



2025 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 2025 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.

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. In addition, the 2025 Virginia Legislative Priorities and Issues listed in the appendix was provided by Fire and EMS stakeholder groups and was not created by VDFP staff.

Overview

The Department of Fire Programs, in consultation with the Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, sponsored HB2065/SB1282, which will require that localities report through the new National Emergency Response Information System to receive Aid to Localities Funds. The Virginia Fire Services Board and Fire Programs will be working with stakeholders to craft a compliance policy before the implementation deadline of July 1, 2026.

Additionally, Fire Programs and the Fire Services Board will be working with stakeholders to allocate \$5 million for firefighting equipment, which was originally proposed in the Governor’s budget. This represents the first time in many years that General Fund dollars have been allocated for firefighting in Virginia.

The Department of Fire Programs also advised the General Assembly and the Governor on other legislation related to the fire service, such as increasing the Fire Programs Fund, the expansion of consumer fireworks, expanding full-time positions and benefits for certain agency staff, protecting first responders from cancer, and new grant programs. Other notable pieces of legislation included expanding benefits for dispatchers, expanding cancer presumptions, funding for cancer screening, and expanding workers’ compensation benefits.

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 Volunteer Rescue Squads, 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

Agency Supported Legislation

This section contains legislation that was supported by the Department of Fire Programs. These are often referred to as “agency bills”.

Bill # and Title: HB2065 Fire Programs Fund; aid to localities, requirement for emergency incidents reporting.		
Patron:	Thomas	Summary: This bill requires that, in order to remain eligible for funding from the Fire Programs Fund, a locality must report all emergency incidents through the National Emergency Response Information System while sharing such emergency incident data with the Department of Fire Programs. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.
House Vote:	99-0	
Senate Vote:	39-0	
Governor’s Decision:	Sign	
Senate Cognate:	SB1282 (Durant) SB809* (Craig)	
Final Action:	Bill Passed *Bill stricken	

Benefits

This section contains legislation that was related to benefits or compensation for firefighters or 911 dispatchers.

Bill # and Title: HB1564 Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.		
Patron:	Cherry	Summary: 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 benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2026, 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, 2026, in addition to service earned on or after that date.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor’s Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in House Appropriations	

Bill # and Title: HB1619 Va. Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers, delayed effective date.		
Patron:	Clark	Summary: 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 benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2026, 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, 2026, in addition to service earned on or after that date.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in House Appropriations	

Bill # and Title: HB1705 Virginia Retirement System; disability benefits for certain emergency dispatchers.		
Patron:	Bulova	Summary: Requires that, beginning July 1, 2026, emergency dispatchers who are not members of the hybrid retirement program become participants in the disability program for hybrid retirement plan members if the locality employing such dispatcher participates in such program. The employers of such dispatchers shall provide the costs required for funding participation in such program.
House Vote:	99-0	
Senate Vote:	39-0	
Governor's Decision:	Sign	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Bill Passed	

Bill # and Title: HB1933 Workers' compensation; presumption as to death or disability from throat cancer.		
Patron:	LeVere Bolling	Summary: Provides that for the purposes of the workers' compensation presumption as to death or disability from certain types of cancer, throat cancer includes cancer that forms in the tissues of the pharynx, larynx, adenoid, tonsil, esophagus, trachea, nasopharynx, oropharynx, or hypopharynx. This bill applies only to diseases diagnosed on or after July 1, 2025.
House Vote:	97-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Sign	
Senate Cognate:	SB920 (Salim)	
Final Action:	Bill Passed	

Bill # and Title: HB1951 Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress, anxiety, or depressive disorders, dispatchers.		
Patron:	Waschsmann	Summary: Allows dispatchers, as defined in the bill, to claim workers' compensation benefits relating to post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act if such disorders are incurred as a result of a qualifying event or in the line of duty, as such terms are defined in relevant law. Currently, only law-enforcement officers and firefighters may claim such benefits.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Stricken from the docket by the House Labor and Commerce Committee (22-Y 0-N)	

Bill # and Title: HB2060 Workers' compensation benefits; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by firefighters, etc.		
Patron:	Krizek	Summary: Increases from 52 weeks to 104 weeks the maximum duration after the date of diagnosis that workers' compensation benefits are payable for post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters acting in the line of duty.
House Vote:	99-0	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Passed by indefinitely in Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee (11-Y 3-N)	

Bill # and Title: HB2447 Line of Duty Act & Va. Law Officers' Retirement Sys.; enhanced benefits for certain fire personnel.		
Patron:	O'Quinn	Summary: Adds the State Fire Marshal and personnel of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs who, as a regular component of their official duties, are exposed to hazards or threats to their life and health to the lists of those eligible for benefits under the Line of Duty Act and for membership in the Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in House Appropriations	

Bill # and Title: HB2494 Emergency Response Exposure Grant Fund and Program; created.		
Patron:	Askew	Summary: Creates the Emergency Response Exposure Grant Fund and Program 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. The Department of Fire Programs shall administer the Fund and Program.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	SB972 (Rouse)	
Final Action:	Left in House Appropriations	

Bill # and Title: HB2495 Firefighters and emergency medical services providers; collective bargaining.		
Patron:	Askew	Summary: Authorizes firefighters and emergency medical services providers employed by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth to engage in collective bargaining through labor organizations or other designated representatives. The bill establishes the Fire Service Cooperation Board to administer its provisions. The bill provides for the appointment of a three-member board of arbitration regarding any dispute arising between an employer and firefighters or emergency medical services providers. Under the bill, determinations made by such board of arbitration are final on a disputed issue and are binding on the parties involved. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.
House Vote:	54-44	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Passed by indefinitely in Senate Commerce and Labor (10-Y 5-N)	

Bill # and Title: HB2764 Collective bargaining by public employees; exclusive bargaining representatives.		
Patron:	Tran	Summary: Repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The bill requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The bill repeals a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement.
House Vote:	50-47	
Senate Vote:	21-19	
Governor's Decision:	Veto	
Senate Cognate:	SB917 (Surovell) SB1401* (Lucas)	
Final Action:	<p>Bill Failed.</p> <p>Veto explanation states: "This bill eliminates the prohibition on collective bargaining by state employees and would require state government entities including most executive branch, independent state authorities, and institutions of higher education to engage in mandatory union collective bargaining. The bill also requires local governments and school divisions to engage in mandatory union collective bargaining. Finally, the legislation covers some non-state employees, specifically, independent health providers who accept Medicaid payments. The legislation represents a fundamental shift in employment policy in the Commonwealth of Virginia that would threaten the funding and delivery of critical state and local services and will collectively costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Furthermore, the bill lacks a funding mechanism for implementation, leaving agencies unprepared to manage the administrative and legal complexities involved. With no comprehensive assessment of financial or operational impact, the proposal introduces significant uncertainty in government workforce management ahead of its July 2026 effective date."</p> <p>*Incorporated into SB917</p>	

Bill # and Title: SB1301 Workers' compensation benefits; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by firefighters, etc.		
Patron:	McPike	Summary: Increases from 52 weeks to 104 weeks the maximum duration after the date of diagnosis that workers' compensation benefits are payable for anxiety disorder or depressive disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters acting in the line of duty. The bill also increases from 52 weeks to 500 weeks the maximum duration after the date of diagnosis that workers' compensation benefits are payable for post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters acting in the line of duty.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in Senate Finance and Appropriations *SB860 (Reeves) incorporated	

Bill # and Title: SB1083 Va. Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers, delayed effective date.		
Patron:	Perry	Summary: 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 benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2026, 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, 2026, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in Senate Finance and Appropriations *Incorporates SB1088 (Jordan), SB1156 (Obenshain)	

Bill # and Title: SB1195 Line of Duty Act; payments to beneficiaries.		
Patron:	Deeds	Summary: Provides that if a deceased person, as that term is defined in the Line of Duty Act, died as a result of certain cancers within 10 years from his date of retirement, his beneficiary shall be entitled to the payment of certain benefits. Under current law, such beneficiary shall be entitled to such payment if the deceased person's death (i) arose out of and in the course of his employment or (ii) was within five years from his date of retirement.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	38-0	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in House Appropriations	

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Funding

This section contains legislation that was related to funding fire departments and emergency services.

Bill # and Title: HB1820 Public safety communications; evaluation of need for infrastructure updates & hardware replacements.		
Patron:	Reid	Summary: Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of Finance, to evaluate the need for public safety communications infrastructure updates and hardware replacements, and the cost of meeting such need. The Secretaries shall report any findings and recommendations, including possible funding options, to the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than December 1, 2025.
House Vote:	95-0	
Senate Vote:	36-0	
Governor's Decision:	Sign	
Senate Cognate:		
Final Action:	Bill Passed	

Bill # and Title: HB2069 Insurance; additional purposes for Fire Programs Fund Aid to Localities Grant Program established.		
Patron:	Garrett	Summary: 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.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in House Appropriations	

Bill # and Title: HB2504 Emergency Vehicles & Housing for Emergency Services Volunteers Grant Programs; established, reports.	
Patron:	Runion
House Vote:	N/A
Senate Vote:	N/A
Governor's Decision:	N/A
Senate Cognate:	N/A
<p>Summary: Establishes the Emergency Vehicles Grant Program (the EV Program) and the Housing for Emergency Services Volunteers Grant Program (the ESV Program).</p> <p>The EV Program authorizes the Department of Fire Programs to provide grants to assist eligible localities in acquiring emergency vehicles to be used in the performance of volunteer emergency services, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly in amounts of up to \$10,000 per eligible locality, on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>The ESV Program authorizes the Department to provide grants to assist eligible localities in providing emergency services volunteers who are currently enrolled in an eligible educational institution with living quarters at no charge to such volunteers, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.</p> <p>Grant recipients of the EV Program and the ESV Program are required to submit a report to the Department no later than October 1 of any year in which the recipient receives available funds. The Department is directed to submit a summarized report of the information received from grant recipients to the House Committee on General Laws, the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations.</p>	
Final Action:	Left in House Appropriations

Bill # and Title: SB984 Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.		
Patron:	Mulchi	Summary: Establishes the Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program for the purpose of providing 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 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 provide 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.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Passed by indefinitely in Finance and Appropriations (10-Y 4-N)	

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Bill # and Title: SB1246 Va. Emergency Management Preparedness and Capabilities Grant Program and Fund; established, report.		
Patron:	Stanley	Summary: Establishes the Virginia Emergency Management Preparedness and Capabilities Grant Program and Fund for the purpose of awarding grants to political subdivisions to assist with the cost of emergency management and preparedness. The bill states that the Program will be administered by the Department of Emergency Management, which shall establish guidelines for (i) the administration of the Program and (ii) awarding grants to political subdivisions from the Fund. A political subdivision awarded a grant must use such funds for certain purposes to advance the emergency preparedness of such subdivision, and must provide a 50 percent match of local or federal funds for the award. The bill requires the Department, beginning on or before December 1, 2025, and each year thereafter, to submit a report to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Governor, and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Public Safety and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations summarizing the activities of the Program.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in Senate Finance and Appropriations	

Bill # and Title: SB1296 Virginia Public-Private Safety Communications Infrastructure Fund; established		
Patron:	Obenshain	Summary: Establishes the Virginia Public-Private Safety Communications Infrastructure Fund (the Fund), to be managed by the Virginia Resources Authority, for the purpose of making loans and awarding grants to local governments for the purpose of assisting with improvement projects relating to public safety radio and communications infrastructure.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in Senate Finance and Appropriations	

Fire Code

This section contains legislation that was related to the Statewide Fire Prevention Code or other relevant safety codes.

Bill # and Title: HB2067 Statewide Fire Prevention Code; consumer fireworks, penalties.		
Patron:	Garrett	Summary: Authorizes the use of consumer fireworks in the Commonwealth and distinguishes by definition consumer fireworks from display fireworks and permissible fireworks. The bill provides that the storage and transportation of consumer fireworks are to be considered the same hazard class as the storage and transportation of 1.4G explosives under the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) and Uniform Statewide Building Code. The bill requires any locality authorizing the sale of consumer fireworks to require annual permits for any business offering consumer fireworks for retail sale and provides that the State Fire Marshal or other issuing authority may charge a fee for the retail sale of fireworks on a permanent basis or on a temporary basis in localities that do not employ a local fire marshal. The bill excludes from the provisions of the SFPC, unless prohibited by a local ordinance, (i) the sale of consumer or permissible fireworks; (ii) any person using, igniting, or exploding consumer or permissible fireworks on private property with the consent of the owner of such property; or (iii) such consumer or permissible fireworks when they are being transported from a locality where they were legally obtained to a locality where they are legally permitted. Current law only excludes the sale of permissible fireworks or the use of such fireworks on private property. The bill also directs 13 percent of the sales and use tax revenue generated by the local sales and use tax on the sale of consumer or permissible fireworks to be allocated to a special fund and specifies that, of such 13 percent, 10 percent will be used for providing funding for first responders, as defined in the bill, and three percent will be allocated to the local fire marshal or, for localities that do not appoint a fire marshal, to the State Fire Marshal to be used solely on behalf of the locality that transferred such funds. The bill contains technical amendments and has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in House General Laws, laid on the table in subcommittee (6-Y 2-N)	

Bill # and Title: HB2537 Energy storage requirements; Department of Energy, et al., to develop model ordinances, reports.		
Patron:	Sullivan	Summary: Increases the targets for energy storage capacity that Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia are required to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure and extends the time frame by which such capacity must be met. The bill requires the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Fire Programs, to create model ordinances for use by localities in their regulation of energy storage projects and to convene a work group to develop such model ordinances and submit a report by December 1, 2025.
House Vote:	56-40	
Senate Vote:	20-19	
Governor's Decision:	Veto	
Senate Cognate:	SB1394	
Final Action:	<p>Bill Failed.</p> <p>Veto explanation states: “The Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) is failing Virginians. Adding in requirements for the petitioning of additional storage technologies will not change the fact that the law is misguided and does not work. Long-duration energy storage is an expensive technology and if utilities believed it to be the best technology to meet demand, they would be actively seeking permission to build them. We must be vigilant to limit cost increases to Virginia's residents. Dominion Energy's recently filed biennial rate and fuel case is requesting a monthly increase to residential customers' bills of nearly \$20 starting in January 2026. On top of this, in their latest RPS filing, Dominion Energy disclosed that they expect to bill customers \$5.5 billion for costs associated with renewable energy credits (REC) purchases for RPS compliance costs over the next ten years. By 2035, it is expected that costs associated with REC purchases for RPS compliance will cost the average residential Dominion Energy customer an extra \$5 per month or at least \$60 per year. These costs for REC purchases are above and beyond the cost to reliably serve customers electricity load and will result in consumers paying more for their electricity.”</p>	

Bill # and Title: HB2642 Statewide Fire Prevention Code Act; counterfeit and unsafe lighters prohibited.		
Patron:	Austin	Summary: Prohibits the offering or sale to the public of unsafe lighters or counterfeit lighters, defined in the bill, regardless of whether such offering or sale is conducted on a retail basis or wholesale basis.
House Vote:	99-0	
Senate Vote:	39-0	
Governor's Decision:	Sign	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Bill Passed	

Bill # and Title: SB1248 Fire Prevention Code; prohibition on permit fees for fire departments, etc., for certain localities.		
Patron:	Hackworth	Summary: Prohibits the State Fire Marshal from charging a fee for the approval and administration of certain permits issued to fire departments and emergency medical services agencies in localities with a total population of less than 10,000 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census by the United States Census Bureau.
House Vote:	96-0	
Senate Vote:	38-0	
Governor's Decision:	Sign	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Bill Passed	

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Miscellaneous

This section contains other legislation, including bills related to unclaimed property, collective bargaining, emergency management, or other relevant bills selected by the Government Affairs Division.

Bill # and Title: HB2076 Income tax, state; subtraction for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.		
Patron:	Garrett	Summary: Provides a state income tax subtraction of \$2,000 beginning in taxable year 2026 for bona fide volunteers who perform qualifying services, defined in the bill as volunteer firefighting and fire prevention services, emergency medical services, auxiliary police officer services, ambulance services, emergency rescue services, and all training and training-related activities required by law to perform such services.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Action:	Left in House Finance	

Bill # and Title: HB2079 Pharmacy, Board of; membership, EMS agencies authorized to obtain controlled substance registration.		
Patron:	Thomas	Summary: Adds a career fire/emergency medical services (EMS) member and a volunteer fire/EMS member to the Board of Pharmacy for a total of 12 members. In addition, the bill directs the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate regulations authorizing EMS agencies and regional EMS councils to obtain a controlled substance registration. The authorization allows an EMS agency or regional EMS council to receive controlled substances in Schedules II through VI from a wholesale distributor, manufacturer, third-party logistics provider, warehouse, or pharmacy. The bill also directs the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate regulations specifying a fire station with around the clock staffing is authorized to store controlled substances in a locked room with an access control device and camera monitoring system.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Left in House Health and Human Services	

Bill # and Title: HB2384 State Bd. of Health; regulations related to emergency medical vehicle restrictions & specifications.		
Patron:	Mundon King	Summary: Directs the State Board of Health to adopt a regulation allowing certain Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicles belonging to a combination fire and EMS agency to have the fire department logo and lettering appear larger than the lettering identifying the EMS agency.
House Vote:	99-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Sign	
Senate Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Bill Passed	

Bill # and Title: SB934 Unclaimed property presumed abandoned; Vol. Firefighters/Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund.		
Patron:	Craig	Summary: Provides that any funds or other property held or payable to a member of the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund that have remained unclaimed for more than five years after such member's forfeiture of his membership or the dissolution of a volunteer emergency medical services agency or volunteer fire department shall be presumed abandoned for the purposes of the Virginia Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.
House Vote:	96-0	
Senate Vote:	39-0	
Governor's Decision:	Sign	
House Cognate:	N/A	
Final Action:	Bill Passed	

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Budget Highlights

This section contains highlights from the adopted budget. Of note, this does not include failed budget items, which can be accessed by visiting the Virginia Legislative Information System.

Item # and Title: Item 406 Firefighter Equipment Grants		
FY25 Amount (\$)	FY26 Amount (\$)	Summary:
5,000,000	0	<p>1. Out of this appropriation, \$5,000,000 the first year from the general fund is authorized for the Department of Fire Programs, in conjunction with the Virginia Fire Services Board, to provide grants to localities with qualifying fire departments or fire companies, as defined in §§ 27-6.01 and 27-6.02, Code of Virginia, to purchase protective equipment for firefighters. Funds allocated to localities pursuant to this subsection shall not be used directly or indirectly to supplant or replace funding provided to localities through the Fire Programs Fund (§ 38.2-401, Code of Virginia). Such funds shall solely be used for the purpose of purchasing breathing apparatus equipment and other non-vehicular equipment necessary for the protection of firefighters responding to a fire. Any remaining unexpended balance at year-end shall be reappropriated in the subsequent fiscal year.</p> <p>2. The Department of Fire Programs and the Virginia Fire Services Board shall develop policies and procedures for the distribution of funds from this grant. The allocation shall prioritize localities that (i) score both above average or high on the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) fiscal stress index and double-distressed according to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership's (VEDP) Commonwealth Opportunity Funds Distressed Localities Assessment, and (ii) demonstrate the need for such protective non-vehicular equipment. Each receiving locality shall report to the Department on the use of the funds allocated to it.</p>

Item # and Title: Item 406 Provide Additional Grant for Fire Support Services in Virginia Beach		
FY25 Amount (\$)	FY26 Amount (\$)	Summary: \$200,000 from the general fund in the second year shall be provided to the City of Virginia Beach to support costs related to the provision of fire support services.
0	200,000	

Item # and Title: Item 407 State Fire Marshal Positions		
FY25 Amount (\$)	FY26 Amount (\$)	Summary: This funding provides for two (2) additional deputy fire marshal positions. IN addition, he Department of Fire Programs, in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Virginia Fire Services Board, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Board of Housing and Community Development, shall conduct an assessment of the fees charged by the State Fire Marshal's Office to conduct fire safety inspections. The assessment shall include a review of (i) existing inspection fees, (ii) the number of inspections conducted by fee category, (iii) the cost of conducting each inspection, and (iv) the total revenue from each fee category to determine whether there is a need to adjust the fees based on the market cost of conducting inspections. The Department of Fire Programs shall submit a report to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees, and the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, no later than October 17, 2025, that outlines the findings of the assessment and a joint recommendation from the Virginia Fire Services Board and the Board of Housing and Community Development on whether the fees should be adjusted or not, including a description of which fees, if any, are recommended for an increase based on the market cost and the projected additional fee revenue that would result from such recommended increase.
0	229,430	

Item # and Title: Item 394 Unmanned Aircraft Trade and Replace Program		
FY25 Amount (\$)	FY26 Amount (\$)	Summary:
1,000,000	0	Funds for the Department of Criminal Justice Services to administer and provide grant funding for an Unmanned Aircraft Trade and Replace Program. For the purposes of this program, the Department may only distribute grant funds to local law enforcement agencies, local fire or ambulance service providers, or other local first responders to support the replacement of unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by an entity, including its subsidiaries, affiliates, or partners, that is domiciled in a country defined as a foreign adversary pursuant to § 55.1-507, Code of Virginia, with unmanned aircraft systems that are not covered unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity as defined in § 1822 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024."

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 when 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/lis.htm>

2. Virginia General Assembly
 - a. This website provides information on the Virginia General Assembly, elected officials, and other relevant information.
 - b. <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>

3. 2025 Virginia Legislative Priorities and Issues