall report the loss or theft of the firearm to any local law-enforcement agency or the Department of State Police within 24 hours after such person discovers the loss or theft or is informed by a person with personal knowledge of the loss or theft. The bill requires the relevant law-enforcement agency to enter the report information into the National Crime Information Center. A violation is punishable by a civil penalty of not more than \$250. The bill provides that a person who, in good faith, reports the loss or theft is immune from criminal or civil liability for acts or omissions that result from the loss or theft. The immunity does not apply to a person who knowingly gives a false report. The bill does not apply to the loss or theft of an antique firearm.

HB72 Children; allowing access to firearms by children. recklessly leaving loaded, unsecured firearm.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 5, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Kaye Kory

Summary: Allowing access to firearms by children; recklessly leaving loaded, unsecured firearm in manner that endangers child under 14; penalty. Increases from a Class 3 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony the penalty for recklessly leaving a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any person under the age of 14. The bill contains technical amendments.

SB12 Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard L. Saslaw

Summary: Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks; penalty. Requires a background check for any firearm transfer and requires the Department of State Police to establish a process for transferors of firearms to obtain such a check from licensed firearms dealers. A transferor who fails to obtain a required background check and sells the firearm to another person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts transfers (i) between immediate family members; (ii) that occur by operation of law; (iii) by the executor or administrator of an estate or by the trustee of a testamentary trust; (iv) at firearms shows in accordance with law; (v) that are part of a buyback or give-back program; (vi) of antique firearms; (vii) that occur at a shooting range, shooting gallery, or any other area designed for the purpose of target shooting or for use during target practice, a firearms safety or training course or class, a shooting competition, or any similar lawful activity; or (viii) that are temporary transfers that (a) occur within the continuous presence of the owner of the firearm or (b) are necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm. The bill removes the provision that makes background checks of prospective purchasers or transferees at firearms shows voluntary.

SB14 Trigger activators; prohibition, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard L. Saslaw

Summary: Trigger activators; prohibition; penalty. Prohibits the manufacture, importation, sale or offer to sell, possession, transfer, or transportation of a trigger activator, defined in the bill as (i) a device designed to be attached to a semi-automatic firearm, which allows the firearm to discharge two or more shots in a burst by activating the device, including a bump-fire device or a binary trigger, but does not convert the semi-automatic firearm into a machine gun or (ii) a manual or power-driven trigger activating device designed so that when attached to a semi-automatic firearm it increases the rate of fire of that firearm, including a trigger crank, but does not convert the semiautomatic firearm into a machine gun. A violation is punishable as a Class 6 felony.

SB22 Handguns; limitation on purchases, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard L. Saslaw

Summary: Purchase of handguns; limitation on handgun purchases; penalty. Prohibits any person who is not a licensed firearms dealer from purchasing more than one handgun in a 30-day period and establishes such an offense as a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts from this provision (i) persons who have been issued a certificate by the Department of State Police under certain circumstances and with an enhanced background check, (ii) law-enforcement agencies and officers, (iii) state and local correctional facilities, (iv) licensed private

security companies, (v) persons who hold a valid Virginia concealed handgun permit, (vi) persons whose handgun has been stolen or irretrievably lost or who are trading in a handgun, (vii) purchases of handguns in a private sale, and (viii) purchases of antique firearms.

SB69 Handguns; limitation on purchases, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 22, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mamie E. Locke

Summary: Purchase of handguns; limitation on handgun purchases; penalty. Prohibits any person who is not a licensed firearms dealer from purchasing more than one handgun in a 30-day period and establishes such an offense as a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts from this provision (i) persons who have been issued a certificate by the Department of State Police under certain circumstances and with an enhanced background check, (ii) law-enforcement agencies and officers, (iii) state and local correctional facilities, (iv) licensed private security companies, (v) persons who hold a valid Virginia concealed handgun permit, (vi) persons whose handgun has been stolen or irretrievably lost or who are trading in a handgun, (vii) purchases of handguns in a private sale, and (viii) purchases of antique firearms.

SB70 Firearm transfers; criminal history record information check, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 22, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: L. Louise Lucas

Summary: Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks; penalty. Requires a background check for any firearm transfer and directs the Department of State Police (the Department) to establish a process for transferors to obtain such a check from licensed firearms dealers. A transferor who sells a firearm to another person without obtaining the required background check is guilty of a Class 6 felony. The bill also provides that a transferee who receives a firearm from another person without obtaining the required background check is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts transfers (i) between immediate family members; (ii) that occur by operation of law; (iii) by the executor or administrator of an estate or by the trustee of a testamentary trust; (iv) at firearms shows in accordance with law; (v) that are part of a buy-back or give-back program; (vi) of antique firearms; (vii) that occur at a shooting range, shooting gallery, or any other area designed for the purpose of target shooting or for use during target practice, a firearms safety or training course or class, a shooting competition, or any similar lawful activity; or (viii) that are temporary transfers that (a) occur within the continuous presence of the owner of the firearm or (b) are necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm. The bill removes the provision that makes background checks of prospective purchasers or transferees at firearms shows voluntary. The bill also provides that the Department shall have three business days to complete a criminal history record information check before a firearm may be transferred.

SB71 Firearms; possession on school property.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 22, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: L. Louise Lucas

Summary: Firearms on school property. Adds public, private, or religious preschools and child day centers that are not operated at the residence of the provider or of any of the children to the list of schools where possessing

a firearm on school property or on a school bus is prohibited. Under current law, the list of such schools only includes public, private, or religious elementary, middle, or high schools.

SB75 Minors; allowing access to firearms, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 25, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Janet D. Howell

Summary: Allowing access to firearms by minors; penalty. Provides that any person who recklessly leaves a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any person under the age of 18 is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. Current law provides that any person who recklessly leaves a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any child under the age of 14 is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

SB76 Protective orders; possession of firearms, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 25, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Janet D. Howell

Summary: Protective orders; possession of firearms; penalty. Provides that it is a Class 6 felony for a person who is subject to a permanent protective order (i.e., a protective order with a maximum duration of two years) for subjecting another person to an act of violence, force, or threat to possess a firearm while the order is in effect, which is equivalent to the existing penalty for possession of a firearm by a person subject to a permanent protective order for family abuse. The bill also provides that such person may continue to possess and transport a firearm for 24 hours after being served with the order for the purposes of selling or transferring the firearm to another person.

SB16 Assault firearms and certain firearm magazines; prohibiting sale, transport, etc., penalties.

WATCH

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard L. Saslaw

Summary: Prohibiting sale, transport, etc., of assault firearms and certain firearm magazines; penalties. Expands the definition of "assault firearm" and prohibits any person from importing, selling, transferring, manufacturing, purchasing, possessing, or transporting an assault firearm. A violation is a Class 6 felony. The bill prohibits a dealer from selling, renting, trading, or transferring from his inventory an assault firearm to any person. The bill also prohibits a person from carrying a shotgun with a magazine that will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which it is chambered in a public place; under existing law, this prohibition applies only in certain localities. The bill makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to import, sell, barter, or transfer any firearm magazine designed to hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

SB18 Firearms; criminal history record information checks, age requirement, penalty.

WATCH

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard L. Saslaw

Summary: Firearms; criminal history record information checks; age requirement; penalty. Provides that a person must be at least 21 years old, or must be at least 18 years old by the effective date of the bill, to purchase a firearm. The bill requires a background check for any firearm transfer and requires the Department of State Police to establish a process for transferors of firearms to obtain such a check from licensed firearms dealers. A transferor who fails to obtain a required background check and transfers the firearm to another person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts certain transfers from the required background check. The bill removes the provision that makes background checks of prospective purchasers or transferees at firearms shows voluntary. The bill also provides that any person who recklessly leaves a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any person under the age of 18 is guilty of a Class 6 felony and that it is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person knowingly to authorize a child under the age 18 to use a firearm except when the person is under the supervision of an adult. Current law provides that any person who recklessly leaves a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any child under the age of 14 is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and it is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person knowingly to authorize a child under the age 12 to use a firearm except when the person is under the supervision of an adult. The bill also raises the age from 18 to 21 for any person to knowingly and intentionally possess or transport a handgun or assault firearm anywhere in the Commonwealth.

..... **Marijuana**

SB2 Marijuana; decriminalization of simple possession, civil penalty.

WATCH

Last Action: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Adam P. Ebbin

Summary: Marijuana; decriminalization of simple marijuana possession; penalty. Decriminalizes simple marijuana possession and provides a civil penalty of no more than \$50. Current law imposes a maximum fine of \$500 and a maximum 30-day jail sentence for a first offense, and subsequent offenses are a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill provides that the suspended sentence and substance abuse screening provisions and driver's license suspension provisions apply only to criminal violations or to civil violations by a juvenile. The bill defines marijuana to include hashish oil. The bill raises the threshold amount of marijuana subject to the offense of distribution or possession with intent to distribute from one-half ounce to one ounce. The bill also allows a person to petition for expungement of convictions and deferred disposition dismissals for marijuana possession when all court costs and fines and orders of restitution have been paid. The bill contains technical amendments.

..... **Marriage**

SJ7 Constitutional amendment; marriage (first reference).

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: John S. Edwards

Summary: Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage. Proposes the repeal of the constitutional amendment dealing with marriage that was approved by referendum at the November 2006 election. That amendment to the Bill of Rights (i) defines marriage as "only a union between one man and one woman"; (ii) prohibits the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of

marriage"; and (iii) prohibits the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage." The provisions of this section of the Constitution of Virginia are no longer valid as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. ____ (June 26, 2015).

..... **Fair Housing**

HB3 Va. Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices, sexual orientation and gender, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Delores L. McQuinn

Summary: Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices; sexual orientation and gender identity. Adds discrimination on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity as an unlawful housing practice. The bill defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

SB66 Va. Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices, sexual orientation and gender, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology (November 22, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer L. McClellan

Summary: Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices; sexual orientation and gender identity. Adds discrimination on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity as an unlawful housing practice. The bill defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

SB97 Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology (December 4, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer L. McClellan

Summary: Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices. Provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory housing practice for any political jurisdiction or its employees or appointed commissions to discriminate in the application of local land use ordinances or guidelines, or in the permitting of housing developments, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status, handicap, or because the housing development contains or is expected to contain affordable housing units occupied or intended for occupancy by families or individuals with incomes at or below 80 percent of the median income of the area where the housing development is located or is proposed to be located. The bill also requires the Fair Housing Board, after consultation with the Attorney General and instead of issuing a charge for a violation, to immediately refer the matter to the Attorney General for civil action in the appropriate circuit court for appropriate relief. The bill contains technical amendments.

SB11 Disposable paper and plastic bags; local taxation per bag when provided to consumers.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Finance (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Adam P. Ebbin

Summary: Local disposable paper and plastic bag tax. Authorizes any locality to impose a tax of five cents per bag on disposable paper bags or disposable plastic bags provided to consumers by certain retailers, with certain bags being exempt from the tax. The bill allows every retailer that collects the tax to retain one cent of the five-cent tax.

SB26 Plastic bags; tax in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Finance (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: J. Chapman Petersen

Summary: Plastic bag tax in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Imposes a five-cent per bag tax on plastic bags provided to customers by certain retailers in localities located wholly within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and directs revenues to be used to support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. The bill also allows every retailer that collects the tax to retain one cent of every five cents collected.

PRIORITIES (Consent)

HJ1 United States Constitution; ratifies Equal Rights Amendment.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer Carroll Foy

Summary: Constitution of the United States; Equal Rights Amendment. Ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States that was proposed by Congress in 1972. The joint resolution advocates the position that the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment remains viable and may be ratified notwithstanding the expiration of the 10-year ratification period set out in the resolving clause, as amended, in the proposal adopted by Congress.

SJ1 United States Constitution; ratifies Equal Rights Amendment.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer L. McClellan

Summary: Constitution of the United States; Equal Rights Amendment. Ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States that was proposed by Congress in 1972.

..... **Minimum Wage**

SB7 Minimum wage; increases to \$10 per hour effective July 1, 2020.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard L. Saslaw

Summary: Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10 per hour, effective July 1, 2020; to \$11 per hour, effective July 1, 2021; to \$12 per hour, effective July 1, 2022; to \$13 per hour, effective July 1, 2023; to \$14 per hour, effective July 1, 2024; and to \$15 per hour, effective July 1, 2025, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). For July 1, 2026, and thereafter, the annual minimum wage shall be adjusted to reflect increases in the consumer price index. The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA.

..... **School Funding**

SB4 Public School Assistance Fund and Program; created.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Education and Health (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: William M. Stanley, Jr.

Summary: Public School Assistance Fund and Program created. Creates the Public School Assistance Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Education, for the purpose of providing grants to school boards to be used solely for the purpose of repairing or replacing the roofs of public elementary and secondary school buildings in the local school division. The bill permits any school board in the Commonwealth to apply for Program grants but requires the Department of Education to give priority in the award of grants to school boards that demonstrate the greatest need based on the condition of existing school building roofs and the ability to pay for the repair or replacement of such roofs.

..... **Affordable Housing**

HJ2 Constitutional amendment; real property tax exemption for affordable housing (first reference).

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jeffrey M. Bourne

Summary: Constitutional amendment (first resolution); real property tax exemption; affordable housing. Provides that the General Assembly may authorize a locality to fully or partially exempt affordable housing, as such term may be defined by statute, from real property taxation.

..... **Climate Change**

SB94 Virginia Energy Plan; relating to the Commonwealth Energy Policy.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor (December 2, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barbara A. Favola

Summary: Virginia Energy Plan; Commonwealth Energy Policy. States that the Commonwealth Energy Policy shall include (i) establishing greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards across all sectors of Virginia's

economy that target net zero carbon emissions by mid-century; (ii) enacting mandatory clean energy standards and overall strategies for reaching zero carbon in the electric power sector by 2040; (iii) incorporating requirements for technical, policy, and economic analyses and assessments that identify pathways to zero carbon that maximize Virginia's economic development and create quality jobs; and (iv) minimizing the negative impacts of climate change and the energy transition on disadvantaged communities and prioritizing investment in these areas. The measure requires the Virginia Energy Plan to be prepared in consultation with a stakeholder group that includes representatives of consumer and environmental organizations. The measure also requires that the Virginia Energy Plan identify actions over a 10-year period consistent with the goal of the Commonwealth Energy Policy to achieve, no later than 2050, a net-zero carbon energy economy for all sectors, including electricity, transportation, building, and industrial sectors.

..... Voting

HB1 Absentee voting; no excuse required.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Charniele L. Herring

Summary: Absentee voting; no excuse required. Permits any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he is qualified to vote. The bill removes the current list of statutory reasons under which a person may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot and removes references to those reasons from other sections of the Code.

HB25 Absentee voting; no excuse required.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph C. Lindsey

Summary: Absentee voting; no excuse required. Permits any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he is qualified to vote. The bill removes the current list of statutory reasons under which a person may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot and removes references to those reasons from other sections of the Code.

SB6 Voter referendum; issuance of state general obligation bonds for school facility modernization.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: William M. Stanley, Jr.

Summary: Voter referendum; issuance of state general obligation bonds for school facility modernization. Provides for a statewide referendum on the question of whether the General Assembly shall issue state general obligation bonds in the amount of \$3 billion for the purpose of K-12 school building construction, repair, or other capital projects related to the modernization of school facilities. The results would be advisory only and are intended only to demonstrate the preference of the citizens of the Commonwealth on the issuance of such bonds. The referendum would be held at the November 2020 general election.

SB45 Absentee voting; no excuse required.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lionell Spruill, Sr.

Summary: Absentee voting; no excuse required. Permits any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he is qualified to vote. The bill removes the current list of statutory reasons under which a person may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot and removes references to those reasons from other sections of the Code.

SB46 Absentee voting; application form contents.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lionell Spruill, Sr.

Summary: Absentee voting; application form contents. Removes the requirement that a person applying for an absentee ballot provide supporting information regarding the reason he is eligible for an absentee ballot. The applicant will still be required to provide the reason he will be absent or unable vote at his polling place on the day of the election.

HB19 Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph C. Lindsey

Summary: Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements. Removes the requirement that voters show a form of identification containing a photograph in order to be allowed to vote. The bill requires a voter to show either his voter registration confirmation documents; his valid Virginia driver's license, his valid United States passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. The bill adds language regarding identification requirements for certain voters pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

SB74 Election day voter registration; State Board of Elections to develop a pilot program, report.

WATCH

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 25, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: R. Creigh Deeds

Summary: Election day voter registration; pilot program. Requires the State Board of Elections to develop a pilot program for election day voter registration, by which a person who (i) offers to vote on election day but is not a registered voter, (ii) provides one of the allowable forms of identification specified by law, and (iii) provides proof of his residency, in a form specified by the State Board for this purpose, in the precinct in which he offers to vote, shall be permitted to register to vote and to cast a ballot. The bill provides a process by which the validity of such votes is determined. The bill requires participating localities to provide information on the implementation of the

pilot program in its locality to the State Board by December 1 of each year in which it participates. The bill requires the State Board to submit a report on the pilot program to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections, including a recommendation as to whether there should be statewide election day voter registration. The bill has an expiration date of December 31, 2022.

(END CONSENT)



Legislative Subcommittee Meeting

Legislative Bills Docket

January 10, 2020

PRINCIPLES (Consent)

..... Gun Safety

[HB78](#) Firearms; purchase, possession, and transporting following certain convictions.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 7, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Kaye Kory

Summary: Purchase, possession, and transport of firearms following certain convictions; permit to restore rights; penalty. Prohibits a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor violation of assault and battery of a family or household member from possessing or transporting a firearm. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill provides for a process by which a person convicted of such crime may petition the circuit court for a reinstatement of his right to possess or transport a firearm.

[HB192](#) Firearm purchases; proof of demonstration of competence with a firearm.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Robert D. Orrock, Sr.

Summary: Firearm purchases; proof of demonstration of competence with a firearm. Provides that any person purchasing from a dealer a firearm shall demonstrate competence with a firearm as provided in the statute governing proof of demonstration of competence with a handgun for the purposes of obtaining a concealed handgun permit. The bill also prohibits a firearms dealer from selling, renting, trading, or transferring from his inventory any firearm to any person until he has been furnished with proof that the prospective has demonstrated competence with a firearm.

[HB355](#) Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 1, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Kaye Kory

Summary: Firearm transfers; criminal history record information checks; penalty. Requires a background check for any firearm transfer and requires the Department of State Police to establish a process for transferors of firearms to obtain such a check from licensed firearms dealers. A transferor who fails to obtain a required background check and sells the firearm to another person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts transfers (i) between immediate family members; (ii) that occur by operation of law; (iii) by the executor or administrator of an estate or by the trustee of a testamentary trust; (iv) at firearms shows in accordance with law; (v) that are part of a buyback or give-back program; (vi) of antique firearms; (vii) that occur at a shooting range, shooting gallery, or any other area designed for the purpose of target shooting or for use during target practice, a firearms safety or training course or class, a shooting competition, or any similar lawful activity; or (viii) that are temporary transfers that (a) occur within the continuous presence of the owner of the firearm or (b) are necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm. The bill removes the provision that makes background checks of prospective purchasers or transferees at firearms shows voluntary.

[HB426](#) Firearms, certain; penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 3, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Marcus B. Simon

Summary: Prohibited public carrying of certain firearms; penalty. Prohibits the carrying of a loaded shotgun or rifle in places open to the public in certain cities and counties. Current law prohibits the carrying in such locations of certain loaded firearms with high-capacity magazines, silencers, folding stock, or long ammunition or a loaded shotgun with a magazine that will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which it is chambered. The bill also eliminates a current exception to the prohibition on carrying such firearms in places open to the public for persons having a valid concealed handgun permit.

SB35 Firearms, etc.; permitted events.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Scott A. Surovell

Summary: Control of firearms by localities; permitted events. Authorizes any locality by ordinance to prohibit the possession or carrying of firearms, ammunition, or components or any combination thereof in a public space during a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit. The bill contains technical amendments.

SB64 Paramilitary activities; penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (November 21, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: L. Louise Lucas

Summary: Paramilitary activities; penalty. Provides that a person is guilty of unlawful paramilitary activity if such person assembles with another person with the intent of intimidating any person or group of persons by drilling, parading, or marching with any firearm, any explosive or incendiary device, or any components or combination thereof. Such unlawful paramilitary activity is punishable as a Class 5 felony.

SB450 Control of firearms; chambers of local governing bodies.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (January 7, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: John S. Edwards

Summary: Control of firearms; chambers of local governing bodies. Allows a locality to adopt an ordinance that prohibits firearms, ammunition, or components or a combination thereof at any regular or special meeting of its local governing body, provided that notice of such prohibition is publicly posted and the meeting room is owned, operated or used by the locality.

HB161 Carrying a concealed handgun; permit not required.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 23, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: John J. McGuire, III

Summary: Carrying a concealed handgun; permit not required. Allows any person who is otherwise eligible to obtain a resident concealed handgun permit to carry a concealed handgun without a permit anywhere he may lawfully carry a handgun openly within the Commonwealth.

[HB162](#) Firearm-free zones designated by the Commonwealth or a locality; waiver of sovereign immunity.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 23, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: John J. McGuire, III

Summary: Firearm-free zones designated by the Commonwealth or a locality; waiver of sovereign immunity. Provides that (i) if the Commonwealth designates any property owned by it or (ii) if any locality designates such locality or any part of such locality as a firearm-free zone, the Commonwealth or such locality waives its sovereign immunity as it relates to any injuries sustained by persons lawfully present in such firearm-free zone.

..... **Marijuana**

[HB87](#) Marijuana; legalization of simple possession, penalties.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 10, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lee J. Carter

Summary: Marijuana; legalization of simple marijuana possession; penalties. Eliminates criminal penalties for possession of marijuana for persons who are 21 years of age or older. The bill also decriminalizes marijuana possession for persons under 21 years of age and provides a civil penalty of no more than \$100 for possession of (i) two and one-half ounces or less of marijuana or (ii) 12 or fewer marijuana plants and a civil penalty of no more than \$500 for possession of more than (a) two and one-half ounces of marijuana or (b) 12 marijuana plants. Under current law, a first offense is punishable by a maximum fine of \$500 and a maximum jail sentence of 30 days, and subsequent offenses are a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill also modifies several other criminal penalties related to marijuana. The bill establishes a regulatory scheme for the regulation of marijuana cultivation facilities, marijuana manufacturing facilities, marijuana secure transporters, marijuana testing facilities, retail marijuana stores, and marijuana microbusinesses by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The bill imposes an additional tax of 10 percent on retail marijuana and retail marijuana products sold by retail marijuana stores and microbusinesses and directs the first \$20 million of such revenues, after expenses of the Board are paid, to the Veterans Treatment Fund, established in the bill. The remaining tax receipts will be distributed to the localities in which the businesses operate, toward the state's share of Standards of Quality basic aid payments, and to the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund. The bill also expands the legal medical uses of marijuana and tetrahydrocannabinol from only cancer and glaucoma to any use to alleviate the symptoms of any diagnosed condition or disease determined by the prescribing doctor to benefit from the use of such substance.

..... **Marriage**

[SB17](#) Same-sex marriages; civil unions.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Adam P. Ebbin

Summary: Same-sex marriages; civil unions. Repeals the statutory prohibitions on same-sex marriages and civil unions or other arrangements between persons of the same sex purporting to bestow the privileges and obligations of marriage. These prohibitions are no longer valid due to the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. ____ (June 26, 2015).

SB39 Same-sex marriages; civil unions.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: John S. Edwards

Summary: Same-sex marriages; civil unions. Repeals the statutory prohibitions on same-sex marriages and civil unions or other arrangements between persons of the same sex purporting to bestow the privileges and obligations of marriage. These prohibitions are no longer valid due to the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. ____ (June 26, 2015).

SJ3 Constitutional amendment; marriage (first reference).

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Adam P. Ebbin

Summary: Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage. Proposes the repeal of the constitutional amendment dealing with marriage that was approved by referendum at the November 2006 election. That amendment to the Bill of Rights (i) defines marriage as "only a union between one man and one woman"; (ii) prohibits the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage"; and (iii) prohibits the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage." The provisions of this section of the Constitution of Virginia are no longer valid as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. ____ (June 26, 2015).

..... **Fair Housing**

HB6 Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jeffrey M. Bourne

Summary: Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices. Adds discrimination on the basis of a person's source of income to the list of unlawful discriminatory housing practices. The bill defines "source of income" as any source that lawfully provides funds to or on behalf of a renter or buyer of housing, including any assistance, benefit, or subsidy program, whether such program is administered by a governmental or nongovernmental entity.

HB217 Va. Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices, sexual orientation and gender, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Kelly K. Convors-Fowler

Summary: Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices; sexual orientation and gender identity. Adds discrimination on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity as an unlawful housing practice. The bill defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

[HB329](#) Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; notice of termination to contain legal services.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 1, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark H. Levine

Summary: Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; notice of termination to contain legal services contact information. Provides that no notice of termination of tenancy served upon any residential tenant is effective unless it contains on its first page, in type no smaller or less legible than that otherwise used in the body of the notice, the name, address, and telephone number of the legal services program, if any, serving the jurisdiction in which the premises is located. Under current law, this requirement is only applicable to a public housing authority organized under the Housing Authorities Law. The bill also requires that such information be provided in English and Spanish.

[HB357](#) Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 1, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Alfonso H. Lopez

Summary: Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices. Adds discrimination on the basis of a person's source of income to the list of unlawful discriminatory housing practices. The bill defines "source of income" as any source that lawfully provides funds to or on behalf of a renter or buyer of housing, including any assistance, benefit, or subsidy program, whether such program is administered by a governmental or nongovernmental entity.

..... **Non-Discrimination**

[HB21](#) Virginia Human Rights Act; prohibited discrimination, sexual orientation and gender identity.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph C. Lindsey

Summary: Virginia Human Rights Act; prohibited discrimination; sexual orientation and gender identity. Adds discrimination on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity as an unlawful discriminatory practice under the Virginia Human Rights Act. The bill also creates a cause of action if any person employed by an employer who employs more than five but fewer than 15 persons is discharged by such employer on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity." The bill contains technical amendments.

[HB23](#) Public employment and housing; prohibited discrimination, sexual orientation or gender identity.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph C. Lindsey

Summary: Prohibited discrimination in public employment and housing; sexual orientation or gender identity. Prohibits discrimination in public employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill also codifies for state and local government employment the current prohibitions on discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age,

marital status, disability, or status as a veteran. Additionally, the bill adds discrimination on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity as an unlawful housing practice. The bill defines sexual orientation and gender identity.

HB145 Public elementary and secondary schools; treatment of transgender students, policies.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Marcus B. Simon

Summary: Public elementary and secondary schools; treatment of transgender students; policies. Requires the Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board, no later than December 31, 2020, model policies concerning the treatment of transgender students in public elementary and secondary schools that address common issues regarding transgender students in accordance with evidence-based best practices and include information, guidance, procedures, and standards relating to (i) compliance with applicable nondiscrimination laws; (ii) maintenance of a safe and supportive learning environment free from discrimination and harassment for all students; (iii) prevention of and response to bullying and harassment; (iv) maintenance of student records; (v) identification of students; (vi) protection of student privacy and the confidentiality of sensitive information; (vii) enforcement of sex-based dress codes; and (viii) student participation in sex-specific school activities, events, and athletics and use of school facilities. The bill requires each school board to adopt, no later than the beginning of the 2021–2022 school year, policies that are consistent with but may be more comprehensive than such model policies developed by the Department of Education.

SB23 Employment and public accommodation; prohibited discrimination, sexual orientation/gender identity.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Adam P. Ebbin

Summary: Prohibited discrimination; sexual orientation and gender identity. Prohibits discrimination in employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill codifies existing prohibited discrimination in public employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, or status as a veteran and adds discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity to the list of unlawful discriminatory housing practices. The bill contains technical amendments.

SB159 Public employment; prohibits discrimination on basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer B. Boysko

Summary: Nondiscrimination in public employment. Prohibits discrimination in public employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in the bill. The bill also codifies for state and local government employment the current prohibitions on discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, or status as a veteran.

SB161 Public elementary and secondary schools; treatment of transgender students, policies.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Education and Health (December 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer B. Boysko

Summary: Public elementary and secondary schools; treatment of transgender students; policies. Requires the Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board, no later than December 31, 2020, model policies concerning the treatment of transgender students in public elementary and secondary schools that address common issues regarding transgender students in accordance with evidence-based best practices and include information, guidance, procedures, and standards relating to (i) compliance with applicable nondiscrimination laws; (ii) maintenance of a safe and supportive learning environment free from discrimination and harassment for all students; (iii) prevention of and response to bullying and harassment; (iv) maintenance of student records; (v) identification of students; (vi) protection of student privacy and the confidentiality of sensitive information; (vii) enforcement of sex-based dress codes; and (viii) student participation in sex-specific school activities, events, and athletics and use of school facilities. The bill requires each school board to adopt, no later than the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, policies that are consistent with but may be more comprehensive than such model policies developed by the Department of Education.

SB179 Hate crimes; adds gender, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (December 21, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barbara A. Favola

Summary: Hate crimes; gender, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation; penalty. Adds gender, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime involving assault, assault and battery, or trespass for the purpose of damaging another's property results in a higher criminal penalty for the offense. The bill also adds gender, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation to the categories of hate crimes that are to be reported to the central repository of information regarding hate crimes maintained by the Virginia State Police. The bill provides that a person who is subjected to acts of intimidation or harassment, violence directed against his person, or vandalism to his real or personal property, where such acts are motivated by gender, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation, may bring a civil action to recover his damages. The bill also provides that no provider or user of an interactive computer service on the Internet shall be liable for any action voluntarily taken by it in good faith to restrict access to material that the provider or user considers to be intended to incite hatred on the basis of gender, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

HB140 Public employment; limitations on inquiries by state agencies and localities regarding arrests.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Glenn R. Davis

Summary: Public employment; limitations on inquiries by state agencies and localities regarding criminal arrests, charges, or convictions. Prohibits state agencies and localities from including on any employment application a question inquiring whether the prospective employee has ever been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of any crime. A prospective employee may not be asked if he has ever been arrested or charged with or convicted of any crime unless the inquiry takes place during or after a staff interview of the prospective employee. The

prohibition does not apply to applications for employment with law-enforcement agencies or positions related to law-enforcement agencies. The prohibition also does not apply to applications for state agency positions designated as sensitive or to state agencies that are expressly permitted to inquire into an individual's criminal arrests or charges for employment purposes pursuant to any provision of federal or state law.

..... **FOIA**

HB321 FOIA; electronic meetings, serious medical condition of immediate family member.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 31, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark H. Levine

Summary: Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings; serious medical condition of immediate family member. Adds to current provisions regarding meetings that a public body may conduct through electronic communication means a meeting for which on or before the day of a meeting a member of the public body holding the meeting notifies the chair of the public body that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a serious medical condition of an immediate family member. The bill also clarifies that participation in an electronic meeting by a member of a public body due to an inability to attend because of a personal matter is limited each calendar year to either two meetings or 10 percent of the meetings held that calendar year, whichever is greater.

SB153 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; cost estimates, response time.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard H. Stuart

Summary: Virginia Freedom of Information Act; cost estimates; response time. Provides that if a requester asks for a cost estimate in advance of a Virginia Freedom of Information Act request, the time to respond is tolled for the amount of time that elapses between notice of the cost estimate and the response from the requester, and that if the public body receives no response from the requester within 30 days of sending the cost estimate, the request shall be deemed to be withdrawn. The bill clarifies that if a cost estimate exceeds \$200 and the public body requires an advance deposit, the public body may require the requester to pay the advance deposit before the public body is required to process the request. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

..... **Disposable Plastic**

HB533 Expanded polystyrene food service containers; prohibition on dispensing, civil penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 5, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Betsy B. Carr

Summary: Expanded polystyrene food service containers; prohibition; civil penalty. Prohibits the dispensing by a food vendor of prepared food to a customer in a single-use expanded polystyrene food service container, as defined in the bill. The bill requires certain chain restaurants to stop using such containers by July 1, 2023, and sets the date for compliance by all food vendors as July 1, 2025. The bill exempts certain institutions, including

correctional facilities and public schools, from the definition of "food vendor" and provides a process by which a locality may grant consecutive one-year exemptions to individual food vendors on the basis of undue economic hardship. The bill provides a civil penalty of \$50 for each day of violation, to be collected in a civil action brought by the Attorney General or the relevant locality. The penalties collected are to be deposited in the Litter Control and Recycling Fund or to the treasury of the relevant locality, as appropriate. Finally, the bill directs the Department of Environmental Quality to post to its website information on compliance and the filing of complaints.

HB534 Disposable plastic bag; local tax.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 5, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Betsy B. Carr

Summary: Local disposable plastic bag tax. Authorizes any locality to impose a tax of five cents per bag on disposable plastic bags provided to consumers by certain retailers, with certain bags being exempt from the tax. Revenues from the local tax would be collected by the Tax Commissioner and distributed monthly to the locality imposing the tax to be used by such locality for the mitigation of pollution and litter. The bill requires each locality imposing the tax by ordinance to provide a certified copy of the ordinance to the Tax Commissioner at least six months prior to the date the tax is to become effective. The bill also allows every retailer that collects the tax to retain one cent of the five-cent tax.

..... **Distracted Driving**

HB377 Handheld personal communications devices; holding devices while driving a motor vehicle.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Rodney T. Willett

Summary: Holding handheld personal communications devices while driving a motor vehicle. Prohibits any person from holding a handheld personal communications device while driving a motor vehicle. Current law prohibits (i) the reading of any email or text message and manually entering letters or text in such a device as a means of communicating and (ii) holding a personal communications device while driving in a work zone. The bill expands the exemptions to include handheld personal communications devices that are being held and used (a) as an amateur radio or a citizens band radio or (b) for official Department of Transportation or traffic incident management services. This bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021.

HB387 Handheld personal communications devices; use in school zones and school property, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: James E. Edmunds, II

Summary: Use of handheld personal communications devices; school zones and school property; penalty. Adds school crossing zones and school property to the locations in which a driver is prohibited from holding a handheld personal communications device in his hand while driving a motor vehicle, with certain exceptions. The bill provides that a violation is punishable by a mandatory fine of \$250. Current law prohibits (i) the reading of an email or text message on the device and manually entering letters or text in the device as a means of

communicating and (ii) the holding of a handheld personal communication device in a highway work zone, with the same exceptions.

HB512 Handheld personal communications devices; holding devices while driving a motor vehicle.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 4, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: David L. Bulova

Summary: Holding handheld personal communications devices while driving a motor vehicle. Prohibits any person from holding a handheld personal communications device while driving a motor vehicle. Current law prohibits (i) the reading of any email or text message and manually entering letters or text in such a device as a means of communicating and (ii) holding a personal communications device while driving in a work zone. The bill expands the exemptions to include handheld personal communications devices that are being held and used (a) as an amateur radio or a citizens band radio or (b) for official Department of Transportation or traffic incident management services. This bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021.

SB136 Handheld personal communications devices; holding devices while driving a motor vehicle.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Transportation (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard H. Stuart

Summary: Holding handheld personal communications devices while driving a motor vehicle. Prohibits any person from holding a handheld personal communications device while driving a motor vehicle. Current law prohibits (i) the reading of any email or text message and manually entering letters or text in such a device as a means of communicating and (ii) holding a personal communications device while driving in a work zone. The bill expands the exemptions to include handheld personal communications devices that are being held and used (a) as an amateur radio or a citizens band radio or (b) for official Department of Transportation or traffic incident management services. This bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021.

SB160 Handheld personal communications devices; holding devices while driving a motor vehicle.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Transportation (December 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Scott A. Surovell

Summary: Holding handheld personal communications devices while driving a motor vehicle. Prohibits any person from holding a handheld personal communications device while driving a motor vehicle. Current law prohibits (i) the reading of any email or text message and manually entering letters or text in such a device as a means of communicating and (ii) holding a personal communications device while driving in a work zone. The bill expands the exemptions to include handheld personal communications devices that are being held and used (a) as an amateur radio or a citizens band radio or (b) for official Department of Transportation or traffic incident management services. This bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021.

HB157 Drivers of vehicles approaching stationary vehicles displaying certain warning lights; duties, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 20, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Hyland F. "Buddy" Fowler, Jr.

Summary: Duties of drivers of vehicles approaching stationary vehicles displaying certain warning lights; penalty. Makes a driver's failure to (i) move into a nonadjacent lane on a highway with at least four lanes when approaching a stationary towing vehicle or incident or traffic management vehicle displaying flashing, blinking, or alternating amber lights or (ii) proceed with due caution and maintain a safe speed when passing such a vehicle reckless driving, which is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Under current law, such offense is a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$250, and a failure to so move or proceed with due caution when approaching other such listed vehicles is reckless driving.

SB228 Motorized skateboard or scooter; increases age requirement to operate.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Transportation (December 31, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lionell Spruill, Sr.

Summary: Motorized skateboard or scooter; age requirement. Increases from 14 to 16 the age at which a person is permitted to operate a motorized skateboard or scooter without adult supervision.

HB543 Electric power-assisted bicycles; amends definition.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 5, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Betsy B. Carr

Summary: Electric power-assisted bicycles. Amends the definition of "electric power-assisted bicycle" to include three classes of such bicycles, based upon the type of motor and the maximum miles per hour that the motor is capable of propelling the bicycle. The bill also provides that electric power-assisted bicycles and operators are afforded the same rights and privileges as bicycles and operators and limits local and state regulation of the operation of such electric power-assisted bicycles to certain bicycle paths, shared-use paths, and trails. The bill requires manufacturers and distributors of electric power-assisted bicycles to include (i) on each electric power-assisted bicycle, a label indicating certain technical specifications and (ii) on each class three electric power-assisted bicycle, a miles-per-hour speedometer. The bill requires persons operating or riding on a class three electric power-assisted bicycle to wear a helmet.

SB64 Paramilitary activities; penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (November 21, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: L. Louise Lucas

Summary: Paramilitary activities; penalty. Provides that a person is guilty of unlawful paramilitary activity if such person assembles with another person with the intent of intimidating any person or group of persons by drilling,

parading, or marching with any firearm, any explosive or incendiary device, or any components or combination thereof. Such unlawful paramilitary activity is punishable as a Class 5 felony.

SB59 Juvenile law-enforcement records; disclosures to school principals.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.

Summary: Juvenile law-enforcement records; disclosures to school principals. Changes from discretionary to mandatory that the chief of police of a city or chief of police or sheriff of a county disclose to a school principal all instances where a juvenile at the principal's school is a suspect in or has been charged with a violent juvenile felony, an arson offense, or a concealed weapon offense and adds an offense that requires a juvenile intake officer to make a report with the school division superintendent to the list of such instances that must be disclosed to a school principal for the protection of the juvenile, his fellow students, and school personnel.

..... **Public Health**

HB386 Conversion therapy; prohibited by certain health care providers.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Patrick A. Hope

Summary: Department of Health Professions; conversion therapy prohibited. Prohibits any health care provider or person who performs counseling as part of his training for any profession licensed by a regulatory board of the Department of Health Professions from engaging in conversion therapy, as defined in the bill, with any person under 18 years of age and provides that such counseling constitutes unprofessional conduct and is grounds for disciplinary action. The bill provides that no state funds shall be expended for the purpose of conducting conversion therapy, referring a person for conversion therapy, extending health benefits coverage for conversion therapy, or awarding a grant or contract to any entity that conducts conversion therapy or refers individuals for conversion therapy.

HB966 Health regulatory boards; conversion therapy.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 7, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Wendell S. Walker

Summary: Health regulatory boards; conversion therapy.

..... **Broadband**

HB70 Broadband services; prohibited features.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 5, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lee J. Carter

Summary: Broadband services; prohibited features. Prohibits a provider of broadband services from offering or renewing services to consumers within any locality in the Commonwealth in which certain media is throttled, blocked, or prioritized on the basis of its content, format, host address, or source.

PRIORITIES (Consent)

..... **Affordable Housing**

[HB151](#) Accessory dwelling units; development and use.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Ibraheem S. Samirah

Summary: Development and use of accessory dwelling units. Provides that all localities shall allow for the development and use of one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) per single-family dwelling (SFD), notwithstanding any contrary provision of a zoning ordinance. The bill defines "accessory dwelling unit" or "ADU" as an independent dwelling unit on a single-family lot with its own living, bathroom, and kitchen space that may be within or attached to SFDs or in detached structures on lots containing SFDs. ADUs may include basements, attics, flats, guest houses, cottages, and converted structures such as garages and sheds. The bill requires localities to regulate the size and design of ADUs through an approval process, as well as regulate fees, parking, and other requirements, provided that the regulations (i) are not so arbitrary, excessive, or burdensome, individually or cumulatively, as to unreasonably restrict the ability of property owners to utilize or create ADUs and (ii) do not require the property owner to occupy the ADU or SFD as his primary residence.

..... **Law Libraries**

[HB183](#) Libraries; assessment for costs in civil actions, disbursement for law libraries.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 26, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark H. Levine

Summary: Libraries; assessment for costs in civil actions; disbursement for law libraries. Increases from \$4 to \$7 the maximum assessment a county, city, or town may make as part of the costs incident to each civil action filed in the courts located within its boundaries. Such funds are disbursed by a locality's governing body for the establishment, use, and maintenance of its law library.

..... **Minimum Wage**

[HB325](#) Minimum wage; local alternative minimum wage.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 1, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark H. Levine

Summary: Local alternative minimum wage. Establishes a procedure by which a local alternative minimum wage may be imposed in any locality. A local alternative minimum wage requires every employer to pay to each of its

employees wages at a rate to be determined by local ordinance for work performed by them within the locality. If the federal minimum wage exceeds the levels specified in a local alternative minimum wage requirement, the federal minimum wage will prevail. The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA and to public employees.

HB395 Minimum wage, increases to \$9 per hour effective July 1, 2020.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Jeion A. Ward

Summary: Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$9 per hour effective July 1, 2020; to \$11 per hour effective July 1, 2021; to \$13 per hour effective July 1, 2022; and to \$15 per hour effective July 1, 2023, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA and to public employees.

HB433 Minimum wage; increases to \$9 per hour effective January 1, 2020.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 3, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer Carroll Foy

Summary: Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$9.00 per hour effective January 1, 2021; to \$11.00 per hour effective January 1, 2022; to \$13 per hour effective January 1, 2023; and to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2024, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Effective January 1, 2025, the minimum wage shall be adjusted annually to reflect annual increases in the consumer price index. The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA and to persons employed by the Commonwealth, its agencies or political subdivisions, or a public body.

SB73 Minimum wage; increases to \$10 per hour effective July 1, 2020, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor (November 23, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mamie E. Locke

Summary: Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10 per hour effective July 1, 2020; to \$13 per hour effective July 1, 2021; and to \$15 per hour effective July 1, 2022, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA and to public employees.

SB81 Minimum wage; increases to \$9.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2020, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor (November 26, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: David W. Marsden

Summary: Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$9.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2020; to \$10.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2021; to \$11.75 per hour,

effective July 1, 2022; to \$12.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2023; to \$14 per hour, effective July 1, 2024; and to \$15 per hour, effective July 1, 2025, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA and to public employees.

..... ERA

SJ5 United States Constitution; ratifies Equal Rights Amendment.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard L. Saslaw

Summary: Constitution of the United States; Equal Rights Amendment. Ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States that was proposed by Congress in 1972. The joint resolution advocates the position that the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment remains viable and may be ratified notwithstanding the expiration of the 10-year ratification period set out in the resolving clause, as amended, in the proposal adopted by Congress.

..... Access to Voting

HB26 Voter registration; close of registration records.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph C. Lindsey

Summary: Voter registration; close of registration records. Reduces the period of time that registration records must be closed before a general or primary election from 21 days to 13 days. The bill adjusts other deadlines to reflect this change. The period of time that the registration records must be closed before a special election remains the same.

HB187 Elections; same-day registration, in-person absentee and election day voting.

SUPPORT, fiscal impact

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 26, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Marcus B. Simon

Summary: Elections; same-day registration; in-person absentee and election day voting. Provides an exception to the closing of registration records for any person who (i) is qualified to register to vote, (ii) is unregistered or registered in a locality in which the person no longer resides but is otherwise entitled to vote by absentee ballot, (iii) desires to vote absentee in person at the time that they present themselves to be registered, and (iv) provides proof of residency. The bill also permits same-day registrants to vote absentee and provides an excuse for election day absentee voting for such voters. The bill requires all voters who register to vote under the provisions of this bill to fill out an absentee application, including the required oath, in order to vote.

HB201 Elections; same-day registration, in-person absentee and election day voting, effective clause.

SUPPORT, fiscal impact

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Hala S. Ayala

Summary: Elections; same-day registration; in-person absentee and election day voting. Provides an exception to the closing of registration records for any person who (i) is qualified to register to vote, (ii) is unregistered or registered in a locality in which the person no longer resides but is otherwise entitled to vote by absentee ballot, (iii) desires to vote absentee in person at the time that they present themselves to be registered, and (iv) provides proof of residency. The bill also permits same-day registrants to vote absentee and provides an excuse for election day absentee voting for such voters. The bill requires all voters who register to vote under the provisions of this bill to fill out an absentee application, including the required oath, in order to vote. This bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2022.

[HB213](#) Voter identification; accepted forms of identification, out-of-state student identification card.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.

Summary: Voter identification; accepted forms of identification; student identification card issued by out-of-state institution of higher education. Adds to the list of acceptable forms of voter identification a valid student photo identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in any other state or territory of the United States. Current law allows students from any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth to use their student photo identification cards for purposes of voting.

[HB219](#) Voter registration; automatic voter registration.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Alfonso H. Lopez

Summary: Voter registration; automatic voter registration. Provides for the automatic electronic transmission by the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Elections of certain information for any individual who (i) is not registered to vote; (ii) is of sufficient age to register to vote; (iii) conducts a transaction with the Department of Motor Vehicles to apply for a new driver's license or special identification card or replace, renew, or update an existing driver's license or special identification card; and (iv) in the course of such transaction provides documentation demonstrating United States citizenship or answers affirmatively when asked if he is a United States citizen. Any such individual is given a printed registration notice that (a) states that the individual will be registered to vote based on the information provided and that the individual should decline registration if he does not meet eligibility requirements, (b) explains the eligibility requirements, and (c) provides instructions for how he may decline registration. The Department of Elections is required to transmit the information to the appropriate general registrar, along with any information indicating ineligibility. The Department of Elections is required to establish security requirements for transmission of information about potential registered voters and to report certain information regarding voter registration. The bill removes the requirement that the Department of Motor Vehicles offer, accept, receive, and send voter registration applications.

[HB238](#) Absentee voting; deadline for returning absentee ballot.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 30, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark D. Sickles

Summary: Absentee voting; deadline for returning absentee ballot. Provides that any absentee ballot that is returned to the general registrar after the closing of the polls on election day but before noon on the third day after the election and postmarked on or before the date of the election shall be counted if the voter is found entitled to vote. The bill contains technical amendments.

HB239 Absentee voting; extends deadline for applying for an absentee ballot to cast other than in person.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 30, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark D. Sickles

Summary: Absentee voting; deadline for applying for an absentee ballot to cast other than in person. Extends the deadline for a voter to apply for an absentee ballot that is to be cast by mail from the seventh day prior to the election to the eleventh day prior to the election. The bill also adjusts the deadline for applications for multiple elections for uniformed and overseas voters and for emergency applications and absentee ballots for persons incapacitated or hospitalized.

HB242 Absentee voting; emergency voting.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 30, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark D. Sickles

Summary: Absentee voting; emergency voting. Provides a process by which a qualified voter is permitted to vote by absentee ballot when an emergency either prevented him from applying for an absentee ballot by the deadline or will prevent him from voting in person on election day. The bill also provides for the Commissioner of Elections to take administrative action to facilitate absentee voting by those persons providing emergency or other services in an area in which a state of emergency has been declared. The bill contains technical amendments that consolidate current Code sections regarding emergency absentee voting.

SB111 Absentee voting; no excuse required.

SUPPORT, fiscal impact

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (December 12, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Janet D. Howell

Summary: Absentee voting; no excuse required. Permits any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he is qualified to vote. The bill removes the current list of statutory reasons under which a person may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot and removes references to those reasons from other sections of the Code.

HB190 Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements, additional forms.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark H. Levine

Summary: Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements; additional forms of identification accepted; signed statement in lieu of required form of identification; penalty. Removes the requirement that voters show a form of identification containing a photograph in order to be allowed to vote. The bill requires a voter to show one of the following: his voter registration confirmation documents; his valid Virginia driver's

license, his valid United States passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. A voter who does not show one of the required forms of identification when offering to vote is required to sign a statement that he is the named registered voter he claims to be in order to be permitted to cast a ballot. Such statement is signed subject to felony penalties for making false statements, punishable as a Class 5 felony. A voter who does not show one of the required forms of identification and does not complete or sign the statement shall be offered a provisional ballot according to the provisions of current law. The bill adds language regarding identification requirements for certain voters pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

HB220 Absentee voting; postage prepaid on return envelope.

WATCH, fiscal impact

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Paul E. Krizek

Summary: Absentee voting; postage prepaid on return envelope. Requires the envelope provided to an absentee voter for the return of the absentee ballot to include prepaid postage.

HB240 Absentee voting; annual applications for eligible absentee voters.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 30, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark D. Sickles

Summary: Absentee voting; annual applications for eligible absentee voters. Provides that any person who is eligible for an absentee ballot pursuant to law and who is likely to remain so eligible for the remainder of the calendar year shall be eligible to file a special annual application to receive ballots for all elections in which he is eligible to vote in that calendar year. This application requires a statement signed by the voter that he is eligible for an absentee ballot pursuant to law and is likely to remain so eligible for the remainder of the calendar year. Under current law, such a special annual application is available to persons who are eligible to vote absentee due to a disability or illness and are likely to remain eligible to vote absentee due to such disability or illness.

SB65 Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements.

WATCH

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (November 21, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mamie E. Locke

Summary: Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements. Removes the requirement that voters show a form of identification containing a photograph in order to be allowed to vote. The bill requires a voter to show either his voter registration confirmation documents; his valid Virginia driver's license, his valid United States passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the

employer's business; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. The bill adds language regarding identification requirements for certain voters pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

SB113 Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements.

WATCH

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections (December 13, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: R. Creigh Deeds

Summary: Voter identification; repeal of photo identification requirements. Removes the requirement that voters show a form of identification containing a photograph in order to be allowed to vote. The bill requires a voter to show either his voter registration confirmation documents; his valid Virginia driver's license, his valid United States passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. The bill adds language regarding identification requirements for certain voters pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

..... **Proof of Identity**

SB34 Driver privilege cards; penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Transportation (November 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Scott A. Surovell

Summary: Driver privilege cards; penalty. Authorizes the issuance of new driver privilege cards by the Department of Motor Vehicles to an applicant who (i) has reported income from Virginia sources on an individual tax return filed with the Commonwealth in the preceding 12 months; (ii) is not in violation of the insurance requirements for the registration of an uninsured motor vehicle; and (iii) provides an unexpired passport as proof of identity. The bill provides that driver privilege cards shall confer the same privileges and shall be subject to the same provisions as driver's licenses and permits; however, driver privilege cards shall not (a) confer voting privileges, (b) permit an individual to waive any part of the driver examination, or (c) have their issuance be contingent upon the applicant's ability to produce proof of legal presence in the United States. The bill provides for the term "driver's license" to consistently refer to all driver's licenses, permits, driver privilege cards, and special identification cards issued by the Commonwealth or the comparable law of another jurisdiction. The bill allows the issuance of a limited-duration driver's license and special identification card to an applicant presenting valid documentary evidence that a federal court or federal agency having jurisdiction over immigration has authorized the applicant to be in the United States for a period of at least 30 days from the date of application. The bill authorizes the Tax Commissioner to provide to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles information sufficient to verify that an applicant for a driver privilege card or permit reported income from Virginia sources on an individual tax return filed with the Commonwealth in the preceding 12 months. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021.

HB77 Green New Deal Act; fossil fuel projects moratorium, clean energy mandates, civil penalties.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 6, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Sam Rasoul

Summary: Fossil fuel projects moratorium; clean energy mandates; civil penalties; Green New Deal Act. Establishes a moratorium, effective January 1, 2021, on approval by any state agency or political subdivision of any approval required for (i) electric generating facilities that generate fossil fuel energy through the combustion of a fossil fuel resource; (ii) import or export terminals for fossil fuel resources; (iii) certain maintenance activities relating to an import or export terminal for a fossil fuel resource; (iv) gathering lines or pipelines for the transport of any fossil fuel resource that requires the use of eminent domain on private property; (v) certain maintenance activities relating to such gathering lines or pipelines; (vi) refineries of a fossil fuel resource; and (vii) exploration for any type of fossil fuel, unless preempted by applicable federal law. The measure also requires that at least 80 percent of the electricity sold by a retail electric supplier in calendar years 2028 through 2035 be generated from clean energy resources. In calendar year 2036 and every calendar year thereafter, 100 percent of the electricity sold by a retail electric supplier is required to be generated from clean energy resources. The clean energy mandates apply to a public utility or other person that sells not less than 1,000 megawatt hours of electric energy to retail customers or generates not less than 1,000 megawatt hours of electric energy for use by the person. The Director of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy is authorized to bring actions for injunctions to enforce these requirements. The measure requires the Department to adopt a Climate Action Plan that addresses all aspects of climate change, including mitigation, adaptation, resiliency, and assistance in the transition from current energy sources to clean renewable energy. The measure provides that residents of the Commonwealth and organizations shall have the legal standing to sue to ensure that its provisions and any Climate Action Plan are enforced. The measure requires (a) a 36 percent reduction in electric energy consumption in buildings by 2035; (b) the establishment of job training programs and energy worker protections; (c) transitional assistance for workers in the fossil fuel industry and affected communities; and (d) environmental justice protections. The measure provides that any retail electric supplier that fails to meet any goal or benchmark is liable for a civil penalty equal to twice the cost of the financial investment necessary to meet such goal or mandate that was not achieved, or three times the cost of the financial investment necessary to meet such goal or benchmark that was not achieved if not met in an environmental justice community, defined in the bill.

HB413 Subdivision ordinance; energy efficiency and renewable energy provisions.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Karrie K. Delaney

Summary: Subdivision ordinance; energy efficiency and renewable energy provisions. Authorizes a local governing body to include in its subdivision ordinance provisions for establishing minimum standards of energy efficiency and establishing and maintaining access to sources of renewable energy.

HB572 Distributed renewable energy.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 6, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark L. Keam

Summary: Distributed renewable energy. Promotes the establishment of distributed renewable solar and other renewable energy. The measure (i) removes the one percent cap on the total amount of renewable energy that can be net metered in a utility's service territory, (ii) authorizes third-party power purchase agreements for all customer classes throughout the Commonwealth, (iii) allows local governments and certain other public bodies to install solar or wind facilities of up to five megawatts on government-owned property and use the electricity for government-owned buildings, (iv) allows all net metering customers to attribute output from a single solar array to multiple meters, (v) allows the owner of a multi-family residential building or the common areas of a condominium to install a renewable energy generation facility and sell the electricity to tenants or condominium unit owners, (vi) removes the restriction on customers installing a net-metered generation facility larger than that required to meet their previous 12 months' demand, (vii) raises the cap for net-metered nonresidential generation facilities from one megawatt to three megawatts, and (viii) removes the ability of utilities to assess standby charges. The measure also amends the Commonwealth Energy Policy to include provisions supporting distributed generation of renewable energy.

[HB577](#) State Air Pollution Control Board; low emissions vehicle program.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 6, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark L. Keam

Summary: State Air Pollution Control Board; low-emissions vehicle program. Directs the State Air Pollution Control Board to implement a low-emissions motor vehicle program based on the motor vehicle standards authorized by Section 177 of the Federal Clean Air Act.

(END CONSENT)

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

..... Courts

[HB305](#) Circuit court clerk's fee; lodging, etc., of wills.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 31, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Patrick A. Hope

Summary: Circuit court clerk's fee; lodging of wills. Increases from \$2 to \$5 the fee that the circuit court clerk is required to charge for lodging, indexing, and preserving a will.

[HB306](#) Circuit court clerks; fees collected for recording and indexing.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 31, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Patrick A. Hope

Summary: Fees collected by circuit court clerks for recording and indexing; use of fee in preserving permanent records of the circuit courts. Increases by \$2 the fees for the recording and indexing of certain documents. The bill further increases from \$1.50 to \$3.50 the portion of the recording and indexing fee collected by circuit court clerks that is designated for use in preserving the permanent records of the circuit courts.

SB149 Courthouse and courtroom security; assessment.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Janet D. Howell

Summary: Courthouse and courtroom security; assessment. Increases from \$10 to \$20 the maximum amount a local governing body may assess against a convicted defendant as part of the costs in a criminal or traffic case in district or circuit court to fund courthouse and courtroom security.

..... **Shoreline Flooding**

HB22 Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund; grant program.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph C. Lindsey

Summary: Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund; grant program. Changes the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund (the Fund) from a lending program to a grant program. The bill directs the Fund to grant money to localities to enable them to offer cost-sharing programs to help residents and businesses that are subject to recurrent flooding.

HB116 Stormwater Mgmt. Fund; grants from local Fund may be used for an authorized local credit option.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 16, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark L. Cole

Summary: Stormwater Management Fund. Provides that grants from a local Stormwater Management Fund may be used for an authorized local stormwater credit option for Virginia Stormwater Management Program authorized program administrators as a stormwater retrofit for any development within the local watershed that predates the 2005 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Quality best management practice criteria. Currently, the grants may only be used for (i) the construction, improvement, or repair of a stormwater management facility or (ii) erosion and sediment control.

HB382 Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund; grant program.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler

Summary: Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund; grant program. Changes the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund (the Fund) from a lending program to a grant program. The bill directs the Fund to grant money to localities to enable them to offer cost-sharing programs to help residents and businesses that are subject to recurrent flooding.

HB751 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; low-income loans, forgiveness of principal.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 7, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Jerrauld C. "Jay" Jones

Summary: Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; low-income loans; forgiveness of principal. Continues the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund as the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund for the purpose of creating a low-interest loan program to help inland and coastal communities that are subject to recurrent flooding. Moneys from the Fund may be used to mitigate future flood damage, with priority given to projects that implement community-scale mitigation activities or use nature-based solutions. Any locality using moneys from the Fund to provide loans may also forgive the principal of such loans, with the total amount of loans forgiven by all localities not to exceed 30 percent of the total amount appropriated to the Fund in that fiscal year.

..... **Drones**

HB118 Trespass with an unmanned aircraft system; local or state correctional facilities, penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 16, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barry D. Knight

Summary: Trespass with an unmanned aircraft system; local or state correctional facilities; penalty. Provides that any person who knowingly and intentionally causes an unmanned aircraft system to come within 400 feet of the lateral boundaries of any local or state correctional facility, for any reason, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

HB311 Unmanned aerial systems; local regulation.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 31, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Wendy W. Gooditis

Summary: Local regulation of unmanned aerial systems. Authorizes a political subdivision to adopt time, place, or manner restrictions regarding the takeoff or landing of unmanned aerial systems on property owned by the political subdivision.

..... **Housing**

HB150 Derelict residential buildings; civil penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Ibraheem S. Samirah

Summary: Derelict residential buildings; civil penalty. Allows certain localities to impose a civil penalty not exceeding \$1,000 per month on owners of derelict residential property that have not submitted a required plan to renovate or demolish the derelict structure.

HB393 Landlord and tenant; tenant rights and responsibilities, Tenant Bill of Rights.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Jeion A. Ward

Summary: Landlord and tenant; tenant rights and responsibilities; Tenant Bill of Rights. Requires that the Director of Housing and Community Development develop a Tenant Bill of Rights explaining in plain language the rights and responsibilities of tenants under the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act and maintain such statement on the Department's website. The Director must also develop and maintain on the Department's

website a form to be signed by the parties to a written rental agreement acknowledging that the tenant has been advised to review the Tenant Bill of Rights. A landlord must furnish to a prospective tenant, at the time of furnishing an unsigned copy of the proposed written rental agreement, the form containing the Tenant Bill of Rights for signature by the parties to the rental agreement. The landlord is required to provide a copy of the signed Tenant Bill of Rights form to the tenant.

[SB115](#) Va. Residential Landlord & Tenant Act; notice of termination to contain legal services information.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology (December 14, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barbara A. Favola

Summary: Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; notice of termination to contain legal services contact information. Provides that no notice of termination of tenancy served upon any residential tenant is effective unless it contains on its first page, in type no smaller or less legible than that otherwise used in the body of the notice, the name, address, and telephone number of the legal services program, if any, serving the jurisdiction in which the premises is located. The same requirement is currently only applicable to a public housing authority organized under the Housing Authorities Law.

[HB152](#) Single-family residential use; middle housing allowed on lots zoned for units.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Ibraheem S. Samirah

Summary: Middle housing allowed on lots zoned for single-family use. Requires all localities to allow development or redevelopment of "middle housing" residential units upon each lot zoned for single-family residential use. Middle housing is defined as two-family residential units, including duplexes, townhouses, cottages, and any similar structure. Such structures shall not require a special use permit or be subjected to any other local requirements beyond those imposed upon other authorized residential uses. Localities may regulate the siting, design, and environmental standards of middle housing residential units, including setback requirements, provided that the regulations do not, individually or cumulatively, discourage the development of all two-family housing types permitted through unreasonable costs or delay.

[HB147](#) Housing authorities; housing research and studies.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Ibraheem S. Samirah

Summary: Housing authorities; housing research and studies. Requires the Virginia Housing Development Authority and local housing development authorities to undertake and carry out studies and analyses of housing needs and the meeting of such needs and to make the results of such studies and analyses available to the public and the building, housing, and supply industries. The bill also allows the Virginia Housing Development Authority to engage in research and disseminate information on the subject of housing.

SB124 Food stamps; eligibility, drug-related felonies.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services (December 16, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mamie E. Locke

Summary: Eligibility for food stamps; drug-related felonies. Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive food stamp benefits shall not be denied such assistance solely because he has been convicted of a drug-related felony. Under current law, a person otherwise eligible to receive food stamp benefits shall not be denied food stamp benefits based on a felony conviction of possession of a controlled substance in violation of § 18.2-250, provided that such person is complying with, or has already complied with, all obligations imposed by the criminal court, is actively engaged in or has completed a substance abuse treatment program, participates in periodic drug screenings, and fulfills any other obligations as determined by the Department of Social Services.

SB155 TANF; eligibility for drug-related felonies.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services (December 18, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barbara A. Favola

Summary: Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies. Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) shall not be denied such assistance solely because he has been convicted of a felony offense of possession of a controlled substance in violation of § 18.2-250, provided that such person is complying with, or has already complied with, all obligations imposed by the criminal court, is actively engaged in or has completed a substance abuse treatment program, participates in periodic drug screenings, and meets any other obligations as determined by the Department of Social Services.

SB181 Alcoholic beverage control; commercial lifestyle center.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services (December 21, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barbara A. Favola

Summary: Alcoholic beverage control; commercial lifestyle center; definition. Reduces from 25 to 10 the minimum number of acres upon which a commercial development must sit in order to qualify for licensure as a commercial lifestyle center.

SB117 Family day homes; licensure threshold.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services (December 15, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barbara A. Favola

Summary: Family day homes; licensure threshold. Reduces from five to three the number of children for whom a family day home must obtain a license to provide child care services.

SB178 Kinship Guardianship Assistance program; expands eligibility, fictive kin.

WATCH

Last Action: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services (December 21, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barbara A. Favola

Summary: Kinship Guardianship Assistance program; eligibility; fictive kin. Expands eligibility for the Kinship Guardianship Assistance program by allowing payments to be made to fictive kin who receive custody of a child of whom they had been the foster parent.

..... **Justice**

HB17 Driver's license; suspension for nonpayment of fines or costs.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 19, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jennifer Carroll Foy

Summary: Suspension of driver's license for nonpayment of fines or costs. Repeals the requirement that the driver's license of a person convicted of any violation of the law who fails or refuses to provide for immediate payment of fines or costs be suspended. The bill also removes a provision allowing the court to require a defendant to present a summary prepared by the Department of Motor Vehicles of the other courts in which the defendant also owes fines and costs. The bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to return or reinstate any person's driver's license that was suspended prior to July 1, 2020, solely for nonpayment of fines or costs. Such person does not have to pay a reinstatement fee.

HB101 Grand larceny; increases threshold amount.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 12, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph C. Lindsey

Summary: Grand larceny; threshold. Increases from \$500 to \$750 the threshold amount of money taken or value of goods or chattel taken at which the crime rises from petit larceny to grand larceny. The bill increases the threshold by the same amount for the classification of certain property crimes.

..... **Employee/Employer**

HB64 Child's school activities; employers to allow parental leave for activities.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 4, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Jason S. Miyares

Summary: Parental leave for school involvement. Requires employers to grant four hours of leave annually to employees who are parents or guardians of, or who stand in loco parentis to, a school-aged child in order to attend parent-teacher conferences, volunteer at the child's school, or otherwise be involved in the child's school. The employer and employee must mutually agree to the time for the leave, the leave need not be compensated, and the employer may require both 48 hours' advance notice of the leave and written verification from the school of the employee's involvement in the school.

HB326 Employment; wage inquiries, civil penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 1, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark H. Levine

Summary: Employment; wage inquiries; civil penalty. Prohibits any public or private employer from (i) refusing to interview, hire, or employ an applicant for employment because the applicant does not provide wage history; (ii) retaliating against an applicant for employment because the applicant does not provide wage history; or (iii) relying on the wage history of an applicant to determine the wages offered by the employer to such individual. An applicant or employee who is aggrieved by a violation may bring a private action against the employer. In addition, violators are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100 per violation.

[HB383](#) Law-Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Fund and Program; established, report.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Kelly K. Convors-Fowler

Summary: Law-Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Fund and Program. Establishes the Law-Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Fund and requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish the Law-Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants from the Fund on a competitive basis to local law-enforcement agencies to cover the cost of tuition, books, and mandatory fees at a public institution of higher education for up to two years for any law-enforcement officer employed by such agency who enters into an agreement to continue to serve as a law-enforcement officer for such agency upon completion of his course of study for a period at least as long as the length of the course of study undertaken and paid for pursuant to the Program. The Fund and Program replace a similar provision of current law whereby the Department of Criminal Justice Services enters into contracts to make payments directly to certain public and private institutions of higher education to cover the cost of tuition, books, and mandatory fees for state and local law-enforcement officers who enroll in a program of study relating to their law-enforcement duties. The bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than September 1, 2024, on the funding, utilization, and effectiveness of the Fund and Program. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2025.

[SB168](#) Line of Duty Act; requiring Virginia licensed health practitioners to conduct medical reviews.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary (December 20, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Bill DeSteph

Summary: Line of Duty Act; requiring Virginia licensed health practitioners to conduct medical reviews. Requires that, for any medical review of a claim made pursuant to the provisions of the Line of Duty Act (LODA), the Virginia Retirement System shall require that such review be conducted by a doctor, nurse, or psychologist who is licensed in Virginia. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2021.

[HB46](#) Workers' compensation; employer to notify employee of intent.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (November 22, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lee J. Carter

Summary: Workers' compensation; employer to notify employee of intent. Requires an employer whose employee has filed a claim under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act to advise the employee whether the employer intends to accept or deny the claim or is unable to make such a determination because it lacks sufficient

information from the employee. If the employer is unable to make such a determination because it lacks sufficient information from the employee, the employer shall so state and identify the needed additional information. If the employer intends to deny the claim, it shall provide the reasons.

[HB67](#) Strikes by certain government employees; limits to law-enforcement officers.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 5, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lee J. Carter

Summary: Strikes by government employees. Limits to law-enforcement officers the scope of the existing provision that deems any public employee who strikes to have terminated his employment and bars him from further public employment.

[HB107](#) Human Resources Management, Department of; health insurance for local school board employees.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 13, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Terry G. Kilgore

Summary: Department of Human Resources Management; health insurance for local school board employees. Allows local school boards to elect to have all of their employees and retirees, as well as the dependents of such employees and retirees, be eligible to participate in the state employee health insurance plan in lieu of the current state-administered local health insurance plan. Any participating local school board shall be responsible for whatever portion of the cost of such insurance is not paid by the employee, except any portion that the General Assembly elects to pay.

[HB196](#) Employment discrimination; prohibits against electoral board member, etc., for election day service.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 27, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Wendy W. Gooditis

Summary: Employment discrimination; prohibited against electoral board members and assistant general registrars for election day service; penalty. Prohibits discrimination in employment against electoral board members and assistant general registrars on the basis of service on election day or at a meeting of the electoral board following the election to ascertain the results of the election. Current law prohibits such employment discrimination only on the basis of election day service and only against officers of election. A violation of the bill's provisions is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

[HB327](#) Public employees; collective bargaining.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 1, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark H. Levine

Summary: Public employees; collective bargaining. Authorizes state and local government officers, agents, and governing bodies to recognize any labor union or other employee association as a bargaining agent of any public officers or employees and to collectively bargain with any such union or association.

[HB582](#) Collective bargaining for public employees.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 6, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Elizabeth R. Guzman

Summary: Collective bargaining for public employees. Repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which will determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The measure requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The measure repeals a provision enacted in 2013 that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement.

..... **Procurement**

[HB467](#) Virginia Public Procurement Act; cooperative procurement, construction.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 3, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark L. Keam

Summary: Virginia Public Procurement Act; cooperative procurement; construction. Allows public bodies to utilize cooperative procurement for construction projects not exceeding \$200,000.

..... **Localities**

[HB69](#) Credit unions; authorizes localities and political subdivisions to hold public deposits.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 5, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Lee J. Carter

Summary: Credit unions. Authorizes localities and political subdivisions to hold public deposits in a credit union. The measure allows localities and political subdivisions to become members of a credit union for purposes of placing deposits in and receiving services from the credit union.

[HB106](#) Numbering on buildings; civil penalty.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 13, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark L. Cole

Summary: Numbering on buildings; civil penalty. Provides that an ordinance that requires buildings to have visible numbering may include provisions for a civil penalty not to exceed \$100 for a violation that has not been corrected within 15 days of notice of such violation. Civil penalties assessed under this provision shall be paid into the treasury of the locality where the violation occurred.

[HB166](#) Hearing notice by localities; timely notice related to planning or zoning matter to newspaper, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 24, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Barry D. Knight

Summary: Hearing notice by localities. Provides that if a locality has submitted a timely notice request related to a planning or zoning matter to a newspaper of general circulation and the newspaper fails to publish the notice, a locality shall be deemed to have met public hearing notice requirements so long as notice of the agenda, including the item intended for publication in the newspaper, was published on the locality's website at least three weeks before the hearing.

[HB549](#) Overgrown vegetation; local authority.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 5, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Jeion A. Ward

Summary: Overgrown vegetation; local authority. Authorizes any locality within Planning District 23 or that has a population of at least 75,000 to include provisions for cutting overgrown shrubs, trees, and other such vegetation in an ordinance requiring certain landowners to cut the grass, weeds, and other foreign growth on certain property.

[HB554](#) Zoning; wireless communications infrastructure.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 6, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Schuyler T. VanValkenburg

Summary: Zoning for wireless communications infrastructure. Authorizes a locality to disapprove an application submitted for an administrative review-eligible project or for any zoning approval required for a standard process project that proposes to locate a new structure, or to co-locate a wireless facility, in an area where all cable and public utility facilities are required to be placed underground by a date certain or encouraged to be undergrounded as part of a transportation improvement project or rezoning proceeding as set forth in objectives contained in a comprehensive plan, on grounds that an applicant has not given written notice to adjacent landowners at least 15 days before it applies to locate a new structure in the area.

..... **Taxes**

[HB502](#) Litter tax; adds \$100 to the existing penalty for delinquency.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 3, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Paul E. Krizek

Summary: Litter tax; penalty. Adds \$100 to the existing penalty for litter tax delinquency.

[HB537](#) Real estate tax; exemption for property in redevelopment or conservation areas.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 5, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Betsy B. Carr

Summary: Real estate tax exemption for property in redevelopment or conservation areas or rehabilitation districts. Increases the maximum duration of a local real estate tax exemption for structures in redevelopment or conservation areas or rehabilitation districts from 15 to 30 years.

[HB302](#) Litter tax; repeals annual tax.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 31, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Joseph P. McNamara

Summary: Litter tax. Repeals the annual litter tax. The bill does not affect any litter tax levied prior to July 1, 2020.

..... **Ballots & Elections**

[HB57](#) Elections; date of June primary election.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 2, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Hyland F. "Buddy" Fowler, Jr.

Summary: Elections; date of June primary election. Changes the date of the primary election held in June from the second Tuesday in June to the third Tuesday in June. The bill also changes candidate filing deadlines to reflect the change of date.

..... **Electric Utilities**

[HB75](#) Electric utilities; electric school bus pilot program.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 5, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Kaye Kory

Summary: Electric utilities; electric school bus pilot program. Authorizes Dominion Energy to implement a pilot program under which it will deploy electric school buses in participating school divisions in its service territory. The initial phase of the pilot program is limited to the deployment of 50 electric school buses at a cost of up to \$13.5 million. In each of the five years thereafter, the pilot program may be expanded by up to 200 additional electric school buses at a cost of up to \$54 million per year. The pilot program provides that the utility may use vehicle-to-grid technology to access electricity in the storage batteries of the electric school buses when they are not in use. The duration of the pilot program shall not exceed 10 years, though the utility may petition the State Corporation Commission to make it permanent. Program costs, including the incremental cost of the electric school buses, are recoverable through the utility's base rates.

..... **Waived Tolls**

[HB429](#) Toll facilities; free use by teachers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel.

WATCH

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 3, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Don L. Scott

Summary: Free use of toll facilities; teachers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. Authorizes any teacher employed by a public school district, firefighter, or emergency medical services personnel to use all toll bridges, toll ferries, toll tunnels, and toll roads in the Commonwealth without the payment of toll while traveling between his place of residence and his place of employment.

..... **Boards & Commissions**

HB237 Electoral boards, local; terms to begin January 1.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 30, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark D. Sickles

Summary: Local electoral boards; terms to begin January 1. Provides for terms of local electoral board members to begin on January 1. Currently, terms begin March 1.

HB542 Regional water resource planning; State Water Control Board regulations.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 5, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Betsy B. Carr

Summary: Regional water resource planning; State Water Control Board regulations. Directs the State Water Control Board 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. 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 regional water supply plan. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Quality to facilitate the creation of the regional water plans by ensuring sufficient coordination among localities, providing planning and other assistance, and 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. The bill contains technical amendments.

HB364 Statewide prioritization process; project selection.

OPPOSE

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (January 2, 2020)

Primary Sponsor: Mark L. Cole

Summary: Statewide prioritization process; project selection. Requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board, when evaluating projects under the statewide prioritization process known as SMART SCALE, to evaluate (i) congestion mitigation on the basis of total traffic volumes, not just traffic volumes during weekdays, and (ii) accessibility on the basis of the area of influence of a project for a radius of 55 miles.

HJ20 Composite index of local ability to pay; JLARC to study feasibility of adjusting, etc.

SUPPORT

Last Action: Committee Referral Pending (December 20, 2019)

Primary Sponsor: Mark L. Cole

Summary: Study; JLARC; feasibility of adjusting the composite index of local ability to pay and expanding access to the cost of competing adjustment; report. Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the feasibility of adjusting the composite index of local ability to pay and expanding access to the cost of competing adjustment by (i) reviewing current statutory, constitutional, and budgetary provisions governing the calculation of Standards of Quality costs and funding; (ii) examining the components of the composite index of local ability to pay and the cost of competing adjustment; (iii) evaluating other states' public school funding formulas; and (iv) hearing local concerns and seeking input from various state and national experts, as applicable.