



VII.

Agenda Item

County of Hanover

Board Meeting: September 9, 2015

Subject: Legislative Workshop – 2016 Session of the Virginia General Assembly

Summary of Agenda Item: The Legislative Committee met on July 10, 2015 and August 24, 2015 and prepared the attached draft Legislative Agenda for the 2016 session of the Virginia General Assembly. This workshop will provide the Board with the opportunity to review and discuss the draft Legislative Agenda for the 2016 Session of the Virginia General Assembly proposed by the Legislative Committee.

County Administrator's Recommended Board Motion: N/A



HANOVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2016 General Assembly Session

2016 Legislative Agenda Action Items

- Request that the General Assembly fully fund the Line of Duty Act benefits for law enforcement and public safety personnel as it did from the time that the General Assembly created these benefits in 1995 until the 2012 fiscal year.
- Request that the General Assembly ensure that the state continues to appropriate adequate monies to fund its pro rata share of the required contributions for VRS benefits for state funded teacher salaries and that the state make its contributions directly to VRS so that the state liability will be accurately reported under applicable accounting standards.
- Request that the General Assembly create a mechanism to provide for a stable and adequate source of the funding required to implement these programs to help local governments provide for the stormwater quality programs and facilities necessary to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements.
- Request that the Department of Environmental Quality conduct or commission a comprehensive study to determine the potential environmental and health risks of the land application of industrial residuals and to establish regulations specifically designed for industrial residuals based on the characteristics of residuals from different sources, including testing parameters, application methods, setbacks, record keeping, inspection protocols and enforcement authority.
- Request that the date of primary elections held in the month of June be changed from the second Tuesday to the third Tuesday in June and to change candidate filing deadlines to reflect that change of date. Because many localities use public school buildings for polling places, this change would minimize the number of occasions when primary elections held in June would take place while public schools are still in session. This change would reduce interference with school functions, enhance student safety and facilitate the conduct of primary elections.
- Request that the General Assembly amend the Code of Virginia to require that all bills that have a local fiscal impact—whether to localities or local school divisions—be filed on the first day of a Session of the General Assembly to provide time for fiscal impact analysis.
- Request that the General Assembly amend the Freedom of Information Act, as necessary, to assure that law enforcement agencies are not required to release video and audio

recorded by body worn cameras that would disclose the identities and personal information of private citizens and to assure that agencies do not incur burdensome costs in responding to requests.

- Request that the General Assembly amend Va. Code § 58.1-3321 to change from April 15 to April 30 the date by which the real estate tax rate for taxes due on or before June 30 must be fixed when assessment results in a tax increase.
- Request that the General Assembly direct the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to conduct a study of the process by which the Standards of Quality (SOQ) for public schools are developed by the Board of Education and adopted by the General Assembly in order to assure that the SOQs are carefully calculated to assure that high quality public education meeting the needs of the young people of Virginia is provided effectively and efficiently and that the costs of implementing the SOQs are reflected in the budgetary decisions of the General Assembly.

Positions on Legislation Anticipated to Come before the 2016 Session

- Support legislation that would provide counties with the same local taxing authority as cities in order that counties might reduce their dependence on real estate and personal property taxes.
- Support the development of alternative and equivalent additional revenue sources for localities prior to any repeal of the current authority for machinery and tools taxes and business professional occupation license taxes.
- Support maintenance of the existing provisions of Va. Code § 22.1-79.1 governing the date for the opening of the school year.
- Support for a study by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) of Medicaid-funded transportation services; such study would be separate and apart from any additional studies regarding those who are eligible for Medicaid or the provision of Medicaid services in Virginia.
- Support legislation that clarifies that employees of local departments of social services can prepare, sign and file petitions for foster care review and permanency planning hearings and motions for show cause for violations of court orders, using forms that have been approved by the Supreme Court of Virginia, that are related to abuse and neglect proceedings and foster care cases.
- Support legislation that clarifies that attendance officers can prepare, sign and file motions for show cause, on forms approved by the Supreme Court of Virginia, relating to truancy cases.

Legislative Policy Statements

- Support protection of existing authority regarding local budget decisions and oppose any shifting of funding responsibility from the state to localities for new or existing programs.
- Support the protection of existing local government authority in all areas including revenue and land use.
- Support only environmental regulations and programs that are scientifically valid and reasonably cost effective and that will result in substantial and demonstrable improvements to the environment.
- Support equitable reallocation of revenue and service responsibilities between the state and localities to provide for ongoing stability in taxation and the delivery of government services.
- Support additional legislative and regulatory requirements for public K-12 education only if they are reasonably cost effective, will result in demonstrable improvements to educational outcomes or student health and safety and are funded by the state on an ongoing basis.