

MEMO

To: TJPD Commissioners
From: David Blount, Director of Legislative Services
Date: May 2, 2024
Re: Legislative Report

Purpose:

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

Summary:

The General Assembly concluded its regular session on March 9. Leading up to the legislature's one-day "reconvened" session on April 17, the governor and legislative leaders agreed to continue to work together in the coming weeks on the FY25/26 state budget (instead of acting that day on the governor's proposed budget amendments). Lawmakers will convene in a special legislative session beginning May 13 to consider the budget. In the meantime, budget negotiations will center on provisions contained in the budget approved by the legislature, with decisions about taxes/revenues needing to be made first.

During the regular session, several legislative and budget requests made by localities in the region met with some success. This included legislation to update the statutory salary caps for city councils, and budget items related to harmful algae blooms at Lake Anna and a water impoundment structure in Greene County. The General Assembly-approved budget also included additional funding for planning district commissions. Highly-sought after legislation to allow localities to enact a one-cent sales tax, if approved by voter referendum, to be used for school construction, renovation, and debt service, did not pass.

Upcoming Legislative Activities:

>K-12 Education: A Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Funding will review and prioritize JLARC funding recommendations and develop a long-range implementation plan (Nov. 2024).

>JLARC: The annual workplan meeting to set the year's study schedule is slated for next week. A review of broadband implementation, outcomes/impacts, and future considerations is possible.

>The Virginia Housing Commission annually considers unsuccessful items from the most recent legislation session. This year, an Accessory Dwelling Unit workgroup will review [HB 900](#) and [SB 304](#), which required accessory dwelling units as a permitted accessory use in residential zoning districts.

>Clean Economy Act/Solar: Discussions already are underway by the chair of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee to examine ways to enhance progress toward the state's clean energy goals; a large summit will be planned for the fall.