



Preservation Virginia

Legislative Update, January 14, 2019

Cemeteries

Bill: HB 1973 - Historical African American cemeteries; adds two cemeteries in Pulaski County.

Patron: Hurst

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB1973+pdf>

Summary: Adds two cemeteries in Pulaski County to the list of cemeteries for which qualified organizations may receive funds from the Department of Historic Resources for the care of historical African American cemeteries and graves. The cemeteries are the New River Cemetery, which contains 33 eligible graves, and the West Dublin Cemetery, which contains 44 eligible graves.

Status: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Bill: HB 2311 - Historical African American cemeteries; City of Suffolk.

Patron: Hayes

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2311+pdf>

Summary: Adds Oak Lawn Cemetery in Suffolk, with 1,315 eligible graves, to the list of cemeteries for which qualified organizations may receive funds from the Department of Historic Resources for the care of historical African American cemeteries and graves.

Status: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Bill: HB 2406 - Historical African American cemeteries; City of Martinsville.

Patron: Adams

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2406+pdf>

Summary: Adds four cemeteries in Martinsville to the list of cemeteries for which qualified organizations may receive funds from the Department of Historic Resources for the care of historical African American cemeteries and graves. The cemeteries are the Bannister Cemetery, which contains three eligible graves; the Matthews Cemetery, which contains 518 eligible graves; the People's Cemetery, which contains 204 eligible graves; and the Smith Street Cemetery, which contains 158 eligible graves.

Status: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Bill: SB 1128 - Historical African American cemeteries; adds three cemeteries in City of Hampton.

Patron: Locke

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+SB1128+pdf>

Summary: Adds three cemeteries in Hampton to the list of cemeteries for which qualified organizations may receive funds from the Department of Historic Resources for the care of historical African American cemeteries and graves. The cemeteries are Bassette's Cemetery, containing 212 eligible graves, Elmerton Cemetery, containing 339 eligible graves, and the Tucker Family Cemetery, containing 15 eligible graves.

Status: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Court Houses

Bill: HB 2239 - Court buildings; ownership, location and jurisdiction.

Patron: Bell, R.

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2239+pdf>

Summary: Allows courthouses to be located on property owned jointly by a county and city. Other changes allow Albemarle County to locate its general district courts immediately across the street from the county courthouse and clarifies certain jurisdictional issues in cases where a county general district court is established in a city.

Status: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Land Preservation

Bill: HB 1816 - Land preservation tax credit; extends allowable time to claim credit.

Patron: Fariss

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB1816+pdf>

Summary: Extends the amount of time a taxpayer is allowed to claim the land preservation tax credit to December 31 of the second year following the calendar year that the eligible conveyance of land was made. Under current law, the credit must be claimed by December 31 of the first year following the calendar year of the conveyance.

Status: Referred to Committee on Finance

Bill: HB 2365 - Special assessment for land preservation; optional limit on annual increase in assessed value.

Patron: Knight

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2365+pdf>

Summary: Authorizes localities that require use value assessment and taxation to provide by ordinance that the annual increase in the assessed value of eligible property shall not exceed a specified dollar amount.

Status: Referred to Committee on Finance

Bill: HB 2482 - Land preservation tax credits; operation of facility on donated land; third party agreements.

Patron: Hodges

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2482+pdf>

Summary: Provides that if Virginia or one of its political subdivisions operates a facility on land donated for a land preservation tax credit, including charging fees for the use of such facility, such operation of a facility shall not disqualify the donation from eligibility for the credit, so long as any fees are used for conservation or preservation purposes. The bill provides that if Virginia or one of its political subdivisions contracts with a third party to manage a facility on donated land, such agreement shall not disqualify the donation from eligibility for the credit, so long as such agreement is for conservation or preservation purposes.

Status: Committee Referral Pending

Bill: SB 1340 - Land preservation tax credits; threshold for conservation value review.

Patron: Stuart

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+SB1340+pdf>

Summary: Lowers the threshold from \$1 million to \$500,000 for (i) conservation value review of land preservation tax credit applications by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and (ii) requiring a copy of the tax credit application to be filed with the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Status: Referred to Committee on Finance

Monuments

Bill: HB 2377 - War veterans; removal or upkeep of monument or memorial.

Patron: Toscano

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2377+pdf>

Summary: Provides that a locality may remove or provide for the upkeep, maintenance, or contextualization of any monument or memorial for war veterans located in its public space, regardless of when erected. Current law makes it unlawful to disturb or interfere with such monuments or memorials or to prevent citizens from taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the protection, preservation, and care of such monuments or memorials.

Status: Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Miscellaneous

Bill: HB 2009 - Virginia Land Conservation Foundation; project proposals.

Patron: Krizek

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2009+pdf>

Summary: Directs the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to solicit proposals for land conservation projects that would seek grant funding in the future and to establish an annual ranked list of such projects. The bill requires that the list be submitted to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before December 15 of each year.

Status: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Bill: SB 1260 - Creation of conservation areas.

Patron: Sturtevant

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+SB1260+pdf>

Summary: Allows a planning commission to designate an area as a conservation area. Current law only allows a redevelopment and housing authority to make such designation.

Status: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Bill: SB 1663 - Subdivision ordinance; sidewalks.

Patron: Barker

Bill text: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+SB1663+pdf>

Summary: Allows any locality to include provisions in its subdivision ordinance requiring that where a lot being subdivided or developed fronts on an existing street and the provision of a sidewalk is in accordance with the locality's adopted comprehensive plan, the locality may require the dedication of land for, and construction of, a sidewalk on the property being subdivided or developed.

Status: Referred to Committee on Local Government