

Preservation Virginia continues to monitor the following items:

### **Conservation Easement**

**Bill: HB 2755 - Conservation easements; comprehensive plan.**

Patron: Fariss

Bill text: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB2755+pdf>

Summary: Eliminates the requirement that a conservation easement conform to the comprehensive plan at the time the easement is granted for the area in which the real property is located.

Status: Passed House; Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources in the Senate

### **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: Passed House; Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice in the Senate

### **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: Passed House; Referred to Committee on Finance in the Senate

**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: Passed House and Senate

**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: Passed House; Referred to Committee on Finance in the Senate

**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: House Finance Subcommittee #1 failed to recommend reporting

**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: Passed House; Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources in the Senate

**Bill: HJ 734- Commending William M. Kelso.**

Patron: Mullin

Bill text: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HJ734>

Summary: Commending William M. Kelso.

Status: Agreed to by Senate by voice vote

**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: Stricken at request of Patron in Local Government (7-Y 0-N)

**Member Budget Items**

In addition to the Governor's introduced budget amendments, the House and Senate have respectively proposed the following amendments to the budget bill:

### **House**

**Item 363 #8h:** This amendment would remove the additional \$5.5 million each year proposed in House Bill 1700 as introduced for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

**Item 374 #1h:** This amendment provides \$100,000 in the second year of the biennial budget to the Department of Historic Resources to assist the Historic Hopewell Foundation and the Weston Plantation with needs for basement wall brickwork, needed kitchen repairs and siding improvements on this historic structure.

**Item 374 #8h:** This amendment provides an additional \$1.5 million to the Battlefields Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2020, bringing total funding to \$2.5 million.

**Item 455 #2h:** This amendment directs VDOT to transfer surplus property from the Cedar Creek and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields to the respective Counties. The Property is in the core area of the Cedar Creek battlefield, one of Virginia and the nation's most significant Civil War Fields of battle as determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in its 1993 Report. Cedar Creek was one of only 45 sites in the nation ranked "A" for its significance because it had a "decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war." It was also one of only 11 sites across the nation given the commission's highest preservation priority because of its importance, integrity and threats to that integrity.

### **Senate**

**Item 363 #7s:** This amendment directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to review the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefield properties and make recommendations on their suitability as a historical and recreation area or for development as a state or regional park.

**Item 363 #8s:** This amendment directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to review the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefield properties and make recommendations on their suitability as a historical and recreation area or for development as a state or regional park.

**Item 374 #1s:** This amendment provides an increase of \$1.5 million GF in the second year for the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund.)

**Item 374 #2s:** This amendment provides for the extraordinary care and repair of headstones and grave markers at the African-American historical cemetery complex in Portsmouth, consistent with §10.1-2211.2 E, Code of Virginia.

**Item 374 #4s:** This amendment provides an increase of \$1.5 million GF in the second year for the Battlefield Preservation Fund, bringing total second year funding to \$2.5 million.)

**Item 455 #1s:** This amendment directs the conveyance of certain residue parcels Route 11 (Old Valley Pike), in Shenandoah and Warren Counties to the respective counties. The counties shall determine the best possible long-range ownership of The Property for its use for the interpretation of the Cedar Creek Battlefield and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.