The General Assembly is entering its fourth full week of committee work. Preservation Virginia continues to track the 39 bills below. Several of these items, however, are points of interest but not priority bills.

**Preservation Virginia Legislative Reception**

Register today for Preservation Virginia’s Legislative Reception on 7 February from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Downtown (formerly Miller & Rhoads). Join preservationists from around the Commonwealth to recognize the positive impact of historic preservation in Virginia. Governor Youngkin has been invited and we anticipate participation by other members of the General Assembly.

**General Assembly Calendar**

February 13th  "Crossover Day” deadline for bills to be considered in their chamber of origin
March 9th Scheduled adjournment

Preservation Virginia’s current priorities including the following:

**Budget Amendments**

**C-46 #7h** (Carr) - This amendment provides $1.5 million each year from the general fund for design and construction of climate resiliency projects on property at Jamestown owned by Preservation Virginia.

**C-46 #8h** (Hodges) - This amendment provides $11.0 million general fund the first year for design and construction of climate resiliency projects on property at Jamestown owned by Preservation Virginia.

**Item 371 #4s** (McDougle) - This amendment provides $1.5 million GF each year to James City County for the Preservation Virginia and its subsidiary, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation to support studies, permitting, schematic designs and archaeology needed in to implement flood protection measures at Jamestown.

**Item 371 #19h** (McQuinn) - This amendment increases the base appropriation for the Black, Indigenous and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund to $5.0 million each year from the general fund.
**Bills**

**American Revolution 250 Commission**

**Bill: HB839 American Revolution 250 Commission; amends membership and staffing.**

Patron: Delegate Austin


Summary: Amends the membership of the American Revolution 250 Commission to allow for the appointment of ex officio members who are directors of historic homes, historic sites, or National Park Service sites or former legislative members of the Commission. The bill removes the requirement that a representative of the secretariat of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission serve as a member. The bill also provides for staff of the Commission to serve as the Commission's fiscal agent.

Status: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (99-Y 0-N)

**Bill: SB 117 American Revolution 250 Commission; amends membership and staffing.**

Patron: Senator Locke


Summary: Amends the membership of the American Revolution 250 Commission to allow for the appointment of ex officio members who are directors of historic homes, historic sites, or National Park Service sites or former legislative members of the Commission. The bill removes the requirement that a representative of the secretariat of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission serve as a member. The bill also provides for staff of the Commission to serve as the Commission's fiscal agent.

Status: Read third time and passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)

**Cemetery Property**

**Bill: SB 281 Family cemeteries; interment rights, proof of kinship.**

Patron: Senator Roem


Summary: Allows a family member or descendant, as defined in the bill, of a deceased person buried in a family cemetery, also defined in the bill, that is located on private property to petition the circuit court of the county or city where the property is located for interment rights upon such property. The bill provides that such family member or descendant may prove kinship to the court through official documentation or nonofficial documentation, such as obituaries, family Bibles or
other documents with family signatures, journals or letters of the deceased person interred on the private property, family photographs, or other documentation deemed by the court to be reliable.

Status: Read third time and passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)

**Data Centers**

**Bill:** HB 337 Siting of data centers; impacts on resources and historically significant sites.

Patron: Delegate Thomas


Summary: 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-half mile of a national park, state park, or other historically significant site.

Status: Assigned Counties, Cities & Towns sub: Subcommittee #3.

**Bill:** HB 338 Siting of data centers; locality to perform site assessment before approval.

Patron: Delegate Thomas


Summary: Requires a locality, prior to any approval for the siting of a data center, to perform a site assessment to examine the effect of the data center on water usage and carbon emissions as well as any impacts on agricultural resources within the locality.

Status: Assigned Counties, Cities & Towns sub: Subcommittee #3.

**Bill:** HB 1010 Siting of data centers; parks, schools, and residential areas.

Patron: Delegate Lovejoy


Summary: 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 one-quarter mile or more from federal, state, or local parks, schools, and property zoned or used for residential use.

Status: Assigned to Committee on Counties, Cities, and Towns sub: Subcommittee #3.

**Bill:** SB 284 Siting of data centers; impacts on resources and historically significant sites.
Patron: Senator Roem

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+SB284

Summary: 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.

Status: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology.

Bill: SB 285 Siting of data centers; site assessment.

Patron: Senator Roem


Summary: 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.

Status: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology.

Bill: SB 288 Siting of data centers; noise abatement.

Patron: Senator Roem

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+SB288

Summary: Provides that any local government land use application required for the siting of a data center shall be approved only in accordance with certain notice and noise abatement requirements. The bill provides that residents within a half-mile radius of the parcel shall receive notice of the proposed data center and that the data center operator shall hold two neighborhood meetings. The bill requires a data center operator to design and build the data center to incorporate sound mitigation methods sufficient to prevent the sound levels emanating from the data center from exceeding the ambient noise levels that were observed in a baseline study, as determined by a third-party acoustic engineer. The bill also provides that upon issuance of a certificate of occupancy, and for five years thereafter, the data center operator shall conduct a noise study performed by a third-party acoustical engineer to document noise levels emanating from the data center measured at the property line of the nearest property to the data center property that is planned or zoned for residential land uses, or other noise sensitive use as reasonably determined by the locality, during peak operation of the data center mechanical equipment. The bill also provides that if the data center operator intends to use backup power generators on the parcel, the operator shall maintain a public website announcing the times when the generators will be in operation.
Status: Failed to report (defeated) in Local Government (7-Y 8-N)

**Bill: SB 289 Stormwater management regulations; enterprise data center operations.**

Patron: Senator Roem


Summary: Directs the State Water Control Board to adopt regulations that require certain stormwater management techniques for land disturbances related to the construction, expansion, or operation of an enterprise data center operation, as defined in the bill, that is located within one mile of any land owned or operated as a unit of the National Park Service or designated as a Virginia State Park or state forest.

Status: Continued to 2025 in Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (10-Y 5-N)

**Bill: SB 664 Electric utilities; electric distribution infrastructure serving data centers.**

Patron: Senator Stuart


Summary: Prohibits the costs associated with the construction or extension of any electric distribution infrastructure that primarily serves the load of a data center from being recovered from any other customer.

Status: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

**Energy Storage**

**Bill: HB 785 Tax exempt property; energy storage systems.**

Patron: Delegate Herring


Summary: Clarifies the tax treatment of energy storage systems. The bill strikes language that overrides the provision requiring the amount of tax exemption for energy storage systems to be 100 percent if the taxing locality has implemented a revenue share for such systems.

Status: House: Block Vote Passage (100-Y 0-N)
Status: Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

**Bill: SB 567 Siting of energy facilities; approval by the State Corporation Commission.**
Patron: Senator Deeds


Summary: Establishes a procedure under which an electric utility or independent power provider (applicant) is able to obtain approval for a certificate from the State Corporation Commission for the siting of an energy facility rather than from the governing body of a locality. Under the bill, applicants are authorized to submit an application to the Commission if (i) the locality fails to timely approve or deny an application; (ii) the application complies with certain requirements for Commission approval, but a host locality denies the application; or (iii) the locality amends its zoning ordinance after it has notified the applicant that its requirements are compatible with the requirements for Commission approval, and the amendment imposes additional requirements that are more restrictive. The bill provides that an applicant who is issued a certificate by the Commission for an energy facility is exempt from obtaining approvals or permits, including any land use approvals or permits under the regulations and ordinances of the locality.

The bill applies to any solar energy facility with a capacity of 50 megawatts or more, any wind energy facility with a capacity of 100 megawatts or more, and any energy storage facility with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or more and an energy discharge capability of 200 megawatt hours or more.

Status: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Fort Monroe**

**Bill: SB 89 Fort Monroe Authority; powers and duties.**

Patron: Senator Locke


Summary: Renames the executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority as the chief executive officer of the Authority.

Status: Read third time and passed Senate (40Y-0N)

**Bill: SB 90 Fort Monroe Authority; land and utility ownership.**

Patron: Senator Locke


Summary: Removes the number of acres and the instrument number of the quitclaim deed recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Hampton on June 14, 2013, in reference to the area that is known as Fort Monroe in anticipation of a new acreage number to be determined by a consolidated survey and a new deed of consolidation.
Historic Preservation

Bill: HB 1395 Historic Preservation

Patron: Delegate Hope

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB1395

Summary: Provides that the filing of a historic designation application shall stay a locality from issuing any permit to raze or demolish a proposed historic landmark, building, or structure until 30 days after the rendering of the final decision of the governing body of the locality. The bill also specifies that the affected property owner, the applicant, or any resident of the locality who provided public input on the locality's historic district plan may appeal to the circuit court for review of any final decision of the governing body pursuant to such application.

Status: Vote: Passage (52-Y 47-N)

Bill: HB 1415 Civil penalty for demolition of historic structures.

Patron: Delegate McQuinn

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB1415

Summary: Authorizes any locality to adopt an ordinance establishing a civil penalty for the razing, demolition, or moving of a building or structure that is located in a historic district or that has been designated by a governing body as an historic structure or landmark in violation of an ordinance that no such building or structure shall be razed, demolished, or moved without the approval of a review board. The bill provides that such civil penalty shall not exceed the market value of the property as determined by the assessed value of the property at the time of razing, demolition, or moving of the building or structure.

Status: Reported from Counties, Cities and Towns (13-Y 9-N)

Historic Resources

Bill: HB 814 Virginia Tourism Authority; powers; historically accurate advertising.

Patron: Delegate Mundon King

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB814

Summary: Requires the Virginia Tourism Authority, in consultation with the Library of Virginia and the Virginia African American Advisory Board, to (i) create standards for the Authority's
publications and advertising material to ensure all such materials accurately identify parcels of real
property in the Commonwealth with a history linked to slave ownership and accurately depict the
contributions of Black Virginians to any such parcel of real property; and (ii) acknowledge the
horrors of slavery in the Commonwealth by publishing a list of slave-owning properties in the
Commonwealth.

Status: Read second time/Engrossed by House- committee substitute HB814H1

Bill: HB 914 Creation of local historic district.

Patron: Delegate Shin

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB914

Summary: Allows a locality to, by ordinance, establish one or more historic districts for the
purpose of increasing awareness and support for historic conservation in the locality. The locality
may in each historic district provide incentives for the conservation and renovation of certified
historic structures, as defined in the bill, and grant tax incentives and provide certain regulatory
flexibility within the limits of the Constitutions of Virginia and of the United States.

Status: Reported from Counties, Cities and Towns with substitute (22-Y 0-N)

Bill: HB 960 Historic rehabilitation tax credit; maximum amount of tax credit.

Patron: Delegate Lopez

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB960

Summary: Increases from $5 million to $10 million the maximum amount of the historic
rehabilitation tax credit, including amounts carried over from prior taxable years, that may be
claimed by a taxpayer in any taxable year beginning in taxable year 2024.

Status: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations.

Bill: HB 1523 State parks; procurement exemption, Natural Area Preservation Funds created.

Patron: Delegate Higgins

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB1523

Summary: Exempts the Department of Conservation and Recreation from competitive sealed
bidding or competitive negotiation for the purchase of items for resale at retail outlets and food
services operations at state parks. The bill also establishes the Natural Areas Preservation
Projects Fund and the Natural Areas Preservation Acquisition and Development Fund.
Status: Assigned Apparitions sub.: Commerce Agriculture & Natural Resources

**Bill: SB 17 Historic rehabilitation tax credit; maximum amount of tax credit.**

Patron: Senator Stanley


Summary: Designates all motor sports facilities, as defined in relevant law, in the Commonwealth as Virginia Historic Landmarks and as enterprise zones.

Status: Referred to Finance and Appropriations.

**Bill: SB 451 Income tax, corporate; distribution of revenues to state parks.**

Patron: Senator Marsden


Summary: Requires five percent beginning July 1, 2024, of all corporate income tax revenues to be distributed to the State Park Conservation Resources Fund to provide (i) free entry to Virginia state parks and (ii) the conservation, development, maintenance, and operations of state parks acquired or held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation as provided in the appropriation act. The bill provides that such distribution shall not reduce the total amount of annual appropriations for the Department and the Fund below the total amounts appropriated for the most recent fiscal year ending before July 1, 2024, except as provided by a subsequent appropriation act.

Status: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations.

**Bill: SB 556 Historic rehabilitation tax credit; increase.**

Patron: Senator Williams Graves


Summary: Increases from $5 million to $10 million, beginning in taxable year 2024, the maximum amount of the historic rehabilitation tax credit, including amounts carried over from prior taxable years, that may be claimed by a taxpayer in any taxable year. In addition, should the taxpayer incur expenses toward the rehabilitation of a certified historic structure in a locality that has a designated enterprise zone, as defined in relevant law, the taxpayer may claim up to an additional $10 million in any taxable year.

Status: Recommended for reporting by the Finance Resources Subcommittee.

**Infrastructure Study**
Joint Resolution: HJ 5 Hog Island; Dept. of Transportation to study need for bridge from Surry County to James City County.

Patron: Delegate Taylor


Summary: Requests the Department of Transportation to study the need and options for constructing a bridge from Hog Island in Surry County to James City County and to submit a report of its finding no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly

Status: Referred to Committee on Rules.

Land Preservation

Bill: HB 152 Land preservation tax credit; increases threshold credit amount.

Patron: Delegate Simon

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB152

Summary: Increases from $1 million to $1.5 million the threshold credit amount that triggers verification by the Department of Conservation and Recreation of the conservation value of a land donation. The bill exempts certain state agencies from the verification requirement unless the value of the credit claimed is greater than $2 million.

Status: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket (8-Y 0-N)

Bill: HB 1183 Land preservation tax credit; maximum amount increase.

Patron: Delegate Carr

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB1183

Summary: Increases from $75 million to $100 million, beginning in 2024, the maximum amount of land preservation tax credits that may be issued in a calendar year.

Status: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered.

Bill: HB 1223 Land preservation tax credit; maximum amount increase.

Patron: Delegate Higgins

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB1223
Summary: Increases from $75 million to $100 million, beginning in 2024, the maximum amount of land preservation tax credits that may be issued in a calendar year.

Status: Assigned Finance sub: Subcommittee #1.

**Bill: HB 1464 Validity of conservation easements; open-space land; public body.**

Patron: Delegate Wiley


Summary: Requires the public body to hold a conservation easement or the public body acquiring real property for open-space land to determine that the limitations or obligations from acquiring such easement or real property for open-space land conform in all respects to the comprehensive plan for the area in which the easement or real property is located.

Status: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (6-Y 4-N)

**Bill: SB 465 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.**

Patron: Senator Marsden


Summary: Allows land trusts that have been accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission or a similar set of standards and practices adopted by the Virginia Land Conservation Board of Trustees (the Board) to hold an interest in land other than a fee simple interest as a result of a grant or transfer from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (the Foundation) without a co-holder. Current law requires that certain interests in land as a result of a grant or transfer from the Foundation be held jointly by a holder and a public body. The bill also allows, whenever a holder acquires fee simple interest in land as a result of a grant or transfer from the Foundation, the Board to accept a reversionary interest in such land as an alternative to a public body holding an open space easement in such land.

Status: Continued to 2025 in Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (15-Y 0-N)

**Regret Acknowledgement**

**Joint Resolution: SJ 16 Unethical use of Black bodies by medical institutions; acknowledging with profound regret.**

Patron: Senator Boysko

Summary: Expresses the sentiment of the General Assembly in acknowledging with profound regret the unethical use of Black bodies by medical institutions in the Commonwealth.

Status: Agreed to by Senate by voice vote

Transmission Lines

Bill: HB 340 Electric utilities; underground transmission lines.

Patron: Delegate Thomas


Summary: Provides that the construction and reconstruction of any underground, in whole or in part, electrical transmission lines of at least 69 kilovolts and less than 500 kilovolts along a highway right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation in Planning District 8 where a data center proposal is under construction in an area located within a half mile of a National Battlefield Park and within one mile of a state forest is in the public interest.

Status: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (7-Y 3-N)

Bill: HB 714 Electric utilities; pilot program for underground transmission lines; additional project.

Patron: Delegate Webert

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB714

Summary: Adds one project to the existing pilot program for underground transmission lines. The bill requires the State Corporation Commission to approve one additional application filed between January 1, 2024, and October 1, 2024, as a qualifying project to be constructed in whole or in part underground, as a part of the pilot program. The bill requires that the added qualifying project be a newly proposed 230-kilovolt underground line and that (i) an engineering analysis demonstrates that it is technically feasible to place the proposed line, in whole or in part, underground; (ii) the governing body of each locality in which a portion of the proposed line will be placed underground indicates, by resolution, general community support for the project and that the governing body supports the transmission line to be placed underground; (iii) a project has been filed with the Commission or is pending issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity by October 1, 2024; (iv) the estimated additional cost of placing the proposed line, in whole or in part, underground does not exceed $40 million or, if greater than $40 million, the cost does not exceed 2.5 times the cost of placing the line overhead, assuming accepted industry standards for undergrounding to ensure safety and reliability; if the public utility, the affected localities, and the Commission agree, a proposed underground line whose cost exceeds 2.5 times the cost of placing the line overhead may also be accepted into the pilot program; (v) the public utility requests that the project be considered as a qualifying project under the pilot program; and (vi) the primary need of the project is for purposes of grid reliability or grid resiliency or to support economic
development priorities of the Commonwealth, including the economic development priorities and
the comprehensive plan of the governing body of the locality in which at least a portion of line
will be placed, and not to address aging assets that would have otherwise been replaced in due
course.

Status: House: Vote: Block Vote Passage (100-Y 0-N)
Status: Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

Bill: SB286 Electric utilities; underground transmission lines.

Patron: Senator Roem

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+SB286

Summary: Provides that the construction and reconstruction of any underground, in whole or in
part, electrical transmission lines of at least 69 kilovolts and less than 500 kilovolts along a
highway right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation in Planning
District 8 where a data center proposal is under construction in an area located within a half mile
of a National Battlefield Park and within one mile of a state forest is in the public interest.

Status: Failed to report (defeated) in Commerce and Labor (4-Y 9-N 2-A)

Tree Conservation

Bill: HB 459 Trees; conservation during land development process in certain localities

Patron: Delegate Sullivan


Summary: Expands authority of certain localities to adopt an ordinance providing for the planting
and replacement of trees during the development process by allowing a tree canopy fund that
currently applies to the planting of trees on public property to include maintenance of trees on
public property and planting and maintenance of trees on private property. The bill removes a
provision that requires that any funds collected for the purposes of the tree canopy fund be returned
to the original contributor if not spent within five years but maintains the requirement that such
funds be spent within five years. The bill also includes an expansion of the canopy credit and a
provision that will require a local tree conservation ordinance to meet the standards set out in the
statute.

Status: House: VOTE: Passage (53-Y 42-N)
Status: Senate: Referred to Committee on Local Government

Virginia Tribes
Bill: HB 200 Updating Virginia Law to Reflect Federal Recognition of Virginia Tribes; Commission on.

Patron: Delegate Krizek

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB200

Summary: Extends from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2026, the sunset date of the Commission on Updating Virginia Law to Reflect Federal Recognition of Virginia Tribes.

Status: Referred to Committee on Rules.

Bill: HB 1157 Federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth; agencies to consult on permits and reviews.

Patron: Delegate Krizek

Bill text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB1157

Summary: Requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to establish policies and procedures for consulting with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth when evaluating certain permits and reviews relating to environmental, cultural, or historic resources that potentially impact those federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth. The bill directs the Secretary of the Commonwealth to designate an Ombudsman for Tribal Consultation to facilitate communication and consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth and requires the Ombudsman to develop by September 1, 2024, a list of localities in which federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth shall be consulted to effectuate the provisions of the bill. The bill codifies Executive Order 82 (2021).

Status: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

Joint Resolution: HJ 14 Wolf Creek Cherokee Tribe of Virginia; General Assembly to extend state recognition.

Patron: Delegate McQuinn

Resolution text: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HJ14

Summary: Extends state recognition to the Wolf Creek Cherokee Tribe of Virginia within the Commonwealth.

Status: Continued to 2025 in Rules