



# **2026 Virginia Department of Fire Programs Legislative Summary**

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## **Introduction**

This summary reflects legislation tracked by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. This information is provided as a resource for members of the fire service, agency staff, and others who wish to have a basic understanding of legislation related to fire services proposed during the 2026 Virginia General Assembly. This list is not exhaustive and does not necessarily reflect each individual piece of legislation related to fire services. For more detailed information, readers should consult Virginia's Legislative Information System or contact the Government Affairs Division. For legislation related to emergency medical services, the Department of Health's Office of EMS should be contacted. For emergency management, the Department of Emergency Management should be contacted.

*This report does not include information on the budget, as the Virginia General Assembly failed to produce a budget as of the publication of this report. A subsequent report will be provided once a budget is adopted.*

## **Disclaimer**

This document is meant to be informative of fire service-related legislation. It does not represent the opinions of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Governor of Virginia, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, or the Department of Fire Programs.

## **Overview**

During the 2026 General Assembly session, the Department of Fire Programs sponsored one piece of legislation while also reviewing legislation and providing technical expertise on several bills related to firefighting, fire service funding, and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The Department of Fire Programs, in consultation with the Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, sponsored HB 682, which would have directed forfeited Aid to Localities funds to new targeted grants as approved by the Virginia Fire Services Board. Under current law, such funds are added to the 75 percent of the Fire Programs Fund allocated to the counties, cities, and towns for improvement of fire services in the subsequent year. The current arrangement provides minimal funds when split between all localities. This legislation was defeated in the House of Delegates.

The agency tracked seventeen bills filed in the Senate of Virginia, twenty-nine in the House of Delegates, and eleven budget amendments impacting the agency.

*The Department of Fire Programs did not take formal positions on legislation or budget items outside of HB 682.*

## **Partners**

The Department of Fire Programs (VD FP) would like to recognize partners throughout the legislative process that assisted the agency. The work of the Department of Fire Programs would not be possible without state partners including the Policy Office of the Governor, the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Department of Planning and Budget, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Health's Office of EMS, and the staff of the Virginia General Assembly.

Additionally, the assistance of various sections of the Department of Fire Programs including the Public Information Officer, Training and Operations Branch, State Fire Marshal, and the Chief Administrative Officer should be noted.

VD FP would also like to recognize stakeholder groups who assisted the agency or interacted on weekly stakeholder calls. These included the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia State Firefighters Association, Virginia Professional Fire Fighters, Virginia Fire Prevention Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators, Virginia Association of First Responders, the Association of Hazardous Materials Specialists, the Virginia Fire Services Council, the Virginia Fire Services Board, and several other organizations. Individuals and departments who provided testimony from across the Commonwealth not included above are also important partners.

The Department of Fire Programs encourages firefighters to get involved in the legislative process. Refer to additional resources below or contact the Government Affairs Division to learn how to contact legislators and support the fire service.

**Legislation**

**House of Delegates Passed and Signed Legislation**

This section contains legislation that was passed out of the House and signed into law by the Governor

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB169 Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; evaluation of emergency management needs in the Commonwealth; report		<b>Summary:</b> This bill directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to establish a work group to evaluate existing emergency management needs, analyze sustainability of current funding of such needs, and review alternative funding models for such needs in other states, and to report the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations and General Laws and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology on or before October 1, 2026.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> VDEM estimates a one-time cost for a contractor <b>\$130,000</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	Askew	
<b>House Vote:</b>	98-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	40-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	SB98	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB230 Motor Vehicles; use of safety belt systems, certain emergency services		<b>Summary:</b> This bill exempts emergency medical services personnel from the requirements for the use of safety belt systems while providing necessary care to a patient. It also exempts law-enforcement officers while driving motor vehicles to enforce laws governing parking. The bill has an effective date of July 7, 2026.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	McQuinn	
<b>House Vote:</b>	97-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	39-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor  *Incorporates HB 233	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB350 Exemption from jury service; fire marshals		
<b>Patron:</b>	McLaughlin	<b>Summary:</b> This bill exempts Fire Marshals and any officer appointed as a fire marshal.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	97-1	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	38-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB273 Law-enforcement officers; duty to render aid upon danger to life of limb; civil immunity		
<b>Patron:</b>	Helmer	<b>Summary:</b> Provides that a law-enforcement officer, while engaged in the performance of his duties, has a duty to render aid to any person that he observes suffering from a serious bodily injury or life-threatening condition, as circumstances objectively permit and provided that such aid may be rendered without endangering the law-enforcement officer, the person, or others. The bill also immunizes a law-enforcement officer from civil liability for any personal injury or wrongful death resulting from such rendering or withholding of such aid absent gross negligence or willful misconduct. The bill directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to adopt regulations to provide law-enforcement officers with basic medical training, including emergency first aid training.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	62-35	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	21-19	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB325 Fire Programs; Mental Health Awareness Training		
<b>Patron:</b>	Sullivan	<b>Summary:</b> This bill requires VDFP to develop a two-hour virtual asynchronous program on mental health awareness tailored for firefighters. The bill has an effective date of July 7, 2026.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> One-time general fund appropriation of <b>\$188,100</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	95-3	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	37-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	SB140	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB351 Flashing red and white warning lights, emergency vehicle exemptions; Department of Military Affairs emergency vehicles		
<b>Patron:</b>	Feggans	<b>Summary:</b> This bill authorizes the Department of Military Affairs emergency vehicles to be equipped with flashing, blinking, or alternating red and white lights, or alternating red or red and white combination warning lights and to disregard regulations regarding the operation of vehicles without being subject to criminal prosecution while responding to an emergency. This bill becomes effective July 7, 2026.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	97-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	39-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	SB573	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB735 Board of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code; temporary tents used for agritourism		
<b>Patron:</b>	Leftwich	<b>Summary:</b> This bill directs the Board of Housing and Community Development to review the relevant regulations of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and consider amending such regulations to allow temporary tents used for agritourism purposes to remain in place for up to 12 months on a single site.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	87-8	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	40-	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	SB132	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB895 Electric utilities; energy storage resources; Department of Energy to develop and model ordinances; State Corporate Commission to conduct technology demonstration program		
<b>Patron:</b>	Sullivan Jr.	<p><b>Summary:</b> Increases the targets for energy storage capacity that Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia are required to petition the State Corporation Commission (the Commission) for approval to construct, acquire, or procure and extends the time frame by which such capacity must be met. Under the bill, (i) Appalachian Power shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 780 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2040 and 520 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and (ii) Dominion Energy Virginia shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 16,000 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and 4,000 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045. "Long-duration energy storage" and "short-duration energy storage" are defined in the bill. Under the bill, the Commission shall approve an independent auditor to help develop criteria for and to help review requests for proposals for new energy storage resources. The bill requires the Commission to conduct a technology demonstration program for long-duration energy storage resources and initiate a proceeding to determine if such technology is viable and that the targets in the bill are reasonably achievable, for which a final order shall be entered no later than March 1, 2031. Certain provisions of the bill are only effective upon such determination by the Commission. The bill requires the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Fire Programs, to develop model ordinances suggested for use by localities in their regulation of energy storage projects by December 1, 2026. The bill directs the Commission to initiate a technical conference by September 1, 2026, to evaluate safety standards and practices for energy storage development. The bill also includes a provision authorizing the Commission to evaluate energy storage project proposals during annual petitions filed for the development of new renewable generation capacity.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact:</b> It is anticipated that any fiscal impact this bill may have on Energy, the State Corporation Commission (SCC), the Department of Fire Programs (DFP) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) can be absorbed within existing appropriation.</p>
<b>House Vote:</b>	68-30	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	21-19	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	SB448	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB 1285 State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board; membership; regional medical services councils		
<b>Patron:</b>	Wright JR.	<b>Summary:</b> Reduces the composition of the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board from 28 members to 24 members to account for four fewer representatives from regional emergency medical services councils.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	99-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	40-	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB 1313 Worker's compensation		
<b>Patron:</b>	Callsen	<b>Summary:</b> This bill provides that for the purposes of worker's compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by law enforcement or firefighters, an incident or exposure without any accompanying physical injury occurring in the line of duty on or after January 27, 2027, is a qualifying event, as defined in the bill. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> If the number of claims goes beyond a certain threshold, both DHRM and OAG will need additional non-general funds
<b>House Vote:</b>	98-1	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	40-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB 1333 Hours worked for paid firefighters		
<b>Patron:</b>	Feggans	<b>Summary:</b> This bill directs the Department of Fire Programs shall encourage employers to implement work schedules that do not require any paid firefighter's work schedule to exceed 42 hours per workweek.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> impact is indeterminate, as it is not possible to estimate how many localities will implement a 42-hour workweek for firefighters at this time.
<b>House Vote:</b>	97-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	40-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Sign	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

**House of Delegates Tabled or Continued**

This section contains legislation that was tabled or continued in the House to 2027

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB393 First Responders Cancer Screening Grant Fund established		
<b>Patron:</b>	Askew	<b>Summary:</b> This bill creates a fund to award grants to localities for costs incurred in providing certain cancer detection tests to firefighters. The bill provides that in any year if the grant fund was reduced to zero and the fund does not receive a separate appropriation, the Grant Program and Fund shall expire.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> Approximately <b>\$3,850,000</b> annually
<b>House Vote:</b>	97-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in Senate Finance and Appropriations committee (11-Y 3-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB1315 Fire Marshals; authority		
<b>Patron:</b>	Scott	<b>Summary:</b> This bill would expand and define the authority granted to Fire Marshalls.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in House Public Safety Committee (Voice vote)	

**House of Delegates Failed**

This section contains legislation that failed in the House

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB130 Workers compensation; presumption for certain cancers; sheriffs and deputy sheriffs		
<b>Patron:</b>	Cornett	<b>Summary:</b> This bill expands the workers' compensation presumption of compensability for certain cancers causing the death or disability of certain employees who have completed five years of service in their position to include sheriffs or deputy sheriffs.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> N/A
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in House Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB204 Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; emergency dispatchers		
<b>Patron:</b>	Cherry	<b>Summary:</b> This bill would extend membership in the VA Law Officers' Retirement System (VaLORS) to emergency dispatchers employed by the Department of State Police, Capital Police, and agencies whose law enforcement officers are eligible for membership in VaLORS. Membership would only apply to service earned on or after July 1, 2027.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> Approximately \$1,101,000 for FY 2028
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>		
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in House Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB7 Law-enforcement officers; restrictions on wearing of facial coverings; exceptions civil liability; penalty		
<b>Patron:</b>	Jones	<b>Summary:</b> This bill would prohibit certain officers from wearing facial coverings while performing official duties. This bill carves out exceptions for illness, exposure to toxic substances, and officers assigned to special weapons and tactic teams. Violation would subject officers to disciplinary action and would create a civil cause of action for any person injured as a result of tortious conduct by a law-enforcement officer who knowingly and intentionally wears a facial covering in violation of the provisions of the bill. The bill provides that sovereign immunity shall not be a defense to civil liability. The bill directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop a model policy for and restrictions on the use of facial coverings by law enforcement.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> There is an indeterminate fiscal impact due to the provisions of this bill creating a civil penalty for members of local electoral boards who neglect or refuse to perform their duties in accordance with law.
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Public Safety	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB205 Virginia Retirement System; enhanced benefits for 911 dispatchers		
<b>Patron:</b>	Cherry	<b>Summary:</b> Allows local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service to full-time salaried 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 2027, but allows an employer, as that term is defined in relevant law, to provide such enhanced retirement benefits for service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher before July 1, 2027, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> Approximately <b>\$159,700</b> to cover the cost of programming
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB227 Line of Duty Act; transitional coverage		
<b>Patron:</b>	Cornett	<b>Summary:</b> Requires the Department of Human Resource Management to acquire and provide temporary transitional health insurance coverage to disabled persons, eligible spouses, and eligible dependents during the period of transition into the LODA (Line of Duty Act) Health Benefits Plans. Current law authorizes but does not require the Department to acquire and provide such temporary transitional health insurance coverage to disabled persons, eligible spouses, and eligible dependents during such period.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB233 Motor vehicle use; use of safety belts; certain emergency medical services		
<b>Patron:</b>	Wachsmann	<b>Summary:</b> This bill Exempts from requirements for the use of safety belt systems emergency medical services personnel performing patient care while transporting persons inside the patient compartment of an emergency medical services vehicle where the wearing of such safety belt systems is impractical.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Transportation *Incorporated into HB 230	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB394 Fire Programs Fund; assessment		
<b>Patron:</b>	Askew	<b>Summary:</b> This bill increases the fire insurance assessment from one percent of total direct gross premium income for such insurance to (i) 1.5 percent on and after July 1, 2026, but before July 1, 2027, and (ii) two percent on and after July 1, 2027.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> The bill is anticipated to provide an additional revenue of \$39,882,259 in FY2027 and \$85,870,386 in FY2028, over original estimates.
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB365 Emergency vehicles; exempt from certain traffic regulations		
<b>Patron:</b>	McLaughlin	<b>Summary:</b> This bill authorizes state law-enforcement vehicles to disregard parking and stopping provisions. The bill expands the situations in which such vehicles may disregard speeds limits to include when establishing evidence of other violations of law and when responding to an emergency in which emergency lights and sirens may pose a safety risk and removes such authorization for disregarding speed limits in certain situations.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	96-2	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Passed by indefinitely in Senate Transportation committee (8-Y 7-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB682 Fire Programs Fund; aid to localities; redistribution of funds		
<b>Patron:</b>	Zehr	<b>Summary:</b> This bill provides that, for the purposes of funds distributed to localities as aid for fire programs, if a locality does not provide the required annual report and forms, any funds due to the locality for the next year shall be returned to the Fire Programs Fund and redistributed as grants to enhance firefighting and rescue services in accordance with policies developed by the Virginia Fire Services Board. Under current law, such funds are added to the 75 percent of the Fund allocated to the counties, cities, and towns of the Commonwealth for improvement of fire services in localities.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	33-65	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Defeated by House (33-Y 65-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB986 Fire Programs; allocation, Virginia at Risk Grant Program established		
<b>Patron:</b>	Garrett	<p><b>Summary:</b> This bill increases the assessment on certain insurance companies from one percent to 1.5 percent. The bill provides that the portion of the Fire Programs Fund allocated to localities may be used for the additional purposes of (i) constructing, improving, or expanding fire station facilities; (ii) providing mental health resources for fire personnel; or (iii) hiring additional fire personnel and funding recruitment and retention programs. The bill also prohibits such funds from being used, except as provided, for the purposes of investments, operating expenses, debt repayment, taxes, or fees.</p> <p>The bill also establishes the Virginia At Risk Fire Grant Program, to be funded by 0.25 percent of the assessments on insurance companies, for the purposes of providing assistance to localities with fire departments that are determined to be most at risk of being unable to provide fire suppression or rescue activities or maintain compliance with relevant laws and regulations.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact:</b> Increasing the assessment to 1.5% would increase revenue in FY27 from \$79,765,521 to <b>\$119,646,780</b> and FY28 from \$85,870,386 to <b>\$128,805,579</b></p>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Labor and Commerce	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB1054 Virginia Personnel and Equipment Grant Program established		
<b>Patron:</b>	Phillips	<b>Summary:</b> Establishes the Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program (the Program) for the purpose of awarding grants to localities to hire additional firefighters and to improve their firefighting and emergency medical services. The bill specifies that the Department of Fire Programs (the Department) shall administer the Program and two types of grants shall be made from the Program. The first shall provide grants to localities to increase the number of firefighters. Such grants shall be made for up to three years and shall be used by localities for programs to (i) hire new, additional full-time firefighters; (ii) convert part-time or volunteer firefighters to full-time firefighters; or (iii) recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The second shall award grants to localities for improving firefighting and emergency medical services, including by acquiring firefighting and emergency medical services vehicles and equipment and modifying facilities. For both grants, the bill provides that funds shall not be used to supplant any funds currently provided by the Commonwealth or by the locality and shall be used to increase the total amount of funds available for the provision of firefighting or emergency medical services. The bill requires the Department to submit a report annually, beginning November 1, 2027, to the Governor and the General Assembly containing a list of grants, the amount of each approved grant, information on the performance assessment system that the bill directs the Department to create, an evaluation of each grant based on such system, and any other criteria deemed relevant by the Department.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> \$242,962 for two additional full-time equivalent positions to support the program. There is not enough information available to accurately estimate the amount of funding needed by localities to support local fire department personnel costs, in accordance with the provisions of this bill.
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB750 VA. Retirement System; enhanced benefits for 911 dispatchers		
<b>Patron:</b>	Runion	<b>Summary:</b> This bill allows local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service to full time salaried 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such enhanced retirement applies only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2027, but allows an employer to provide those benefits prior to July 1, 2027. <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> <b>\$159,700</b> for VRS implementation
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB585 Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for animal control officers and 911 dispatchers		
<b>Patron:</b>	Ballard	<b>Summary:</b> Allows local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service to full-time salaried animal control officers and 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such enhanced retirement benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried animal control officer or 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2027, but allows an employer, as that term is defined in relevant law, to provide such enhanced retirement benefits for service earned as a full-time salaried animal control officer or 911 dispatcher before July 1, 2027, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027. <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> <b>\$307,000</b> in NGF for VRS implementation
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee on Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB1128 Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers		
<b>Patron:</b>	Reid	<b>Summary:</b> Allows local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service, other than a hazardous duty supplement, to full-time salaried 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such enhanced retirement benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2027, but allows an employer, as that term is defined in relevant law, to provide such enhanced retirement benefits for service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher before July 1, 2027, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> \$375,000 in NGF for VRS implementation
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Committee Appropriations	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> HB991 Income tax; subtraction for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel		
<b>Patron:</b>	Garrett	<b>Summary:</b> This bill would provide a \$2,000 tax break for individuals who render qualifying services as bona fide volunteers. The bill defines "qualifying services" as volunteer firefighting prevention services, emergency medical services, auxiliary police officer services, and emergency rescue services performed for nonprofit organizations that operate exclusively for the benefit of the general public. Services include all training-related activities required by law to perform such services.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> Revenue impact FY27 <b>\$3.3 million</b> decreasing to <b>\$2.2 million</b> going forward. Dept of Taxation considers this bill as routine and does not acquire additional funding.
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Finance	

**Senate Passed and Signed Legislation**

This section contains legislation that was passed out of the Senate and signed into law by the Governor

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB98 Secretary of Public Health and Homeland Security; evaluation of emergency management needs in the Commonwealth; report		
<b>Patron:</b>	Stanley	<b>Summary:</b> This bill directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to establish a work group to evaluate existing emergency management needs, analyze sustainability of current funding of such needs, and review alternative funding models for such needs in other states, and to report the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations and General Laws and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology on or before October 1, 2026.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> VDEM estimates a one-time cost for a contractor <b>\$130,000</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	97-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	38-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Signed	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	HB169	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB100 Protection of employees; volunteer emergency responders, civil action		
<b>Patron:</b>	Stanley	<b>Summary:</b> This bill prohibits an employer from discharging, disciplining, threatening, discriminating against, or penalizing an employee or taking other retaliatory action regarding an employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment solely because the employee fails to report for work because such employee is serving as a voluntary emergency responder, as defined in the bill, and is actively responding to an emergency alarm or during a state of emergency, provided that certain requirements are met. The bill provides that no employer shall be required to pay an employee for work time missed while serving as a voluntary emergency responder but permits such employee to use vacation or sick leave instead of unpaid time off if such employee has accrued such leave. The bill permits a person who alleges a violation of its provisions to bring a civil action seeking injunctive relief, reinstatement, and compensation for lost wages, benefits, and other remuneration.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> There is no fiscal impact as a standalone bill. However, other bills expanding agency responsibility for labor and employment law matter may exceed the agency's current capacity and could result in additional resources needed.
<b>House Vote:</b>	93-2	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	39-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Signed	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB111 Prohibition on trespassing on emergency vehicles, penalty		
<b>Patron:</b>	Craig	<b>Summary:</b> This bill provides that any person who enters or remains upon or within an emergency vehicle without the permission of, or after having been forbidden to do so, by the owner, lessee, or authorized operator is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> There is not enough information to reliably estimate the increase in fin revenue.
<b>House Vote:</b>	99-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	40-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Signed	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB132 Agritourism purposes; board of HCD to review regulations for temporary tents		
<b>Patron:</b>	Craig	<b>Summary:</b> Direct Board of HCD to review relevant regulations of the VA State Fire Prevention Code and consider amending such regulations to allow temporary tents used for agritourism purposes to remain in place for up to 12 months on a single site.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	93-5	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	20-1	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Signed	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	HB735	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB140 Dept of Fire Programs; development of mental health awareness training		
<b>Patron:</b>	McPike	<b>Summary:</b> This bill provides that the Department of Fire Programs shall develop a standardized, two-hour virtual asynchronous training program on mental health awareness tailored to firefighters that includes training on each subject matter set forth in current law. The bill provides the option for each fire department to use such standardized training program as guidance in developing its own mental health awareness training for its personnel.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> One-time cost of <b>\$188,100</b> to develop and conduct the training program
<b>House Vote:</b>	98-1	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	40-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Signed	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	HB325	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB233 Fire Programs Fund, work group, report		
<b>Patron:</b>	Head	<b>Summary:</b> This bill directs the VDFP to establish a work group to evaluate the funding formula for the distribution of aid to localities through the Fire Programs fund.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	95-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	39-0	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Signed	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB293 Capital Region Airport Commission; plan for discontinuing the use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting materials at Richmond International Airport, report		
<b>Patron:</b>	Aird	<b>Summary:</b> This bill directs the Capital Region Airport Commission to develop a plan for discontinuing by January 1, 2030, the use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting materials at Richmond International and to complete such plan and provide a report to the Virginia Aviation Board no later than November 15, 2026.  <b>Fiscal Impact:</b> N/A
<b>House Vote:</b>	96-0	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	38-2	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	Signed	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Signed by the Governor	

**Senate Tabled or Continued**

This section contains legislation that was tabled or continue in the Senate to 2027

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB80 Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program established, report		
<b>Patron:</b>	Mulchi	<b>Summary:</b> Establishes the Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program (the Program) for the purpose of awarding grants to localities to hire additional firefighters and to improve their firefighting and emergency medical services. The bill specifies that the Department of Fire Programs (the Department) shall administer the Program and two types of grants shall be made from the Program. The first shall provide grants to localities to increase the number of firefighters. Such grants shall be made for up to three years and shall be used by localities for programs to (i) hire new, additional full-time firefighters; (ii) convert part-time or volunteer firefighters to full-time firefighters; or (iii) recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The second shall award grants to localities for improving firefighting and emergency medical services, including by acquiring firefighting and emergency medical services vehicles and equipment and modifying facilities. For both grants, the bill provides that funds shall not be used to supplant any funds currently provided by the Commonwealth or by the locality and shall be used to increase the total amount of funds available for the provision of firefighting or emergency medical services.
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	

		<p>The bill requires the Department to submit a report annually, beginning November 1, 2027, to the Governor and the General Assembly containing a list of grants, the amount of each approved grant, information on the performance assessment system that the bill directs the Department to create, an evaluation of each grant based on such system, and any other criteria deemed relevant by the Department.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact:</b> Two additional full-time equivalent positions and ongoing appropriation of <b>\$242,962</b></p>
<b>Final Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in Senate Finance and Appropriations (10-Y 0-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB101 Medical assistance services; volunteer emergency medical services agencies; supplemental payment for ground emergency medical services vehicle transportation		
<b>Patron:</b>	Stanley Jr.	<p><b>Summary:</b> Directs the State Board of Health to include a provision in the state plan for medical assistance services to implement a supplemental payment program for qualified volunteer emergency medical services agencies to cover the difference between the agency's costs for ground emergency medical services vehicle transport services and the reimbursement amount received from the Department of Medical Assistance Services.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact:</b> DMAS would require \$1.7M yearly to administer the program. An estimate of payments from the state cannot be determined at this time due to insufficient provider-specific information.</p>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in Senate Finance and Appropriation	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB102 School boards; courses of instruction; high school courses or dual enrollment programs for certification as a certified nurse aide, emergency medical technician, or firefighter; establishment permitted; requirements		
<b>Patron:</b>	Stanley Jr.	<b>Summary:</b> This bill permits any school board to provide to high school students, either on school premises or through a dual enrollment program or other partnership with a comprehensive community college, courses of instruction that prepare students for and lead to (i) certification as a certified nurse aide, provided that such course is approved by and meets the requirements of the Board of Nursing and is taught by a qualified individual, consistent with the requirements of the Board of Nursing; (ii) certification as an emergency medical technician, provided that such course is consistent with the requirements established by the Office of Emergency Medical Services and taught by an emergency medical technician instructor who meets the requirements set forth in the bill; or (iii) firefighting level 1 certification, as defined by the bill, provided that such course is consistent with the National Fire Protection Association 1001, level one, firefighter standards as administered by the Department of Fire Programs and taught by an individual qualified to provide such instruction. The bill also requires any school board that provides any such course of instruction on school premises to high school students to ensure that any individual employed, contracted, or permitted to volunteer to provide instruction in such course meets the requirements set forth in applicable law relating to data on convictions for certain crimes and child abuse and neglect, fingerprinting, and criminal history records checks.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in Senate Finance and Appropriations (10-Y 5-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB672 Emergency Response Grant Fund and Program		
<b>Patron:</b>	Rouse	<p><b>Summary:</b> Creates the Emergency Response Exposure Grant Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Fire Programs, to award grants to localities to support certain emergency responders who were exposed to a qualifying emergency, defined in the bill. The bill requires funding to be used for annual cancer screenings and health care expenses incurred by eligible emergency responders, defined in the bill, in the event such emergency responders are diagnosed with cancer from toxic material exposure. The bill permits funding to be used for out-of-pocket medical expenses not otherwise covered by insurance, workers' compensation, or other available funding.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact:</b> One additional full-time equivalent position and <b>\$121,484</b> in NGF</p>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in Senate Finance and Appropriations (15-Y 0-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB304 Virginia Retirement System; enhanced benefits for 911 dispatchers		
<b>Patron:</b>	Jordan	<p><b>Summary:</b> This bill would allow local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service to full-time salaried 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such enhanced retirement benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2027, but allows an employer, as that term is defined in relevant law, to provide such enhanced retirement benefits for service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher before July 1, 2027, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact:</b> <b>\$159,700</b> in NGF to cover cost of programming and testing. This does not include the potential impact of future local contribution rates.</p>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in Senate Finance and Appropriations committee (12-Y 2-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB775 Insurance; Fire Programs Fund; fees for vehicles; Virginia at Risk Fire Grant Program established; Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Fund established		
<b>Patron:</b>	Hackworth	<p><b>Summary:</b> Increases the fire insurance assessment from one percent of total direct gross premium income for such insurance to (i) 1.5 percent on and after July 1, 2026, but before July 1, 2027, and (ii) two percent on and after July 1, 2027. The bill also increases the vehicle registration fee used to provide support for emergency medical services from \$4.25 to \$6.25 for each pickup or panel truck and each motor vehicle.</p> <p>The bill also establishes (a) the Virginia At Risk Fire Grant Program, to be funded by 0.25 percent of the assessments on insurance companies, for the purposes of providing grants to localities with fire departments that are determined to be most at risk of being unable to provide fire suppression or rescue activities or maintain compliance with relevant laws and regulations and (b) the Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Fund, for the purpose of purchasing breathing apparatus equipment and other non-vehicular equipment necessary for the protection of firefighters responding to a fire.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Impact:</b> Estimated to increase nongeneral fund revenues for the Fire Programs Fund to \$119,646,782 in FY2027 and \$171,740,772 in FY2028, an increase of <b>\$39,882,260</b> and <b>\$85,870,386</b>, respectively, over original revenue estimate.</p>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Action:</b>	Continued to 2027 in Senate Finance and Appropriations committee (15-Y 0-N)	

**Senate Failed**

This section contains legislation that failed in the Senate

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB156 Emergency medical services personnel; requirements for personnel without commercial driver's license		
<b>Patron:</b>	McDougle	<b>Summary:</b> Requires the Board of Health to include in regulations pertaining to emergency medical services personnel the requirement that any emergency medical services personnel who administer patient care or who operate emergency medical services vehicles without a commercial driver's license comply with the provisions of federal law prohibiting the use of controlled substances by commercial driver's license holders. The bill also requires the State Health Commissioner, when issuing a license or permit to an emergency medical services agency, to require that any personnel of such agency who administer patient care or who operate emergency medical services vehicles without a commercial driver's license comply with the provisions of federal law prohibiting the use of controlled substances by commercial driver's license holders. <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Passed by indefinitely in Senate Education and Health committee (10-Y 5-N)	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB389 Motor Vehicles; use of safety belt systems; certain emergency medical services personnel		
<b>Patron:</b>	Jordan	<b>Summary:</b> Exempts from the requirements for the use of safety belt systems emergency medical services personnel while in the patient compartment of an emergency medical services vehicle providing necessary care, as defined in the bill, to a patient. The bill also provides that, for seats that are subject to such requirements for the use of safety belt systems, such personnel shall use safety belt systems while the vehicle is in motion, and such personnel are not providing necessary care to a patient. <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Left in Transportation	

<b>Bill # and Title:</b> SB663 Emergency vehicles; exempt from certain traffic regulations		
<b>Patron:</b>	Diggs	<b>Summary:</b> Authorizes a law-enforcement vehicle, defined in current law, operated by or under the direction of a federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer to disregard parking and stopping provisions and expands the situations in which such vehicles may disregard speed limits to include when establishing evidence of other violations of law and when responding to an emergency in which emergency lights and siren may pose a safety risk.  <b>There is no anticipated fiscal impact</b>
<b>House Vote:</b>	N/A	
<b>Senate Vote:</b>	16-Y 24-N	
<b>Governor's Decision:</b>	N/A	
<b>House Cognate:</b>	N/A	
<b>Final Action:</b>	Defeated by Senate (16-Y 24-N)	

## Glossary

**"Bill Passed":** The bill was approved by both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly (House of Delegates and Senate), signed by the Governor, and will be implemented as law on the effective date. Unless noted otherwise, this is July 1 of the current year.

**"Incorporated":** The bill was conformed into another bill, creating one bill under a single bill number. This is often done on similar or identical subjects within the same chamber.

**"Laid on the table":** The bill was not acted on by the subcommittee or committee and was left in the committee by a vote. No final decision was made by the committee on whether to recommend the bill move forward. This effectively ends a bill's journey to becoming a law.

**"Left in":** This refers to when a bill left in committee without a vote or action.

**"Stricken from the docket":** This refers to a bill that was removed from the docket by a vote of the subcommittee or committee.

## **Additional Resources**

1. Virginia Legislative Information System
  - a. This website provides information on bills filed in the General Assembly. Bills can be searched by topic, bill, number, or patron
  - b. <https://lis.virginia.gov/>
2. Virginia General Assembly website
  - a. This website provides information on the Virginia General Assembly, elected officials and other relevant information
  - b. <https://vga.virginia.gov/>