

MEMO

To: TJPD Commissioners
From: David Blount, Director of Legislative Services
Date: May 5, 2022
Re: Legislative Update

Purpose:

To provide a General Assembly update and report on expected, upcoming legislative activity.

Summary:

The General Assembly concluded its regular session on March 12, but without adopting changes to the current (FY22) state budget or a new state spending plan for FY23/FY24. The legislature convened briefly in special session on April 6 for the purpose of addressing the budget and a number of unresolved bills. However, at this writing, budget negotiators have not reached an agreement, so lawmakers have not returned to Richmond to finish their work, and there is no specific timetable for them to do so. The legislature did convene on April 27 for the so-called “veto session” to consider vetoes and amendments to bills proposed by Governor Youngkin.

As for legislation, a pair of locally-requested bills were approved by the General Assembly and signed by the governor. These are bills to designate additional portions of the James River as “scenic,” and to provide additional flexibility for boards of supervisors in setting compensation for members.

Upcoming Legislative Activities:

>Workgroup to review and make recommendations for streamlining Code provisions concerning public notice requirements (HB 1131 and SB 417).

>Joint subcommittee to study pandemic response and preparedness (SJR 10). The 2021 General Assembly directed JLARC to study the impact of COVID on schools (report due January, 2023).

>State and local tax policy? Senate only or joint?

JLARC study on progressivity of income taxes (from 2021) due next January.

JLARC also is studying the true cost of public education in Virginia and costs to implement the Standards of Quality.