



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

GCV Recommended Bills Prepared for Legislative Day January 22, 2025

The Garden Club of Virginia **SUPPORTS:**

HB 1941 (Seibold)/SB1166 (Salem): *Invasive plant species; retail sales*

Description: Requires, for the retail sale of certain invasive plant species for outdoor use, a retail establishment to post in a conspicuous manner on the property located in proximity to each invasive plant signage identifying such plant as invasive, educating consumers regarding invasive plant species, and encouraging consumers to ask about alternatives.

HB 2512 (Taylor): *Department of Conservation and Recreation; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; work group to examine use of Johnsongrass in the Commonwealth*

Description: Directs DCR in collaboration with the VDACS, to convene a work group to examine measures to reduce, mitigate, and eliminate the continued sale and use of Johnsongrass in the Commonwealth.

HJR 446 (Feggans): *Zero Waste Awareness Week; designating as first full week of Sept. 2025 & each succeeding year*

Description: Designates the first full week of September as Zero Waste Awareness Week in Virginia.

HB 2306 (Lopez): *Department of Conservation and Recreation; acceptance of property to establish a state park; Loudoun County*

Description: Authorizes the Department of Conservation and Recreation to accept from the Conservation Fund approximately 1,240 acres of real property and any buildings or structures thereon between Little River Turnpike, James Monroe Highway, and Tail Race Road, known as Oak Hill Farm, in Loudoun County for the purpose of establishing and operating a state park on such property

HB 2059 (Krizek): *Virginia's Great Outdoors Act; land preservation distributions and appropriations*

Description: Provides that beginning July 1, 2026, after required distributions for transportation and localities under current law, no less than \$200 million of the remaining recordation tax revenues shall be distributed for specified land protection and preservation purposes and no less than \$30 million of the proceeds of bonds issued by the Virginia Public Building Authority shall be made available for infrastructure improvements and other capital projects for state parks each year

HB 2238 (Martinez): *Preservation of existing trees during development; certain localities*

Description: Allows a locality with a population of at least 75 people per square mile or a locality located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, when assessing the adequacy of existing trees identified by the developer during the development process to be preserved or in assessing the overall impact of the development on existing trees, to require, by ordinance, the developer to submit a survey or map detailing the location of critical root zones on the subject property, including any roots from mature trees that have grown over the subject property line to the abutting property or property adjacent to the subject property, or provide other information reasonably calculated to assist the locality to determine if such trees are sufficient to meet all or part of the tree canopy requirements.

HB 2382 (Higgins): *Land preservation tax credit; maximum amount increase*

Description: Increases from \$75 million to \$100 million, beginning in 2025, the maximum amount of land preservation tax credits that may be issued in a calendar year and adjusts such amount each year for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

HB 2470 (Higgins): *Electric utilities; construction of certain transmission lines; notice required*

Description: 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.

HB 2090 (Shin): *Multi-family shared solar program; minimum bill*

Description: Amends requirements for a shared solar facility for the purposes of the multi-family shared solar program to include facilities that are within 25 miles of the premises of a multi-family utility customer.

SB 930 (Stuart)/HB 1908 (Pugh Kent): *Virginia Institute of Marine Science; study of the cumulative impacts of surface water intakes on aquatic fauna and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its major Virginia tributaries; report*

Description: Directs VIMS to study cumulative impacts of surface water intakes on aquatic fauna and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its major tributaries.

SB 923 (Stuart): *Virginia Water Protection Permit; interbasin transfers of water prohibited*

Description: Prohibits DEQ from issuing a Virginia Water Protection Permit for a surface water withdrawal if more than 5% of the nonconsumptive volume will be returned to a different major river basin.

SB 1319 (McPike): *Department of Environmental Quality; industrial wastewater; publicly owned treatment works; PFAS monitoring*

Description: Directs DEQ to require quarterly monitoring for one year for PFAS for every industrial wastewater source that discharges pollutants into a publicly owned treatment works.

HB 1618 (Clark): *Public drinking water; Commissioner of Health work group to study occurrence of microplastics*

Description: Directs the Commissioner of Health to convene a work group to study the occurrence of microplastics in the Commonwealth's public drinking water and develop recommendations for the reduction of microplastics in the Commonwealth's public drinking water.

HB 2178 (Clark): *Regulation of discharging preproduction plastic; requirements*

Description: Requires the EQ to establish a program to ensure zero discharge or release from point and nonpoint source at certain facilities that discharge to a surface water under a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the Department or a publicly owned treatment works under an industrial pretreatment program permit or other written authorization issued by a local permit control authority and to require the prompt and environmentally responsible containment and cleanup of discharged or released preproduction plastic.

HB 2034 (Simonds): *Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources; protection of existing tidal and nontidal wetlands; wetland restoration and creation; policy task force; report*

Description: Directs the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to establish a policy task force to develop strategies to protect existing tidal and nontidal wetlands and restore, create, and plan for the persistence of such wetlands in the Commonwealth and mechanisms to incorporate such strategies into appropriate plans, including the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, to address losses and adverse impacts from human activities and climate change.

HB 2212 (O'Quinn): *Stormwater management regulations; localities outside Chesapeake Bay watershed*

Description: Requires the State Water Control Board and the DEQ to apply in a locality that is located outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed the regulations establishing minimum design criteria for measures

that were in effect prior to July 1, 2014 to control nonpoint source pollution and localized flooding and stream channel erosion.

HB 2331 (Hodges): *Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; acceptance of signed and sealed plan in lieu of local plan review*

Description: Authorizes a locality subject to the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to accept a set of plans and supporting calculations prepared by a licensed professional, as described in the bill, for any land-disturbing activity that disturbs 2,500 square feet or more but less than one acre in an area of a locality designated as a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area

HB 1601 (Thomas): *Data centers; site assessment for a high energy use facility*

Description: 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), a locality shall require than 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.

HB 1984 (Lovejoy): *Siting of data centers; parks, schools, and residential areas*

Description: Requires that any local government land use application required for the siting of a data center 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.

HB 1615 (Feggans): *Transportation infrastructure and projects; noise analysis*

Description: Requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the Department of Transportation to begin a noise analysis within one year of receipt of a valid petition for a noise analysis.

HB 2550 (Sullivan): *Noise abatement monitoring systems; local authority; civil penalties*

Description: Authorizes counties in Planning District 8 to place and operate noise abatement monitoring systems, defined in the bill, for the purpose of recording and enforcing exhaust system violations, also defined in the bill.

SB 1171 (Salim): *Local prohibition or regulation of gas-powered leaf blowers; civil penalty*

Description: Provides that any locality may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

HB 1916 (Laufer): *Waste tire disposal by producers and haulers; fee; requirements*

Description: Requires a hauler to register and submit a quarterly report with the DEQ, provide financial assurance in the form of a bond, and transfer all waste tires and speculatively accumulated waste tires to a transfer station, material recovery facility, landfill with a solid waste permit, waste tire end user, or waste tire processing facility

The Garden Club of Virginia OPPOSES:

SB 806 (Stuart): *State Air Pollution Control Board; regulations; low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle standards*

Description: Repeals the State Air Pollution Control Board's authority to implement low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle standards that apply for vehicles with a model year of 2025 or later.

HB 2185 (Freitas): *Regulation of electric utilities; development of renewable energy facilities; powers of State Air Pollution Control Board; powers of State Corporation Commission*

Description: 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.

HB 2517 (Runion): *Land application of sewage sludge; permit exemptions*

Description: Exempts from permitting requirements for land application, marketing, and distribution of sewage sludge any land application when such land is owned and operated by an institution of higher education in the Commonwealth.