

Legislative Update

May 2026



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Legislative Update

- 2026 General Assembly “long” session adjourned on March 14.
- The governor suggested changes to about 180 bills that were sent to her for action and vetoed another 8 bills (all vetoes stood).
- At the one-day “reconvened” session on April 22, the legislature rejected several dozen changes that the governor proposed.
- The governor has a May 22 deadline to act on legislation returned to her (amendments “passed by” or rejected) by the legislature.
- At this point, 1102 bills have been approved and nearly 450 have been “continued” to the 2027 session.



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Legislative Update

□ State Budget

- The budget conference committee is hung up over the amount of resources available for appropriation.
- The Senate proposed elimination of the tax credit for data centers' equipment in its budget; the House (and governor) are opposed.
- Due to a veto of skill games legislation, those projected revenues will not materialize (as the House proposed).
- In limbo due to the budget impasse: HAB remediation and hydrilla treatment/buoy maintenance funding (Louisa); Homeless shelter funding (Charlottesville); Biscuit Run trail (Albemarle); Water supply planning



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Legislative Update

□ Legislation

- Legislation to allow localities to enact a one-cent sales tax for school capital did not pass, but it is expected to be included in the budget.
- Numerous bills to restrict local authority, particularly land use authority, were successful this year.
- Among these are mandatory collective bargaining bills; ADU bill; BESS legislation; Faith in Housing bills.
- A summary of approved legislation of interest to local governments will be distributed at a later time.



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Legislative Update

- Looking Ahead—Issues to be discussed
 - State budget for FY27/28; state of the Virginia economy.
 - JLARC: Ag BMPs; creation of Secretariat of Rural Affairs; and Artificial Intelligence are among study topics.
 - Virginia Housing Commission: First meeting is May 20.
 - HB 707: Public bodies and .gov domain
 - FOIA Advisory Council: HB 463 (remote participation/quorum)
 - Elections: Two-year legislative study on the effects of moving some/all state or local elections to even-numbered years to coincide with federal elections; changes would require Constitutional amendment. (HJ 443 and SJ 253).



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Legislative Update

Questions?



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