



2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

WEEK #5 SESSION REPORT

February 11, 2024

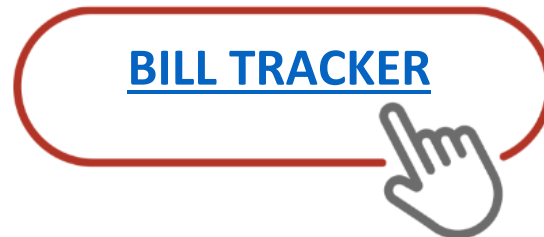
Prepared for:



greater
williamsburg
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES WEEK #5

To date, of the 2,735 bills and resolutions introduced, 604 have been passed in the House and 511 have been passed in the Senate. The legislature has chosen not to advance 282 bills, continued 322 bills to the 2025 session, and 1,923 are still pending action. As the session proceeds, we will continue to update our bill tracker with the most up-to-date information. Click below for the latest updates.



As the 5th week draws to a close, lawmakers are gearing up for a critical deadline known as "Crossover" on Tuesday. This key date marks the deadline for each legislative body to finalize action on bills originating within its chamber. Following that, on Sunday, February 18th, the money committees will vote on their respective budgets.

Floor sessions continue to grow longer to address the pending legislation that still needs to be considered prior to Crossover. The long committee meetings are wrapping up as time runs out approaching Crossover. Please see below for some legislative updates from the past week.

CLASS ACTION LEGISLATION TO BE VOTED ON IN THE HOUSE NEXT WEEK

The Greater Williamsburg Chamber has joined the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders in opposing legislation that would increase the cost of doing business and place greater liability on businesses across the Commonwealth, which would have a detrimental impact on our business and legal climate and effect Virginia's current business rankings.

[HB 418](#) (Simon) and [SB 259](#) (Surovell) seek to provide that, on a motion of any party, a circuit court may enter an order certifying a class or joining, coordinating, consolidating, or transferring civil actions upon finding that separate civil actions brought by a plaintiff on behalf of multiple similarly situated persons involve common questions of law or fact and arise out of the same transaction or occurrence. Currently, the circuit court may enter such order for such separate civil actions if such actions are brought by six or more plaintiffs.

The bill also provides that in a civil action for retaliation of an employer against an employee, the court or jury may order the reinstatement of the employee to a similar or equivalent position and compensation for lost wages, benefits, and remuneration, as well as reasonable attorney fees and costs, and may award treble damages upon a finding that such act of retaliation by an employer against an employee was willful.

The bill directs the Supreme Court of Virginia to promulgate rules no later than November 1, 2024, governing the certification of a class or the joining, coordinating, consolidating, or transferring of civil actions filed on behalf of multiple persons. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

The House version of the bill was passed in the House when the bill was on its third reading on Friday afternoon by a [50-46](#) party-line vote. The Senate version of the bill was reported by the Courts of Justice

Committee this past Wednesday by a vote of [9-6](#), and is to expected to be heard on the floor of the Senate for its third and final reading on Monday.

More updates to come as this legislation moves through the process.

LEGISLATION TO HELP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OBTAIN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDENTIALS ADVANCES IN THE SENATE

The Greater Williamsburg Chamber joined a number of other organizations in supporting legislation to help high school students earn career and technical education credentials.

[HB 1051](#) (Batten) and [SB 563](#) (Hackworth) make several changes related to high school graduation requirements in Virginia, including:

- Eliminating the need to take a virtual course in order to graduate.
- Specifying that the classes offered relating to earning career and technical education credentials for high school graduation are required to be high-demand career and technical education credentials.

Unfortunately, HB 1051 was continued to 2025 in the Higher Education Subcommittee on Monday. In the Senate, however, the Chamber signed onto a letter to the members of the Education and Health Committee requesting that SB 563, which had been voted down in the subcommittee where it was heard, be reconsidered when it was heard on Thursday.

When the bill was considered in the Education and Health Committee, it passed with a unanimous vote and was re-referred to the Finance and Appropriations Committee, where it also received unanimous support, sending the bill to the floor of the Senate. Further updates to come as we have them.

LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE VIRGINIA-MADE GOODS CONSIDERED LAST WEEK

The Greater Williamsburg Chamber was pleased to support legislation to help prioritize Virginia-produced goods in cases of a tie-bid.

[HB 1361](#) (Feggans) seeks to provide preference for a bidder who is a resident of Virginia and then a bidder whose goods are produced in the United States. The bill gives the next lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is a resident of Virginia the option to match the price of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is a resident of another state. The bill exempts a public body from the provisions of the bill if such public body is rendered ineligible to receive federal funding due to the provisions of the bill.

This bill was reported by the General Laws Committee with a substitute Thursday by a unanimous vote. The substitute:

- Prioritizes Virginia manufactured goods over U.S. manufactured goods,
- Allows Virginia companies the opportunity to price-match a winning bid by an out-of-state company, and
- Requires reciprocity against out-of-state bidders for absolute or percentage preferences in state procurement.

This bill is now headed to the House floor for consideration there.

EXPANSION OF VIRGINIA’S HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM ADVANCES IN BOTH BODIES

The Greater Williamsburg Chamber has joined other chambers, business and environmental organizations, and localities in support of expanding the Virginia Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, which has played an essential role in preserving more than 2,500 historic properties and economic sustainability of communities in the Commonwealth for 27 years.

As introduced, [HB 960](#) (Lopez) and [SB 556](#) (Williams Graves) sought to increase the maximum amount of that tax credit that may be claimed by a taxpayer from \$5 million to \$10 million beginning in 2024. This legislation also proposed a provision in cases where a taxpayer incurs expenses for the rehabilitation of a certified historic structure in an enterprise, allowing them to claim up to an additional \$10 million in any taxable year.

The Senate version of the bill was passed in the Finance and Appropriations Resources Subcommittee on Tuesday by a vote of [13-2](#) with two amendments:

- Added a delayed effective date of 2025 and
- Removed the additional language regarding enterprise zones.

Members of the House Appropriation Committee’s Commerce, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Subcommittee voted to advance the House version of this legislation by a [7-1](#) vote with an amendment that included a cap on the program of \$75 million per fiscal year.

While we do not support the program cap, this amendment kept the bill moving and will allow the differences between the House and Senate bills to be negotiated when they reach the conference committee.

LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ADVANCES IN BOTH BODIES

As mentioned in our previous report, policymakers have proposed a number of bills this session to help foster the integration of career and technical education pathways to connect K-12 and post-secondary education with practical training to promote work-based learning opportunities.

Since last week's report, [SB 27](#) (Stanley), which seeks to establish the Public School Trades Incentive Program and Fund, was passed by members of the Senate when the bill was on its third reading by a unanimous vote.

[HB 1009](#) (Lovejoy) was incorporated into [HB 1345](#) (Anthony) by the Education Committee on Wednesday. Both bills seek to require the Board of Education to develop a comprehensive list of industry-recognized workforce credentials for students. HB 1345 is now on its first reading on the floor of the House.

BILLS TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS ADVANCE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Per our previous reports, there have been a number of bills introduced this session to increase affordable housing to help better meet the needs of Virginia’s workforce.

[HB 477](#) (Coyner) and [SB 50](#) (Locke) both seek to extend the expiration of the Eviction Diversion Pilot Program to July 1, 2025. Currently, the program is set to expire on July 1, 2024. The Eviction Diversion Pilot Program’s purpose is to reduce the number of evictions of low-income individuals. This legislation is also a recommendation of the Virginia Housing Commission. Both bills have been passed in their respective bodies.

[HB 878](#) (Bulova) seeks to permit any local government to either purchase development rights or accept the donation of development rights to preserve and provide affordable housing. This piece of legislation was passed in the House by a vote of [85-15](#) and has been referred to the Senate Local Government Committee.

[HB 1105](#) (Carr) seeks to create the Zoning for Housing Production Fund, which will award grants to localities to create and maintain affordable housing in mixed-income communities. This piece of legislation was reported by the members of the Appropriations Committee unanimously on Wednesday and is currently on its first reading on the House floor.

[HB 1398](#) (Bennett-Parker) seeks to create a framework for localities to preserve affordable housing by exercising a right of first refusal on publicly supported housing. The bill also seeks to authorize localities to implement an ordinance that requires an owner to accept a right of first refusal offer by the locality, in order to preserve affordable housing for a period of not less than 15 years. This piece of legislation is currently on its second reading on the floor of the House.

Del. Bennett-Parker has also proposed a budget amendment related to affordable housing. [Item 102 #3h](#) proposes to provide \$50,000,000 in each year of the biennium to establish the 5000 Families pilot program, which will provide monthly rental assistance to low-income families with school-aged children. Eligible households will receive a monthly rental voucher in an amount sufficient to allow the family to pay only 30% of their monthly income for housing.

[SB 597](#) (McPike) seeks to authorize any locality to create an affordable housing dwelling unit program by amending its zoning ordinance. In current law, this authorization is limited to counties with an urban county executive or county manager form of government. This bill was reported in the Local Government Committee on Thursday by a [8-7](#) party-line vote and is waiting for its third and final reading in the Senate.

As these bills and related budget amendments move through the process, further updates will be provided.

Other highlights from week #5 are provided below.

GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY YOUNGKIN ANNOUNCE VIRGINIA COUNCIL ON WOMEN’S 13TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

(February 9, 2024) Governor Glenn Youngkin, First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin, and the Virginia Council on Women announced the 13th Annual Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Healthcare essay contest and encourage female high school students to enter.

“These scholarships are important investments into the futures of women seeking a career in science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics and healthcare fields. The First Lady and I cannot be more

excited for these Virginians' bright futures as they progress in their careers and develop as leaders," said Governor Glenn Youngkin.

"The Virginia Council on Women's STEAM-H scholarship can open doors for young women interested in a career in science, technology, engineering arts, math, or healthcare as they pursue their dreams and further their education. I encourage all interested high school students to learn more and apply for this scholarship," said Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera.

"This empowering opportunity encourages young women across Virginia to pursue their dream careers," said Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Gee. "I am proud to work with the Virginia Council on Women to ensure the STEAM-H Essay Contest continues to make a positive difference in our Commonwealth."

In 2012, the Virginia Council on Women held the first STEM Essay Contest to award scholarships to high school students who want to pursue a STEM career. The Council has awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships during the twelve years the contest has been held. The STEM Essay contest has expanded to the STEAM-H contest to encompass more career opportunities for women and assist them in scholarship opportunities.

"With the essay contest entering its thirteenth year, the Council on Women continues to be thankful that we can assist bright minds in every corner of the Commonwealth as they move forward on their STEAM-H journeys," said Ashley Marshall, Chair of the Virginia Council on Women. "As a Council, each and every member is dedicated to helping women reach their full potential and make their full contribution to society and the Commonwealth. This essay contest, and its support by Governor Youngkin and First Lady Youngkin, is an important way for the Council to be able to continue that work and to lift up women across Virginia."

The Council will award scholarships to qualifying high school seniors who plan to pursue a STEAM-H career at a community college, four-year college or university, trade or technical school, online, and/or through certificated STEAM-H oriented courses. The 13th annual contest will award one merit-based and one need-based scholarship in each of five geographic regions across the Commonwealth. Merit-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay submitted. Need-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay submitted and the individual's self-identified financial need. Award amounts may vary and are determined by the Council annually.

The contest is open to Virginia women in their senior year of high school who hold at least a 3.0 GPA for the merit-based awards and a 2.5 GPA for the need-based scholarships. Applications and guidelines are available online [here](#).

Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024. Essays will be judged by a panel of Council members and individuals who represent STEAM-H fields. Winners will be notified in late April 2024. The scholarship awards will be presented in the spring of 2024.

The purpose of the Virginia Council on Women is to identify ways in which women can reach their full potential and make their full contribution to society and the Commonwealth. The Council has initiated several projects to meet this goal, including the annual STEAM-H Essay Contest for high school seniors. Find additional information about the Council and available sponsorship opportunities [here](#).

MACK TRUCKS TO EXPAND IN VIRGINIA

(February 9, 2024) Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that Mack Trucks, part of Swedish-based Volvo Group and one of North America's leading producers of heavy-duty and medium-duty trucks, will invest \$14.5 million to expand its Roanoke County manufacturing operation. The company will expand its current production facility by 72,000-square-feet to increase capacity for its medium-duty truck line and an emerging medium-duty electric truck line. The project will create 51 new jobs.

"Mack Trucks' expansion further strengthens Virginia's manufacturing industry ecosystem, which is a core focus of the Commonwealth's economic development strategy," said Governor Glenn Youngkin. "We are proud that Mack Trucks' initial investment in a new Roanoke County operation four years ago has yielded a second major investment. This is truly another vote of confidence in Virginia by a global industry leader."

"We are proud to support Mack Trucks' continued growth in the Roanoke Region," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "The Volvo Group and Mack are shaping the future of transportation sustainability and recognize that Virginia's best-in-class business climate, workforce, and logistics infrastructure are drivers for success."

"Mack is committed to making the industrial and product investments we need to be a North American market leader," said Stephen Roy, global president of Mack Trucks. "The expansion of the Roanoke Valley operations plant will help us grow in a strategic market segment and support our sustainability goals."

"We were thrilled to embrace the arrival of Mack Trucks in Roanoke County four years ago and are further delighted to celebrate this expansion initiative today," said Phil North, chair of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors. "Their continued commitment to investing in our community not only bolsters our local economy but also underscores the growth potential of our region. I'm grateful for the exceptional efforts of our Economic Development team, led by Megan Baker, whose dedication brought this project to reality."

"Congratulations to Mack Trucks on this impressive expansion," said John Hull, executive director of the Roanoke Regional Partnership. "This impactful project further develops the region's rich automotive manufacturing cluster, which benefits from a supportive workforce development system as well as geographic advantages relative to customers and the overall automotive industry."

"The iconic Mack bulldog is getting even bigger here in the Roanoke Valley, and we are excited about this significant new investment and 51 quality jobs," said Senator David Suetterlein.

"Thank you to Mack Trucks for continuing to invest in the Roanoke Valley with this expansion," said Delegate Chris Obenshain. "The addition of these 51 new, well-paying jobs emphasize that Southwest Virginia continues to be an ideal place for businesses to start and grow. I'm proud to work alongside business and government leaders to develop our skilled manufacturing workforce and preserve the things that make Virginia's Blue Ridge a unique destination for both work and play."

Dedicated to durability, reliability and meeting the needs of customers, Mack Trucks has provided purpose-built transportation solutions for more than a century. Today, Mack is one of North America's largest producers of heavy-duty trucks, and Mack trucks are sold and serviced through an extensive distribution network in more than 45 countries. Mack® trucks, diesel engines and transmissions sold in North America are assembled in the United States. Mack manufacturing locations are certified to the

internationally recognized ISO 9001 standard for quality, ISO 14001 standard for environmental management systems and ISO 45001 standard for health and safety management systems. Mack is also a proud sponsor of Share the Road, an American Trucking Association public information campaign aimed at enhancing the safety of our nation's roadways.

Mack Trucks is part of the Volvo Group, which is driving prosperity through transport and infrastructure solutions, offering trucks, buses, construction equipment, power solutions for marine and industrial applications, financing and services that increase customer uptime and productivity. Founded in 1927, the Volvo Group is committed to shaping the future landscape of sustainable transport and infrastructure solutions. The Volvo Group is headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden, employs about 104,000 people and serves customers in almost 190 markets. In 2023, net sales amounted to about \$52 billion. For more information, please visit www.volvogroup.com.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Roanoke County and the Roanoke Regional Partnership to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Youngkin approved a \$255,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund to assist Roanoke County with the project. Funding and services to support the company's employee training activities will be provided through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program. The company is eligible to receive state benefits from the Major Business Facility Job Tax Credit for new, full-time jobs created.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MIYARES JOINS BIPARTISAN COALITION URGING CONGRESS TO STABILIZE FUNDING TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CRIME

(February 8, 2024) Attorney General Jason Miyares joined a bipartisan coalition of 41 attorneys general urging Congress to authorize much-needed 2024 bridge funding for the federal Crime Victims Fund (the "VOCA Fund"). The VOCA Fund supports the provision of essential direct services for crime victims and survivors across the country. According to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, projected fiscal year 2024 funding for victim service grants will be \$700 million lower than fiscal year 2023.

"In every corner of our nation, victims of crime rely on the vital support and services provided by federal funding. As victims navigate the aftermath of trauma, from the pain of physical injuries to the anguish of emotional distress, victim advocates are there to support recovery and well-being. That's why it is imperative that Congress acts swiftly to ensure that victim service programs, like those available here in the Commonwealth, remain fully funded," said Attorney General Miyares. "As violent crime continues to rise across the country, we have to ensure we remain committed to supporting victims every step of the way. I'm proud to stand with this bipartisan coalition of attorneys general calling on Congress to ensure victims and survivors have the resources and assistance they need in their most difficult times."

The VOCA Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and it is the primary financial source for victim services in all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. VOCA Fund revenue is generated from offenders convicted of crimes, not from taxes.

In 2021, Congress passed the VOCA Fix Act, which allows monetary recoveries from federal deferred prosecutions and non-prosecution agreements to replenish the fund. While passage of the VOCA Fix Act was necessary, it was not sufficient to adequately shore up fund balances, and 2024 VOCA funding for crime victim service programs is anticipated to be 41% lower nationwide when compared to 2023 grant awards.

Without prompt action by Congress, many victim service programs across the country may be forced to close.

The VOCA Fund supports medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, courtroom advocacy and temporary housing for victims and survivors of crime. It also helps to fund federal, state and tribal victim service programs, crime victim compensation, discretionary grant awards, victim specialists in U.S. Attorney's Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the federal victim notification system.

Virginia's Department of Criminal Justice Services administers victim assistance grant programs financed by the VOCA Fund. Here in Virginia, VOCA funds are used to provide important services such as children's advocacy centers, sexual assault and domestic violence prevention programming, and victim advocates at our courthouses.

Read the letter [here](#).

SIX VIRGINIA COMMUNITIES TO RECEIVE GRANTS TO SUPPORT RESTORATION OF BROWNFIELD SITES

(February 7, 2024) Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that \$1.76 million in Site Remediation Grants from the Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund (VBAF) will be awarded to six localities, which include the City of Danville Industrial Development Authority (IDA), the Town of Floyd, the City of Martinsville, Orange County, the Orange County Economic Development Authority, and the Town of Pound. The VBAF provides either grants or loans to local governments to restore and redevelop brownfield sites and address environmental problems or obstacles to their reuse in an effort to effectively attract new economic development prospects. Administered by the Virginia Resources Authority, the VBAF is a partnership between the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Department of Environmental Quality.

"Redeveloping brownfield sites is a critical step to enhance community infrastructure and effectively attract economic development, and the Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund is an important vehicle that helps localities across the Commonwealth meet this goal," said Governor Glenn Youngkin. "We are taking proactive steps to remediate properties and drive future economic growth and are proud to support rural development in the City of Danville, the Town of Floyd, the City of Martinsville, Orange County, and the Town of Pound with these grants."

"Ensuring project-ready sites in every region increases Virginia's overall competitiveness and prosperity, and VBAF paves a path for economic opportunity in rural communities across the Commonwealth," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "We applaud each of the localities for their commitment to economic development and look forward to the redevelopment of these brownfield sites."

"Rehabilitating brownfields is an excellent example of how environmental cleanup can go hand in hand with economic development, resulting in improvements for the community and for the Commonwealth," said Travis A. Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources.

Brownfields are properties in which redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence of hazardous materials, pollution, or contaminants. The Site Remediation Grants will cover efforts that include remediation of a contaminated property to remove hazardous substances and wastes, demolition and removal of existing structures, and other site work necessary to make a site or property usable for new

economic development. In addition to Site Remediation Grants, Site Assessment Grants are available to communities for assistance with environmental and cultural resource site assessments and the development of remediation and reuse plans.

Since its inception in 2011, the VBAF has awarded over \$17.5 million in over 250 grants to restore brownfield sites.

Fiscal Year 2024 Virginia Brownfield Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund Awards:

Locality	VBAF Award	Property
City of Danville IDA	\$500,000	Former Masonic Temple
Orange County	\$500,000	Former Virginia Metal Industries property
Town of Floyd	\$262,500	Multiple commercial properties in west end
City of Martinsville	\$189,500	Former BB&T building in uptown
Orange County Economic Development Authority	\$183,000	Former Earl's Glass Shop in the Town of Orange
Town of Pound	\$125,000	Former Peoples Bank of Pound building

For more information on the Virginia Brownfield Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund, visit vedp.org/brownfields.

IN THE NEWS

Below, you will find several news articles that may be of interest from the past week.

Virginia Lawmakers aim to incentivize rural EV charging stations

Source: Radio IQ, Date: February 9, 2024

A Northern Virginia Delegate is hoping a pot of state money may help expand electric vehicle, or EV, charging stations across the state's more rural regions. To read more, click [here](#).

Military-related legislation moving through Virginia General Assembly introduced by Hampton Roads lawmakers

Source: Pilot Online, Date: February 9, 2024

A month after the state legislature reconvened Jan. 10 for its annual session, lawmakers are considering a series of bills and amendments that could impact the Hampton Roads military community. To read more, click [here](#).

Virginia House OKs 'cake pop bill' easing limits on small sellers of homemade goods

Source: Virginia Mercury, Date: February 9, 2024

Three months ago, Kelly Phillips got a letter from Virginia officials warning her that the small cake pop business she runs out of her home was selling its bite-sized treats illicitly. To read more, click [here](#).

House panel carries over bill that would give state more power to approve large renewable energy projects

Source: Cardinal News, Date: February 7, 2024

A House subcommittee on Tuesday voted to carry over for a year a bill that would give state regulators more authority to approve large renewable energy projects. To read more, click [here](#).

House bills seek to address concerns at state psychiatric hospitals

Source: VPM, Date: February 7, 2024

A House of Delegates committee forwarded bills seeking to address strains on the state's psychiatric hospitals to the floor Tuesday. To read more, click [here](#).

Virginians wager \$633M on sports in December

Source: Virginia Business, Date: February 5, 2024

Virginians bet about \$633 million on sports in December 2023, up 25.9% from December 2022, according to data released by the Virginia Lottery on Feb. 1. To read more, click [here](#).

Measure to create drug affordability board clears Senate committee

Source: Cardinal News, Date: February 5, 2024

A bill that would create a board for prescription drug affordability passed 10-5 across party lines in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee on Monday evening. To read more, click [here](#).

House panel advances bill to allow localities to hold referendum on sales tax increase for schools

Source: Cardinal News, Date: February 5, 2024

A House Finance subcommittee on Monday approved a sweeping proposal that would allow all Virginia localities to impose a local sales tax hike of up to 1%, with the revenue used only for the construction or renovation of schools once such a levy is approved in a voter referendum. To read more, click [here](#).

Va. Senate OKs bill allowing localities to impose sales, use tax for school projects

Source: News Advance, Date: February 3, 2024

A bill backed by Sen. Creigh Deeds, D-Charlottesville, to authorize localities to impose an additional local sales and use tax for school construction or renovation projects if voters pass such a measure by referendum received the Virginia Senate's approval Jan. 29. To read more, click [here](#).

Bill for minimum wage increases passed by Virginia House of Delegates

Source: Wavy, Date: February 3, 2024

The House of Delegates has passed a bill that would bring increases in Virginia's minimum wage, up to \$15 an hour starting in 2026. To read more, click [here](#).

IMPORTANT DATES AND MILESTONES

Upcoming dates and deadlines are listed below.

- February 13th – Crossover (otherwise known as the half-way point of the session when all bills must be acted on in their body of origin).
- February 18th – “Budget Sunday,” when the House and Senate money committees will recommend their proposed budgets.
- March 9th – Final day of session, otherwise known as Sine Die.
- April 17th – Reconvened/Veto session, where legislature returns to act on Governor's amendments and vetoes.
- July 1st – Effective date for legislation and budget unless otherwise specified.

We hope this report is helpful. Further updates to come as the session proceeds.

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