Legislation for Discussion
Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee
February 14, 2025

Legislation Provided for Discussion

Data Centers

SB 960 (Russet Perry)
Electric utilities; data center cost allocation. Directs the State Corporation Commission to initiate proceedings to determine if the current allocation of costs among different customer classifications of electric utilities requires customers that are not data centers to unreasonably subsidize the costs of customers that are data centers. If the Commission determines that the current allocation of costs requires customers that are not data centers to unreasonably subsidize the costs of customers that are data centers, the bill directs the Commission to promulgate such rules as necessary to eliminate or minimize such unreasonable subsidies to the maximum possible extent. (25106477D-S2)

SB 1449 (Adam P. Ebbin)

Siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility. Provides that prior to any approval of a rezoning application, special exception, or special use permit for the siting of a new high energy use facility (HEUF), as defined in the bill, a locality shall require that an applicant perform and submit a site assessment to examine the sound profile of the HEUF on residential units and schools located within 500 feet of the HEUF property boundary. The bill also allows a locality to require that a site assessment examine the effect of the proposed facility on (i) ground and surface water resources, (ii) agricultural resources, (iii) parks, (iv) registered historic sites, or (v) forestland on the HEUF site or immediately contiguous land. The provisions of the bill shall not apply to any property with an existing legislative or administrative approval where an applicant is seeking an expansion or modification of an already existing or approved facility and such expansion does not exceed an additional 100 megawatts or more of electrical power. Finally, the bill provides that its provisions shall not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise supersede existing local zoning authority. (25106875D-H1)

Elections - Administration

HB 2276 (Marcia S. "Cia" Price)
Voter registration; list maintenance activities; cancellation procedures; required record matches. Requires certain, specified identification information to be included on the lists received by the Department of Elections for list maintenance purposes and requires the Department, upon receiving any such list, to make an initial comparison of the information included on such list with the list of registered voters and determine the confidence score for any match. Matches with a confidence score of at least 80 are transmitted to the appropriate general registrars. The bill prohibits the use of voter data received from another state or jurisdiction or through a list comparison for list maintenance purposes when the data file does not include a unique identifier for each individual whose information is contained in the data file. The bill requires the

Department of Elections to annually review all sources of data utilized for list maintenance activities for the purpose of determining the validity, completeness, accuracy, and reliability of the data received from each source, and to include the results of such a review in its annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections regarding its list maintenance activities. The bill prohibits the cancellation within 90 days of any election of any registration identified as belonging to a person no longer residing in the Commonwealth or otherwise no longer entitled to vote by a data match program conducted using lists of registered voters exchanged with other states. The bill requires the general registrars to send notice prior to cancelling a voter's record regardless of the reason for cancellation. Lastly, the bill clarifies that when a voter's registration is canceled, a cancellation record must be created, and that such records are public in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the National Voter Registration Act. The bill includes numerous technical amendments for organizational purposes. (25105975D-H1)

HB 2277 (Marcia S. "Cia" Price)

Elections administration; duties of local electoral board; certification of election; grounds for removal; civil penalty. Provides that the certification of the results of an election is a clear, ministerial duty of the local electoral boards and that a member of the local electoral board who neglects or refuses to perform such duty in accordance with law shall be subject to removal proceedings by the State Board of Elections and assessed a penalty not exceeding $1,000. The bill also authorizes the State Board of Elections to intervene and carry out the duties related to election certification in the event a local electoral board fails or refuses to do so. (25106593D-H1)

Affordable Housing

HB 1973 (Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker)
Preservation of affordable housing; definitions; civil penalty. Creates a framework for localities to preserve affordable housing by exercising a right of first refusal on publicly supported housing, defined in the bill. The bill authorizes localities to implement an ordinance that requires an owner to accept the right of first refusal offer by the locality or qualified designer, defined in the bill, in order to preserve affordable housing for at least 15 years. The bill requires that any locality adopting such an ordinance to preserve affordable housing submit an annual report to the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to existing law. (25101114D)

HB 2218 (Kathy K.L. Tran)

Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; rental payment methods. Requires, with certain exceptions outlined in the bill, landlords subject to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act to accept payment of periodic rent and any security deposit by any lawful means, including check, electronic funds transfer, debit or credit card, cash, and money order. The bill also removes the provision requiring the tenant to request a written receipt after paying in the form of cash or money order and requires the landlord to provide such written receipt as a matter of

law. Finally, the bill prohibits a landlord from charging a tenant any fee for the collection or processing of any payment of rent, security deposit, or any other fees. (25106170D-H1)

Taxation

HB 2302 (Mark D. Sickles)

Real property tax; exemption for religious buildings; rebuilding structure. Provides that the property tax exemption for property used for religious worship shall include property on which a church or other building for religious worship is being replaced or rebuilt. The owner shall demonstrate the intention to use such structure exclusively for religious worship or for the residence of the minister of any church or religious body, as well as certain other requirements provided in the bill. (25101148D-E)

Transportation

SB 1233 (Angelia Williams Graves)

Pedestrian crossing violation monitoring systems and stop sign violation monitoring systems; violation enforcement; civil penalty. Authorizes state and local law-enforcement agencies to place and operate pedestrian crossing violation and stop sign violation monitoring systems in school crossing zones, highway work zones, and high-risk intersection segments for purposes of recording pedestrian crossing and stop sign violations, as those terms are defined in the bill. The bill imposes the same requirements on pedestrian crossing and stop sign violation monitoring systems as currently exist for photo speed monitoring devices and requires local law-enforcement agencies implementing or expanding the use of such systems to, prior to the implementation or expansion of such systems, conduct a public awareness program for such implementation or expansion. (25107387D-H1)