HB 1601 - Siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility.

Chief Patron: Thomas

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-

2209.4, relating to siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

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 areas and schools 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) water, (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 a site 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.

01/03/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102219D
01/03/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns
01/13/2025	House	Assigned CCT sub: Subcommittee #2

HB 1662 - Sale and distribution of plastic carryout bags by grocery stores prohibited; civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Jones

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 10.1-1422.01 and 58.1-1745 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 10.1-1424.4, relating to sale and distribution of plastic carryout bags

by grocery stores prohibited; civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Sale and distribution of plastic carryout bags by grocery stores prohibited; civil penalty. Prohibits any grocery store, as defined in the bill, from selling or distributing any plastic carryout bag, as defined in the bill, to its customers on or after January 1, 2027, unless such bag qualifies as an exempt bag, as defined in the bill. The bill provides that any grocery store that violates this provision shall be issued by the Department of Environmental Quality a written warning for the first violation and shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500 for a second and each subsequent violation as determined by the Director of the Department. The bill also requires any grocery store, no later than January 1, 2027, to develop, implement, and maintain a program to encourage its customers to utilize reusable bags, as defined in the bill.

01/03/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101161D
01/03/2025	House	Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
01/13/2025	House	Referred from Courts of Justice and referred to Agriculture, Chesapeake and
		Natural Resources (Voice Vote)
01/14/2025	House	Assigned ACNR sub: Natural Resources

HB 1730 - Civil actions; liability of employer or principal for criminal sexual assault by employee or agent.

Chief Patron: Delaney

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 8.01-42.6, relating to civil actions; liability of

employer or principal for criminal sexual assault by employee or agent.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Civil actions; liability of employer or principal for criminal sexual assault by employee or agent. Provides that in an action for injury to a person arising out of an act that would constitute criminal sexual assault committed by an employee or agent, such act shall be deemed to have occurred within the course and scope of his employment or agency if certain factors are proven by a preponderance of the evidence. The bill provides that the injured person has a cause of action whether or not the employee or agent has been charged or convicted of criminal sexual assault.

5 Last Events

01/04/2025 House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25100275D
01/04/2025 House	Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
01/10/2025 House	Assigned Courts sub: Civil
01/13/2025 House	Subcommittee recommends reporting (7-Y 1-N)

HB 1779 - Carbon-free energy or clean energy; definition of fusion energy.

Chief Patron: Sullivan

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 1-208.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carbon-free energy or clean energy; fusion

energy; definitions.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Carbon-free energy or clean energy; fusion energy; definitions. Adds fusion energy, as defined in the bill, to the list of generation sources that qualify as carbon-free energy or clean energy.

01/06/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103048D
01/06/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/13/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 1796 - Corporations; creates a regulatory framework for decentralized autonomous organizations.

Chief Patron: Helmer

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 13.1 a chapter numbered 15, containing articles numbered 1 through 5, consisting of sections numbered 13.1-1300 through 13.1-1313, relating to corporations; decentralized autonomous organizations.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Corporations; decentralized autonomous organizations. Creates a regulatory framework for decentralized autonomous organizations, which are a form of limited liability company, and provides that an entity seeking to become a decentralized autonomous organization must file its articles of organization with the State Corporation Commission in order to seek a certificate of organization. The bill permits a limited liability company to elect to become a decentralized autonomous organization with management vested in its members or smart contracts and contains requirements for its articles of incorporation and operating agreements. The bill also contains provisions governing the relationships and rights of members of a decentralized autonomous organization. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.

5 Last Events

01/06/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102358D01/06/2025HouseReferred to Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation

HB 1822 - Electric utilities; construction of electrical transmission lines, advanced conductors.

Chief Patron: Reid

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-46.1 and 56-597 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 23 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-596.5, relating to electric utilities; construction of electrical transmission lines; advanced conductors.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; construction of electrical transmission lines; advanced conductors. Requires Phase I and Phase II Utilities to use advanced conductors, as defined in the bill, in the construction of any electrical transmission line of 230 kilovolts or more, any electrical transmission line replacing an existing electrical transmission line of 69 kilovolts or more that has reached its scheduled replacement date, and any electrical transmission line of 69 kilovolts or more constructed as a weather-related replacement, as long as the use of such advanced conductors does not delay the prompt restoration of power to consumers. The bill provides that for any application submitted on or after January 1, 2026, the State Corporation Commission shall not approve the construction of any electrical transmission line of 230 kilovolts or more unless such line is constructed using advanced conductors. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.

5 Last Events

01/06/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25100365D
01/06/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 1875 - Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program; zero-carbon electricity.

Chief Patron: Bloxom

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-576 and 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; renewable

energy portfolio standard; zero-carbon electricity.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program; zero-carbon electricity. Amends the definition of renewable energy for purposes of the Virginia Electric Utility Regulation Act to include energy derived from hydrogen and nuclear power. The bill provides that the existing renewable energy portfolio standard program that establishes goals for the sale of renewable energy shall also include goals for the sale of zero-carbon electricity and adds zero-carbon electricity generating resources and certain other resources approved by the State Corporation Commission to the list of eligible sources for purposes of the renewable portfolio standard program.

01/06/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25102998D
01/06/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 1883 - Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements; power purchase agreements.

Chief Patron: Callsen

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-585.5 and 56-594.02 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities;

renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements; power purchase agreements.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements; power purchase agreements. Amends certain renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements for Dominion Energy Virginia, including the annual percentage of program requirements to be met with behind-the meter solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion resources of three megawatts or less located in the Commonwealth. The bill also removes the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third party power purchase agreement under a pilot program.

5 Last Events

01/06/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104410D
01/06/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 1934 - Electric utilities; generation of electricity from renewable and zero carbon sources.

Chief Patron: LeVere Bolling

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; generation of electricity

from renewable and zero carbon sources; projects on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; generation of electricity from renewable and zero carbon sources; projects on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools. Provides that for purposes of compliance with a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) program, to the extent that low-income qualifying projects, as defined in existing law, are not available and projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools are available, a certain percentage of the required projects shall be composed of projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools.

01/06/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25102153D
01/06/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

HB 1978 - Assisted living facility administrators; study; Joint Commission on Health Care to study licensure.

Chief Patron: Cohen

Status: In Committee

A BILL to direct the Joint Commission on Health Care to conduct a study on licensure of assisted living facility

administrators.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Joint Commission on Health Care; licensure of assisted living facility administrators; study; report. Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to conduct a study on licensure of assisted living facility administrators. The bill requires the Commission to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2025.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104455D01/07/2025HouseReferred to Committee on Rules

HB 1984 - Data centers; sitings near parks, schools, and residential areas.

Chief Patron: Lovejoy

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-

2209.4, relating to siting of data centers; parks, schools, and residential areas.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Siting of data centers; parks, schools, and residential areas. Requires that any local government land use application required for the siting of a data center, as defined in the bill, be approved only for areas that are onequarter mile or more from federal, state, or local parks, schools, and property zoned or used for residential use.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25103561D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

HB 1999 - Energy Innovation Pilot Program; established, report.

Chief Patron: McNamara

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 56 a chapter numbered 31, consisting of sections numbered

56-626 through 56-633, relating to Energy Innovation Pilot Program established.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Energy Innovation Pilot Program established. Establishes the Energy Innovation Pilot Program to foster the development of innovative energy projects by allowing Program participants to provide grid services or other beneficial energy measures. Under the Program, a participant, after obtaining State Corporation Commission approval, is not required to comply with specific state statutes and regulations pertaining to the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale, except for those laws and regulations that are required for worker safety, public safety, or environmental protection, for a period of five years. The bill includes provisions for application requirements, an approval process, Program exit procedures, a test period extension process, suspension or revocation of Commission approval, consumer protections, Commission investigations, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25101677D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 2003 - Electric utilities; regional transmission entities; annual report.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-577 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section

numbered 56-579.1, relating to electric utilities; regional transmission entities; annual report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; regional transmission entities; annual report. Requires each incumbent electric utility that is a member of or has established a regional transmission entity for purposes of management and control of its transmission system as required under current law to submit an annual report by February 1 of each year. Such report shall include all recorded votes cast by the utility during the immediately preceding calendar year, all votes cast by an affiliate of the utility, and a brief description explaining how each vote cast by the utility or its affiliate is in the public interest.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25101924D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 2026 - Data centers; industrial zoning.

Chief Patron: Thomas

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2295.3, relating to data centers; industrial

zoning.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Data centers; industrial zoning. Requires a locality to review and amend its zoning ordinance to (i) designate data centers as industrial uses for zoning purposes; (ii) review the locations of zones allowing data centers by right, and adjust the zoning map, if needed, considering proximity to residential areas; (iii) review the minimum requirements in the zoning ordinance, such as setbacks and building heights, for the purpose of mitigating negative impacts on residential or other sensitive areas and consider adding requirements specific to data centers as needed; (iv) identify optimal areas for data center development in the locality, including locations that are suitable from the locality's perspective as well as the industry's perspective; (v) consider zoning ordinance changes to reduce the likelihood of noisy data centers, including through limiting allowable locations and requiring sound modeling, and prohibit the constant low-frequency noise of data centers from reaching residential areas; and (vi) require commitments from data centers making zoning requests to sufficiently mitigate negative impacts on any nearby residential areas. The provisions of the bill shall only apply to localities where data centers are already addressed in the locality's zoning ordinance and where a locality is revising its zoning ordinance to include data centers.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104301D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

HB 2028 - School boards; entitlement to one-time fee from certain data centers.

Chief Patron: Thomas

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-79.10, relating to school boards;

entitlement to one-time fee from certain data centers.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

School boards; entitlement to one-time fee from certain data centers. Provides that any school board that governs a school division that contains a public school located within three miles of a data center, as such term is defined in relevant law, that received its certificate of occupancy from the relevant locality after July 1, 2025, is entitled to a one-time fee of \$250,000 to be paid by the owner of such data center no later than 90 days after the issuance of such data center's certificate of occupancy by the locality.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104126D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Education

HB 2035 - High-energy facilities; water and energy usage information reports; statewide clearinghouse established.

Chief Patron: Simonds

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 10.1-1186.7, relating to Department of Environmental Quality; high-energy facilities; water and energy usage information reports; statewide clearinghouse established; work group.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

High-energy facilities; water and energy usage information reports; statewide clearinghouse established. Requires any owner or operator of a high-energy facility, as defined in the bill, to submit to the Department of Environmental Quality no later than May 1, 2026, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, a report that contains certain information relating to water and energy usage for each such facility. The bill requires the Department, no later than July 1, 2026, to design, implement, and maintain a publicly accessible website to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for information relating to water and energy usage of all high-energy facilities operating in the Commonwealth. The bill provides that, in order to fully cover the costs of designing, implementing, and maintaining the statewide clearinghouse, the Department shall assess an initial fee to each owner or operator of a high-energy facility and may assess an annual fee thereafter for each year that such high-energy facility is in active use. The bill requires any owner or operator of a high-energy facility to notify the Department of any substantial change in operations or technologies that would require an update to the information required by the bill at least 60 days prior to making such change. The bill also requires the Department to convene a work group of stakeholders for the purpose of identifying additional information required to be published to the statewide clearinghouse. Such work group is required to convene at least three times by July 1, 2026, in a manner that is open to the public, and each such meeting is required to include a public comment period of no less than 60 days following such meeting.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25102944D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 2037 - Land development; solar canopies in parking areas.

Chief Patron: Bulova

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-961.4, relating to land development; solar

canopies in parking areas.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Land development; solar canopies in parking areas. Provides that any locality may include in its land development ordinances a provision that requires that an applicant must install a solar canopy over designated parking areas. Such provisions shall apply only to nonresidential parking areas with 100 parking spaces or more and may require coverage of up to 50 percent of the parking area. Localities are authorized to provide development density bonuses for properties that are subject to such provisions.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104573D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

HB 2084 - State Corporation Commission regulatory proceeding; reasonable classifications of customers by public utilities.

Chief Patron: Shin

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to direct the State Corporation Commission to conduct a regulatory proceeding to ensure reasonable

classifications of customers by public utilities.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

State Corporation Commission regulatory proceeding; reasonable classifications of customers by public utilities. Directs the State Corporation Commission to conduct a regulatory proceeding to ensure that public utilities are using rates, tolls, charges, or schedules that contain reasonable classifications of utility customers by July 1, 2026. The bill requires that for Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power Company, such reasonable classifications of customers shall include a separate classification for data centers. The bill specifies that the Commission shall establish criteria and notice and hearing requirements for such proceeding no later than January 1, 2026.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25100628D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 2087 - Electric utilities; electric vehicle charging stations; transportation electrification.

Chief Patron: Shin

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 56-1.2:2 and 56-581.2 and to repeal § 56-585.1:13 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; electric vehicle charging stations; transportation electrification.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; electric vehicle charging stations; transportation electrification. Permits Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company to develop, own, maintain, and operate public-facing fast-charging stations, as defined in the bill, at or beyond a radial distance from privately owned fast-charging stations, which radial distance shall be determined by the Commission in a rulemaking proceeding initiated by June 1, 2027, with a final order entered no later than December 1, 2027. The bill repeals current law related to the recovery of costs associated with investment in transportation electrification on December 1, 2027, to coincide with such final order.

Under the bill, a Phase I or Phase II Utility may file a proposed tariff or rule with the Commission to provide utility-owned and utility-operated electrical distribution infrastructure between the main overhead or underground lines and the customer electrical revenue meter available to customers installing separately metered infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging stations, other than those in single-family residences. The Commission shall approve and authorize or modify and approve such tariff or rule within six months after filing. The bill requires that by November 15, 2025, and every two years thereafter, each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall file applications to accelerate widespread transportation electrification across the Commonwealth in a manner designed to maximize ratepayer benefits. The bill requires that by May 15, 2026, each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall submit to the Commission estimates and plans to serve load capacity needs to support transportation electrification and to comply with applicable air quality standards and regulations, and a proposal for a specific rate or set of rates for electricity and vehicles using charging infrastructure.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104457D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 2094 - High-risk artificial intelligence; development, deployment, and use; civil penalties.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 58, consisting of sections numbered

59.1-607 through 59.1-613, relating to high-risk artificial intelligence; development, deployment, and use;

civil penalties.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

High-risk artificial intelligence; development, deployment, and use; civil penalties. Creates requirements for the development, deployment, and use of high-risk artificial intelligence systems, defined in the bill, and civil penalties for noncompliance, to be enforced by the Attorney General. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104439D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation

HB 2101 - Electric utilities; data center cost allocation.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Status: In Subcommittee

A BILL to direct 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.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

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 Commission to promulgate such rules as necessary to eliminate or minimize such unreasonable subsidies to the maximum possible extent. The bill directs the Commission to complete such proceedings prior to January 1, 2026.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104441D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce
01/14/2025	House	Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #3

HB 2121 - Digital Content Authenticity and Transparency Act established; civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 58, consisting of sections numbered

59.1-607 through 59.1-610, relating to Digital Content Authenticity and Transparency Act established; civil

penalty.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Digital Content Authenticity and Transparency Act established; civil penalty. Requires a developer of an artificial intelligence system or service to apply provenance data to synthetic digital content that is generated by such developer's generative artificial intelligence system or service and requires a developer to make a provenance application tool and a provenance reader available to the public. The bill requires a controller of an online service, product, or feature to retain any available provenance data and requires a capture device to include a provenance application tool by default. The bill grants the Attorney General the exclusive authority to enforce such provisions and impose civil penalties pursuant to the bill. Under certain circumstances, the Attorney General may offer a developer an opportunity to cure a violation before imposing such civil penalties. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104552D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2126 - Virginia Energy Facility Review Board established; localities; comprehensive plan and local ordinances related to siting of critical interconnection projects; planning district commissions; regional energy plans; Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center established.

Chief Patron: Sullivan

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-2223 and 15.2-2288.7 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 15.2-2314.1 and 15.2-4209.1 and by adding in Chapter 17 of Title 45.2 an article numbered 10, consisting of sections numbered 45.2-1735 through 45.2-1741, and an article numbered 11, consisting of sections numbered 45.2-1742 and 45.2-1743, relating to Virginia Energy Facility Review Board established; localities; comprehensive plan and local ordinances related to siting of critical interconnection projects; planning district commissions; regional energy plans; Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center established.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Energy Facility Review Board established; localities; comprehensive plan and local ordinances related to siting of critical interconnection projects; planning district commissions; regional energy plans; Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center established. Establishes the Virginia Energy Facility Review Board as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth for the purposes of conducting critical interconnection reviews, conduct analysis and study policy options, review regional energy plans, local comprehensive plans, and local solar and storage ordinances and to facilitate the responsible siting of critical interconnection projects in the Commonwealth.

The bill also establishes the Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center, consisting of public institutions of higher education, to serve as an interdisciplinary study, research, and information resource and to provide technical assistance to state agencies, planning district commissions, localities, the Review Board, other public bodies, and private entities in matters related to critical interconnection projects. The bill requires the Center to collaborate with the Review Board to issue the regional energy report and to establish the model local ordinance.

The bill requires the Review Board to issue a regional energy report that models each planning district's meaningful annual contribution to clean energy generation, energy efficiency measures, and energy storage. Each planning district commission is required to adopt a regional energy plan to address energy generation, storage, and use that demonstrates a meaningful contribution to Commonwealth's energy goals as determined by the regional energy report issued by the Review Board and to submit the plan to the Review Board. The Review Board is required to determine if a regional energy plan is in compliance with certain provisions within 60 days of receipt of such plan. If the Review Board determines that the regional energy plan is not in compliance, the relevant planning district commission fails to adopt a compliant regional energy plan. If the relevant planning district commission fails to adopt a compliant the 60 days, the Review Board, within 90 days of such failure, is required to issue an alternative regional energy plan that is in effect for such region.

The bill requires the Review Board to establish a model local ordinance for siting, permitting, and zoning of critical interconnection projects and all other ground-mounted front-of-meter solar energy and energy storage projects. The bill requires each locality to adopt an ordinance for the permitting of solar energy facilities and energy storage facilities, that is consistent with the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy and the model ordinance and submit it to the Review Board. Under the bill, the Review Board is required to determine if the local ordinance is compliant with certain requirements. If the Review Board determines that the local ordinance is not in compliance, the locality has 60 days to adopt a compliant local ordinance. If the locality fails to adopt a compliant local ordinance within the

60 days, the bill provides that the model local ordinance established is in effect for such locality. The bill provides a procedure for a planning district commission or a locality to appeal a Review Board determination regarding a regional energy plan or a local ordinance.

Under the bill, any developer planning to construct a critical interconnection project is required to submit an application to the Review Board. The Review Board is required to determine if the critical interconnection project (i) qualifies as a project of statewide significance, defined in the bill, and (ii) complies with the ordinance in each locality in which the proposed critical interconnection project would be located. In making its determination, the Review Board is required to consider the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy, certain regulations adopted by the State Air Pollution Control Board, the certain renewable portfolio requirements, and any other information it deems relevant. The bill provides that the Review Board has the discretion to disregard any unreasonable restriction, defined in the bill, in the local ordinance on the installation of the critical interconnection projects. In addition, the Review Board may consider any regional energy plan developed by the relevant planning district commission. The Review Board is required to issue its opinion on the critical interconnection project within 90 days of receiving an application.

The bill requires a locality to issue its final decision regarding any zoning change, variance, or the issuance of a special exemption, special use permit, or conditional use permit related to a critical interconnection project no later than 180 days after receiving a critical interconnection opinion issued by the Review Board. If the locality's final decision diverges from the Review Board's opinion, the locality is required to include a written determination setting forth all facts and conclusions reached by the locality that support its final decision. Under the bill, a locality's failure to make a final decision within the 180-day period, constitutes a granting of the zoning change, variance, special exemption, special use permit, or conditional use permit related to a critical interconnection project.

The bill requires that any appeal of a locality's decision related to a critical interconnection project will be filed in the circuit court of such locality. The bill provides that such appeal can be brought only by the aggrieved applicant or the owner of the property subject to a special and no other person has standing to file such appeal or seek judicial review. Under the bill, in any such appeal, there is a rebuttable presumption that the opinion of the Review Board is correct. Such presumption may be overcome by a preponderance of the evidence that the locality's decision to grant or deny a project or to include the challenged conditions was consistent with provisions in the locality's ordinance that are not unreasonable restrictions.

This bill is a recommendation of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104306D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2185 - Regulation of electric utilities; development of renewable energy facilities; powers of State Air Pollution Control Board; powers of State Corporation Commission.

Chief Patron: Freitas

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 10.1-1307, 10.1-1307.04, 10.1-1308, 10.1-1318, 10.1-1402.03, 10.1-1402.04, 45.2-1701.1, 56-585.1, 56-585.1:4, 56-585.3, 56-585.8, 56-594.3, and 56-594.4 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal §§ 10.1-1322.3 and 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to regulation of electric utilities; construction and development of renewable energy facilities; powers of State Air Pollution Control Board; powers of State Corporation Commission.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Regulation of electric utilities; development of renewable energy facilities; powers of State Air Pollution Control Board; powers of State Corporation Commission. Repeals provisions (i) requiring the State Air Pollution Control Board to adopt regulations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from any electricity generating unit in the Commonwealth and authorizing the Board to establish an auction program for energy allowances; (ii) prohibiting the State Corporation Commission from approving any new utility-owned generation facilities that emit carbon dioxide as a by-product of energy generation, in certain circumstances; (iii) declaring that statutory allowances for energy derived from sunlight, onshore wind, offshore wind, and storage facilities are in the public interest; and (iv) relating to the development of solar and wind generation and energy storage capacity, development of offshore wind capacity, and generation of electricity from renewable and zero-carbon sources. The bill provides that planning and development activities for new nuclear generation facilities are in the public interest.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102489D01/07/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2197 - Electric utilities; renewable energy standard eligible sources; zero-carbon electricity generating nuclear facilities.

Chief Patron: Kilgore

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; renewable energy

standard eligible sources; zero-carbon electricity generating nuclear facilities.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; renewable energy standard eligible sources; zero-carbon electricity generating nuclear facilities. Provides that, for the purposes of the renewable energy portfolio standard, eligible sources include zero-carbon electricity generating nuclear facilities located in the Commonwealth.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25100698D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 59.1-200, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 59.1-575, 59.1-

577, 59.1-578, and 59.1-584 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title

59.1 a chapter numbered 58, consisting of sections numbered 59.1-607 through 59.1-611, relating to

Consumer Data Protection Act; Artificial Intelligence Training Data Transparency Act.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Consumer Data Protection Act; Artificial Intelligence Training Data Transparency Act. Allows consumers to authorize a third party, acting on the consumer's behalf, to opt out of the processing of the consumer's personal data. Such authorization may be made using technology that indicates the consumer's intent to opt out, including a browser setting, browser extension, global device setting, or other user-selected universal opt-out mechanism. Where a controller has actual knowledge or willfully disregards that a consumer is an adolescent, defined in the bill as at least 13 years of age but younger than 16 years of age, no controller shall process any personal data collected or collect precise geolocation data from such adolescent without obtaining consent from such adolescent. The bill provides that the Attorney General has discretion regarding whether to provide an opportunity to cure a violation to a controller or processor beginning January 1, 2026. The bill also revises the definitions of "sale of personal data," "sensitive data," and "biometric data."

The bill requires a developer of a generative artificial intelligence system or service, defined in the bill, to disclose on the developer's website information about the generative artificial intelligence data set used to train such system or service. A developer shall keep detailed records of the generative artificial intelligence data set used to train a generative artificial intelligence system or service and provide clearly designated and publicly available mechanisms for submissions of Training Data Verification Requests, defined in the bill, and Training Data Deletion Requests, defined in the bill. The bill also prohibits nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements from concealing noncompliance with the bill. The bill allows the Attorney General to offer developers an opportunity to cure noncompliance that is noticed by the Attorney General and provides that a person or entity claiming to be injured due to a violation of such provisions shall be entitled to initiate an action for monetary damages or equitable relief. The provisions of the bill regarding such developers have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104553D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2253 - Nursing homes; sanctions; civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Wachsmann

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-127.01, 32.1-134.1, 32.1-134.4, and 32.1-135 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-27.3 relating to nursing homes; sanctions;

civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Nursing homes; sanctions; civil penalty. Establishes procedures for the implementation of sanctions by the State Health Commissioner on any nursing home that is licensed pursuant to the laws regulating medical care facilities and services. The bill specifies the forms of sanctions that the Commissioner may impose, the nursing home's continued responsibility for persons under its care, the use of funds remunerated in accordance with such sanctions, the process for the imposition of such sanctions, and the Commissioner's ability to revoke such nursing home's license. The bill specifies that sanctions shall not be imposed on a nursing home that is sanctioned by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and directs the State Board of Health to promulgate emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104479D01/07/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2255 - Hospitals, nursing homes, or certified nursing facilities; licensure and inspection fees; fund.

Chief Patron: Wachsmann

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-4006, 32.1-127, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 32.1-130 of the Code of Virginia, relating to hospitals, nursing homes, or certified nursing facilities; licensure and inspection fees; fund.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Hospitals, nursing homes, or certified nursing facilities; licensure and inspection fees; fund. Directs the State Board of Health to require in its regulations the establishment of fees for the issuance, change, or renewal of a hospital, nursing home, or certified nursing facility license to cover the costs of operating the hospital and nursing home licensure and inspection program in a manner that ensures timely completion of inspections. The bill requires the Board to distribute the costs of operating the hospital and nursing home licensure and inspection program in a manner that ensures timely completion of inspection program in an equitable manner across all hospitals, nursing homes, or certified nursing facilities and specifies that the amount of such fees shall change no more frequently than annually. The bill also creates the Hospital and Nursing Home Licensure and Inspection Program Fund to be used for the purposes of supporting the activities of the licensure and inspections requirements administered pursuant to current law. The bill directs the Board to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill related to the establishment of such fees and specifies that the provisions pertaining to the creation of the Fund shall not become effective until the Board adopts such emergency regulations.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104480D01/07/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2266 - State Corporation Commission; distribution cost sharing program; distribution system upgrades.

Chief Patron: Tran

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to direct the State Corporation Commission to establish a distribution cost sharing program for required

distribution system upgrades.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

State Corporation Commission; distribution cost sharing program; distribution system upgrades. Directs the State Corporation Commission by July 1, 2026, to establish by regulation a distribution cost sharing program for certain generating facility projects seeking to interconnect to the electric distribution system.

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101827D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2281 - Electric utilities; municipal and state power aggregation; State Corporation Commission.

Chief Patron: McNamara

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-589 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; municipal and state

power aggregation; State Corporation Commission.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; municipal and state power aggregation; State Corporation Commission. Permits municipalities to aggregate the electric energy load of residential, commercial, and industrial retail customers within its boundaries on an opt-in or opt-out basis if the retail electric customers are not already being served by a licensed supplier. The bill also requires the State Corporation Commission to promulgate rules as necessary to ensure that the provisions of the bill do not create an unreasonable shifting of costs to nonparticipating customers and to ensure that in all integrated resource plans and cost recovery proceedings no incumbent electric utility is improperly incorporating the loads of retail electric customers into its forecasts or load projections.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102413D01/08/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2346 - Electric utilities; virtual power plant pilot program.

Chief Patron: Hernandez

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to direct certain electric utilities to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to conduct a

virtual power plant pilot program.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; virtual power plant pilot program. Requires Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to conduct a pilot program to evaluate methods to optimize demand through various technology applications, including the establishment of virtual power plants. The bill requires the pilot program to evaluate electric grid capacity needs and the ability of such virtual power plants to provide grid services, including peak-shaving, during times of peak electric demand.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104643D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2356 - Prevailing wage rate; apprenticeship requirements; renewable energy portfolio standard eligible source work; penalties.

Chief Patron: Mundon King

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 40.1 an article numbered 1.2, consisting of sections numbered 40.1-28.13, 40.1-28.14, and 40.1-28.15, relating to prevailing wage rate; apprenticeship requirements; renewable energy portfolio standard eligible source work; penalties.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Prevailing wage rate; apprenticeship requirements; renewable energy portfolio standard eligible source work; penalties. Requires each public service company, including its contractors and subcontractors, to ensure payment at the prevailing wage rate set by the Department of Labor and Industry for any mechanic, laborer, or worker employed, retained, or otherwise hired to perform construction, maintenance, or repair work for certain electricity generating sources. The bill requires each public service company to (i) ensure that 15 percent of the total labor hours of such work is performed by qualified apprentices and (ii) employ at least one qualified apprentice if four or more individuals are employed to perform such work. Under the bill, a public service company that fails to meet the requirements of its provisions is required to make penalty payments to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104107D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2365 - Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program; zero-carbon electricity.

Chief Patron: Wilt

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-576 and 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; renewable

energy portfolio standard; zero-carbon electricity.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program; zero-carbon electricity. Amends the definition of renewable energy for purposes of the Virginia Electric Utility Regulation Act to include energy derived from hydrogen and nuclear power. The bill provides that the existing renewable energy portfolio standard program that establishes goals for the sale of renewable energy shall also include goals for the sale of zero-carbon electricity and adds zero-carbon electricity generating resources and certain other resources approved by the State Corporation Commission to the list of eligible sources for purposes of the renewable portfolio standard program.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102316D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2376 - Electrical generating facilities; capacity factor; report.

Chief Patron: Zehr

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 23 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-596.5, relating to

electrical generating facilities; capacity factor; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electrical generating facilities; capacity factor; report. Requires the owner of any electrical generating facility in the Commonwealth with a nameplate capacity of at least one megawatt to provide an annual report to the State Corporation Commission, including for each month of the immediately preceding year (i) the amount of electricity produced by such facility and (ii) the capacity factor, as defined in the bill, for such facility. The bill requires the Commission to compile all information reported pursuant to the bill's provisions and to publish an annual report of such compiled information.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102436D01/08/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2377 - Comprehensive plan; data centers; water usage.

Chief Patron: Hodges

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2223.6, relating to comprehensive plan;

data centers; water usage.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Comprehensive plan; data centers; water usage. Requires every locality to incorporate into its comprehensive plan provisions that prioritize and evaluate alternative methods of cooling, such as air cooling, geothermal cooling, or other innovative technologies that minimize water usage, particularly in the context of approving or siting data centers or similar land uses. The bill provides that the comprehensive plan shall include methods of assessing the environmental impact of water-based cooling methods and requires that alternative methods to minimize water usage are thoroughly considered before local approval of data centers or similar land uses that are reliant on significant water resources for cooling purposes.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102751D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2386 - Public utilities; certificate of convenience and necessity for certain new transmission lines.

Chief Patron: Higgins

Status: Committee Referral Pending

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-265.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public utilities; certificate of convenience
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and necessity for certain new transmission lines.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public utilities; certificate of convenience and necessity for certain new transmission lines. Provides that for construction of any overhead transmission line of 230 kilovolts and associated facilities, a public utility shall demonstrate that either the construction of such line remains within an existing right-of-way or that no alternatives are feasible within the existing right-of-way.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103596D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2413 - Electric utilities; integrated resource plans.

Chief Patron: Mundon King

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-580, 56-597, 56-598, and 56-599 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric

utilities; integrated resource plans.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; integrated resource plans. Makes various changes related to the content and process for an integrated resource plan (IRP) developed by an electric utility that provides a forecast of its load obligations and a plan to meet those obligations. The bill (i) extends the planning timeframe from 15 to 20 years; (ii) requires Appalachian Power to file an IRP by removing an exception from the definition of "electric utility"; (iii) changes the frequency a utility is required to file an IRP from biennially to triennially; and (iv) requires utilities to consider the use of grid-enhancing technologies as alternatives to new transmission infrastructure, and when new transmission lines are envisioned, to provide the reasons grid-enhancing technologies are not sufficient to defer or eliminate the need for new transmission infrastructure.

The bill requires that the current stakeholder review process for integrated resource plans be facilitated by a third-party facilitator selected by the State Corporation Commission. The bill requires, as part of the stakeholder review process, the utility to provide stakeholders with reasonable access to the same modeling software, modeling assumptions, modeling inputs, and data used by the utility to evaluate supply and demand resources in its integrated resource plan in order to enable stakeholders to create modeling scenarios for the utility's consideration during the development of its integrated resource plan.

The bill requires the Commission to (a) establish guidelines that ensure that utilities develop comprehensive integrated resource plans and provide meaningful public engagement and maximum transparency during the planning process; (b) conduct a proceeding by July 1, 2026, and at least once every five years thereafter, to identify and review each of its existing orders relevant to integrated resource plans to determine if such orders remain necessary and effective and are not overly burdensome; and (c) to convene a work group to make recommendations on the required guidelines.

Finally, the bill requires that any petition to permit the construction and operation of electrical generating facilities filed by an electric utility that is required to file an integrated resource plan to (1) incorporate the intent to construct and operate such generating facilities or (2) if the utility's intent to construct and operate such generating facilities was not identified in the utility's most recently approved integrated resource plan, provide a detailed explanation of why the utility did not anticipate the need for such generating facilities.

This bill is a recommendation of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103760D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2422 - Public utilities; classification of customers.

Chief Patron: Webert

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-235.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public utilities; classification of customers.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public utilities; classification of customers. Requires that a public electric utility or a public utility authorized to furnish water or water and sewer service include a separate classification for data centers, as defined in the bill, when satisfying the existing requirement that any rate, toll, charge, or schedule of a public utility is only considered to be just and reasonable by the State Corporation Commission if the public utility has demonstrated that such rates, tolls, charges, or schedules contain reasonable classifications of customers.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25100737D01/08/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2437 - Utility Facilities Act; definition of public utility.

Chief Patron: Webert

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-265.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Utility Facilities Act; definition of public

utility.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Utility Facilities Act; definition of public utility. Provides that for the purpose of the Utility Facilities Act, "public utility" does not include a company that provides electric service from a generation facility located on the same tract of land as a customer with an actual or anticipated load greater than one megawatt that has been notified by its incumbent electric utility that such utility is unable to provide adequate electric service within six months of the customer's request, provided that (i) the company utilizes an electricity generation process that has an emissions rate at least 30 percent lower than the average annual marginal grid emissions rate in the PJM transmission region at the time of installation and (ii) all costs associated with such generator are borne by the customer and not by other ratepayers.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102650D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2438 - Local regulation of solar facilities; special exceptions.

Chief Patron: Mundon King

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-2288.7 and 15.2-2288.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local regulation of

solar facilities; special exceptions.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Local regulation of solar facilities; special exceptions. Provides that a ground-mounted solar energy generation facility to be located on property zoned agricultural, commercial, industrial, or institutional shall be permitted pursuant to various criteria to be included in a local ordinance, such as specifications for setbacks, fencing, solar panel height, visual impacts, and grading, and a decommissioning plan for solar energy equipment and facilities.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102097D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2442 - Public utilities; certificate of convenience and necessity.

Chief Patron: Webert

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-265.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public utilities; certificate of convenience

and necessity.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public utilities; certificate of convenience and necessity. Provides that, if a public utility has already received a certificate of convenience and necessity to furnish service within its territory, such utility may construct, enlarge, contract with, or acquire and operate facilities for the generation and distribution of electric energy solely to a specific customer or customers located on the same tract of land as existing facilities without obtaining another certificate of convenience and necessity, provided that all costs associated with the new facilities shall be borne by the specific customer or customers.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102651D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2443 - Portable benefit accounts.

Chief Patron: Scott, P.A.

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 40.1 an article numbered 1.2, consisting of a

section numbered 40.1-28.13, relating to portable benefit accounts.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Portable benefit accounts. Authorizes a Virginia resident who has worked as an independent contractor to establish a portable benefit account. Under the bill, a portable benefit account may be offered through and administered by a bank, investment management firm, technology provider, or program manager that offers services through a bank or investment management firm. Distributions from the account may be used for the payment of various health-related costs and other benefits including income replacement insurance, life insurance, or retirement benefits. Under the bill, contributions may be made using the funds of a hiring party or a percentage of funds withheld from the compensation owed to a sole proprietor or independent contractor. The bill provides that contributions using withheld funds can only be made if (i) withheld compensation is expressly agreed to in writing; (ii) such agreement is clear, unambiguous, and prominently displayed in the work contract or a separate notice; (iii) such withholdings are voluntary and require a sole proprietor or independent contractor to opt in; and (iv) a sole proprietor or independent contractor to opt in; and (iv) a sole proprietor or independent contractor to opt in; and (iv) a sole proprietor or independent contractor may elect to opt out of such withholdings at any time.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104200D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2459 - New solar generation facilities; certificate of convenience and necessity; bond required.

Chief Patron: O'Quinn

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-265.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to new solar generation facilities;

certificate of convenience and necessity; bond required.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

New solar generation facilities; certificate of convenience and necessity; bond required. Provides that the State Corporation Commission shall only issue a certificate of convenience and necessity for a public utility to construct, enlarge, or acquire a solar generation facility that has a size of over one acre if the public utility has filed with the Commission a bond for performance payable to the Commonwealth. The amount of such bond shall be determined by the Commission depending on the size of the solar generation facility but shall not be less than \$10,000.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101997D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2470 - Electric utilities; construction of certain transmission lines; notice required.

Chief Patron: Higgins

Status: Committee Referral Pending

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A BILL to require an electric utility to provide certain notice prior to the construction of certain electric transmission
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lines.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; construction of certain transmission lines; notice required. Requires any electric utility that is responsible for the construction, operation, or maintenance of an electric transmission line of 138 kilovolts or more within a locality to provide at least 180 days' written notice to the governing body of such locality prior to the construction of such transmission line.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103585D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2528 - Electric utilities; customer energy choice; customer return to service; subscription cap and queue.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-577 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; retail energy choice;

customer return to service; subscription cap and queue.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; customer energy choice; customer return to service; subscription cap and queue. Removes certain restrictions on the ability of individual retail customers of electric energy within the Commonwealth, regardless of customer class, to purchase electric energy matched 100 percent by renewable energy certificates from any supplier of electric energy licensed to sell retail electric energy within the Commonwealth. The bill requires a licensed supplier to match a percentage of each retail electric customer's annual load with renewable energy certificates from within the PJM transmission region. The bill decreases from five years to six months the required written notice period for certain electric energy customers to return to service by an incumbent electric utility after purchasing electric energy from other suppliers.

The bill also directs the Commission, by October 1, 2026, to establish a subscription cap allowance for certain utility customers seeking to participate in purchasing electric energy from a licensed supplier. The Commission is required to review the subscription cap allowance every two years starting on January 1, 2028, and electric utilities are required to file their subscription queues with the Commission by January 15, 2027, and annually thereafter. The bill contains an exception to the subscription cap allowance for customers seeking to expand usage at an existing or new facility. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, unless the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated pursuant to the bill specify a commencement date.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104501D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2531 - Paid family and medical leave insurance program; notice requirements; civil action.

Chief Patron: Sewell

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-322.02 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 60.2 a chapter numbered 8, consisting of sections numbered 60.2-800 through 60.2-821, relating to paid family and medical leave insurance program; notice requirements; civil action.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Paid family and medical leave insurance program; notice requirements; civil action. Requires the Virginia Employment Commission to establish and administer a paid family and medical leave insurance program with benefits beginning January 1, 2028. Under the program, benefits are paid to covered individuals, as defined in the bill, for family and medical leave. Funding for the program is provided through premiums assessed to employers and employees beginning January 1, 2027. The bill provides that the amount of a benefit is 80 percent of the employee's average weekly wage, not to exceed 120 percent of the state weekly wage, which amount is required to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the statewide average weekly wage. The bill caps the duration of paid leave at 12 weeks in any application year and provides self-employed individuals the option of participating in the program.

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103497D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2537 - Electric utilities; energy storage requirements; Department of Energy and Department of Environmental Quality to develop model ordinances; work groups; reports.

Chief Patron: Sullivan

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; energy storage requirements; Department of Energy and Department of Environmental Quality to develop model ordinances; work group; reports.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; energy storage requirements; Department of Energy and Department of Environmental Quality to develop model ordinances; work groups; reports. Increases the targets for energy storage capacity that Phase I and Phase II Utilities, as defined in current law, are required to construct, acquire, or procure and extends the time frame by which such capacity must be met. Under the bill, each Phase I Utility shall construct, acquire, or procure at least 780 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity, and each Phase II Utility shall construct, acquire, or procure at least 5,220 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity. The short-duration energy storage requirements are required to be fulfilled by December 31, 2040, and the long-duration energy storage requirements are required to be fulfilled by December 31, 2050. "Long-duration energy storage" and "short-duration energy storage" are defined in the bill.

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. Additionally, the Department of Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality are directed to convene a work group to develop recommendations and financial incentives related to the development of long-duration energy storage projects and submit a report by December 1, 2025.

01/09/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103827D
01/09/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2545 - Gas pipeline safety; regulations.

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-257.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to gas pipeline safety; regulations.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Gas pipeline safety; regulations. Requires that for pipeline facilities used in the interstate transport of gas, as defined in federal regulations, any gas transported in transmission lines in the Commonwealth shall be adequately odorized, with an exception for certain pipelines in operation before May 5, 1975. The bill directs the State Corporation Commission to promulgate regulations related to the provisions of the bill.

5 Last Events

01/10/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101097D01/10/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2547 - Electric utilities; retail competition; aggregation of load.

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-577 and 56-577.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; retail

competition; aggregation of load.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; retail competition; aggregation of load. Provides, for retail competition for the purchase and sale of electric energy, that when two or more individual nonresidential retail customers of electric energy within the Commonwealth petition the State Corporation Commission for permission to aggregate or combine their demands to become qualified to purchase electric energy from a retail supplier, such retail customers shall be able to modify existing site accounts outlined in the petition without penalty or risk of revocation of petition approval, provided the petition continues to adhere to program requirements. Additionally, for a pilot program under which two or more nonresidential customers shall be able to modify existing site accounts outlined in the petitions seeking to aggregate their load and purchase electric energy from a supplier, such retail customers shall be able to modify existing site accounts outlined in the petition seeking to aggregate their load and purchase electric energy from a supplier, such retail customers shall be able to modify existing site accounts outlined in the petition seeking to aggregate their load and purchase electric energy from a supplier, such retail customers shall be able to modify existing site accounts outlined in the petition without penalty or risk of removal from the program, provided the petition continues to adhere to program requirements.

5 Last Events

01/10/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102006D01/10/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

HB 2578 - Retail sales and use tax; exemption for data centers; reports.

Chief Patron: Sullivan

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-609.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to retail sales and use tax; exemption for data centers; Commission on Electric Utility Regulation; report; Department of Energy; report; investorowned electric utilities; voluntary tariff.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Retail sales and use tax; exemption for data centers; reports. Requires a data center operator, in order to be eligible for the existing data center sales and use tax exemption to (i) beginning July 1, 2030, purchase a certain percentage of the data center's annual electric load from clean energy resources, (ii) beginning July 1, 2030, demonstrate sufficient investment in energy efficiency measures to provide system-wide benefits, and (iii) beginning July 1, 2027, use only backup generators that meet certain emissions standards.

The bill requires the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation to examine the cost and feasibility of data centers using onsite backup and primary generation that is not diesel-fired and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2025.

The bill requires the Department of Energy to (a) identify opportunities for beneficial use of waste heat from data centers; (b) create and publish on its website an interactive map of existing and proposed data centers and potential public and private heat users; (c) develop a strategic plan to accelerate data center heat reuse in the Commonwealth; (d) designate an employee within the Department to lead the Commonwealth's efforts to reuse data center heat; and (e) convene a stakeholder work group to provide expertise and feedback on the Department's efforts to accelerate the use of waste heat from data centers. The Department is required to report its findings to the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2025.

Finally, the bill requires investor-owned electric utilities to file with the State Corporation Commission for approval of a voluntary tariff to facilitate large customer procurement of clean energy.

01/12/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104202D
01/12/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2604 - Electric utilities; request for proposals required for certain facilities.

Chief Patron: Tran

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; request for proposals

required for certain facilities.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electric utilities; request for proposals required for certain facilities. Requires an electric utility seeking approval to construct or purchase a generating facility that emits carbon dioxide to demonstrate that it has conducted a request for proposals designed to fairly evaluate all available supply-side and demand-side options prior to seeking approval for such generating facility. The bill requires the State Corporation Commission to review the request for proposals before the utility's issuance to ensure all available resources will be fairly evaluated.

5 Last Events

01/13/2025HousePrefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104845D01/13/2025HouseCommittee Referral Pending

SB 284 - Siting of data centers; impacts on resources and historically significant sites.

Chief Patron: Roem

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-

2209.4, relating to siting of data centers; impacts on resources and historically significant sites.

24101555D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Siting of data centers; impacts on resources and historically significant sites. Provides that any local government land use application required for the siting of a data center shall only be approved in areas where the data center will (i) have a minimal impact on historic, agricultural, and cultural resources and (ii) not be within one mile of a national park, state park, or other historically significant site.

01/09/2024	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101555D
01/09/2024	Senate	Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology
02/07/2024	Senate	Continued to 2025 in General Laws and Technology (13-Y 2-N)
11/19/2024	Senate	Left in General Laws and Technology

SB 285 - Siting of data centers; site assessment.

Chief Patron: Roem

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-

2209.4, relating to siting of data centers; impacts on resources; site assessment.

24104537D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Siting of data centers; site assessment. Requires a locality, prior to any approval for the siting of a data center, to require disclosure of water and power usage at full build-out and perform a site assessment to examine the effect of the data center on water usage, the regional electric grid, and carbon emissions as well as any impacts on agricultural, historic, and cultural resources within the locality.

5 Last Events

01/09/2024	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104537D
01/09/2024	Senate	Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology
02/07/2024	Senate	Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered
02/07/2024	Senate	Continued to 2025 in General Laws and Technology (13-Y 2-N)
11/19/2024	Senate	Left in General Laws and Technology

SB 798 - Retail franchise agreements; governing law, competition restrictions.

Chief Patron: Head

Status: In Senate

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 13.1-559 and 13.1-563 of the Code of Virginia, relating to retail franchise

agreements; governing law; competition restrictions.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Retail franchise agreements; governing law; competition restrictions. Provides that retail franchise agreements shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth and prohibits any person from offering or entering into a franchise agreement that includes competition restrictions that extend beyond termination or expiration of the franchise agreement unless such settlement is approved by a court of competent jurisdiction.

12/28/2024	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101940D
12/28/2024	Senate	Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor
01/13/2025	Senate	Reported from Commerce and Labor (13-Y 0-N 2-A)

SB 824 - State Corporation Commission; powers and duties.

Chief Patron: Rouse

Status: In Senate

A BILL to amend and reenact § 12.1-12 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State Corporation Commission; powers

and duties.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

State Corporation Commission; powers and duties. Provides that in proceedings before the State Corporation Commission relating to the regulation and oversight of utilities, the Commission shall consider public health and safety, the economy of the Commonwealth, the promotion of workforce development for residents of the Commonwealth, and the maintenance of fair labor standards for workers employed by public service companies and their contractors, if applicable to the proceedings.

5 Last Events

12/31/2024	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103610D
12/31/2024	Senate	Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor
01/13/2025	Senate	Reported from Commerce and Labor with amendment (8-Y 6-N 1-A)

SB 894 - Civil actions; liability of employer or principal for criminal sexual assault by employee or agent.

Chief Patron: Perry

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 8.01-42.6, relating to civil actions; liability of

employer or principal for criminal sexual assault by employee or agent.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Civil actions; liability of employer or principal for criminal sexual assault by employee or agent. Provides that in an action for injury to a person arising out of an act that would constitute criminal sexual assault committed by an employee or agent, such act shall be deemed to have occurred within the course and scope of his employment or agency if certain factors are proven by a preponderance of the evidence. The bill provides that the injured person has a cause of action whether or not the employee or agent has been charged or convicted of criminal sexual assault.

01/04/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25100507D
01/04/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on the Courts of Justice

SB 899 - Data centers; water use.

Chief Patron: Stuart

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia, relating to zoning; data centers; water use.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Zoning; data centers; water use. Authorizes a locality to include in its zoning ordinance provisions for (i) requiring proposed data center developments to submit water use estimates and (ii) considering water use when making rezoning and special use permit decisions related to data center development.

5 Last Events

01/05/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102484D
01/05/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Local Government

SB 960 - Electric utilities; data center cost allocation.

Chief Patron: Perry

Status: In Committee

A BILL to direct 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.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

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 Commission to promulgate such rules as necessary to eliminate or minimize such unreasonable subsidies to the maximum possible extent. The bill directs the Commission to complete such proceedings prior to January 1, 2026.

01/06/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103266D
01/06/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SB 1336 - Electricity consumption tax; rate adjustments.

Chief Patron: Marsden

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electricity consumption tax; rate

adjustments.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Electricity consumption tax; rate adjustments. Increases the electric utility consumption tax's special utility tax rates for commercial and industrial consumer electricity consumed per month (i) in excess of 2,500 kWh but not in excess of 50,000 kWh and (ii) in excess of 50,000 kWh.

5 Last Events

01/13/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25103763D
01/13/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

SB 1338 - Carbon-free energy or clean energy; fusion energy; definitions.

Chief Patron: Marsden

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 1-208.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carbon-free energy or clean energy; fusion

energy; definitions.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Carbon-free energy or clean energy; fusion energy; definitions. Adds fusion energy, as defined in the bill, to the list of generation sources that qualify as carbon-free energy or clean energy.

01/13/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25103768D
01/13/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

SB 1342 - Department of Energy; work group; barriers to reducing energy-related costs of living in lowincome households; report.

Chief Patron: Bagby

Status: In Committee

A BILL to direct the Department of Energy to convene a work group to identify barriers to reducing energy-related

costs of living in low-income households in the Commonwealth; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Department of Energy; work group; barriers to reducing energy-related costs of living in low-income households; report. Directs the Department of Energy to convene a work group to identify existing barriers to reducing energy-related costs of living in low-income households in the Commonwealth and to submit a report of its findings to the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation by November 15, 2025.

5 Last Events

01/13/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104503D
01/13/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Rules

SB 1373 - Energy Innovation Pilot Program established.

Chief Patron: Suetterlein

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 56 a chapter numbered 31, consisting of sections numbered

56-626 through 56-633, relating to Energy Innovation Pilot Program established.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Energy Innovation Pilot Program established. Establishes the Energy Innovation Pilot Program to foster the development of innovative energy projects by allowing Program participants to provide grid services or other beneficial energy measures. Under the Program, a participant, after obtaining State Corporation Commission approval, is not required to comply with specific state statutes and regulations pertaining to the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale, except for those laws and regulations that are required for worker safety, public safety, or environmental protection, for a period of five years. The bill includes provisions for application requirements, an approval process, Program exit procedures, a test period extension process, suspension or revocation of Commission approval, consumer protections, Commission investigations, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

01/13/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25101678D
01/13/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SJ 258 - Study; JLARC to update its 2016 study of the impact of regulations on Virginia's manufacturing sector; report.

Chief Patron: Williams Graves

Status: In Committee

Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to update its 2016 study of the impact of regulations on

Virginia's manufacturing sector. Report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Study; JLARC to update its 2016 study of the impact of regulations on Virginia's manufacturing sector; report. Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to update its 2016 study of the impact of regulations on Virginia's manufacturing sector. This bill is a recommendation of the Manufacturing Development Commission.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103095D
01/07/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Rules

Counts: HB: 51 HJ: 0 SB: 11 SJ: 1