



2024 Virginia Department of Fire Programs Legislative Summary

Brad Creasy
Executive Director

Spencer Willett
Government Affairs Manager

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Introduction

This summary reflects legislation tracked by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. This information is provided as a resource for members of the fire and EMS community, agency staff, and others who wish to have a basic understanding of legislation related to fire/EMS proposed during the 2024 Virginia General Assembly. This list is not exhaustive and does not necessarily reflect each individual piece of legislation related to fire/EMS. For more detailed information, readers should consult Virginia's Legislative Information System or contact the Government Affairs Section.

Disclaimer

This document is meant to be informative of fire service-related legislation. It does not represent the opinions of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Governor of Virginia, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, or the Department of Fire Programs. In addition, the 2024 Virginia Legislative Priorities and Issues listed in the appendix was provided by Fire and EMS stakeholder groups and was not created by VDFP staff.

Overview

The 2024 session of the Virginia General Assembly contained a significant amount of legislation that had a direct impact on the fire service. Most of this legislation was continued to 2025 or ultimately died during the 2024 General Assembly session. The Virginia Department of Fire Programs stood ready to assist stakeholders in addressing legislation, while also speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia regarding fire service issues.

The Department of Fire Programs, in consultation with the Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, did not sponsor any agency bills in 2024. The agency plans to continue efforts to provide enhanced retirement for VDFP employees in the field and Line of Duty Death coverage in 2025.

The Department of Fire Programs also advised the General Assembly and the Office of the Governor on several other pieces of legislation. This includes legislation related to multiple new funding streams for the fire service, multiple workgroups to examine areas such as fire/EMS funding and fire/EMS integration, expansion of Aid-To-Localities, and the creation of a grant program for toxic exposures such as cancer.

Other relevant legislation to the fire service included expanding Line of Duty Death Coverage for presumptive deaths from \$25,000 to \$100,00, the continued effort to add anxiety and depressive disorders under worker's compensation for 911 telecommunicators and securing funding for the Department of Emergency Management's Logistics Support and Coordination Center.

Partners

The Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) would like to recognize partners throughout the legislative process that assisted the agency. The work of the Department of Fire Programs would not be possible without state partners including the Policy Office of the Governor, the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Department of Planning and Budget, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Health's Office of EMS, and the staff of the Virginia General Assembly.

Additionally, the assistance of various sections of the Department of Fire Programs including the Public Information Officer, Training and Operations Branch, State Fire Marshal, and the Chief Administrative Officer should be noted.

VDFP would also like to recognize stakeholder groups who assisted the agency or interacted on weekly stakeholder calls. These included the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia State Firefighters Association, Virginia Professional Firefighters Association, Virginia Fire Prevention Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators, Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, the Association of Hazardous Materials Specialists, the Central Virginia Firefighters Association, the Virginia Fire Services Council, the Virginia Fire Services Board, and several other organizations. Individuals and departments who provided testimony from across the Commonwealth not included above are also important partners.

Legislation

<u>Key</u>	
Signed into Law	
Continued to 2025	
Left in 2024/Did Not Pass	

Benefits

This section contains legislation that was related to benefits or compensation for firefighters or 911 dispatchers. *This list is not all inclusive.*

Bill # and Title: HB38 Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers		
Patron:	Clark	Summary: Allows local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service to full-time salaried 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such enhanced retirement benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2025, but allows an employer, as that term is defined in relevant law, to provide such enhanced retirement benefits for service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher before July 1, 2025, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	SB472	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Appropriations: Compensation and Retirement	

Bill # and Title: HB68 Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers.		
Patron:	Bulova	Summary: Allows dispatchers, as defined in the bill, to claim workers' compensation benefits relating to post-traumatic stress disorder under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. Currently, only law-enforcement officers and firefighters may claim such benefits.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Labor and Commerce: #2	

Bill # and Title: HB 274 Workers' compensation; presumption of compensability of infertility for firefighters.		
Patron:	Helmer	Summary: Provides that firefighters who suffer from infertility are presumed to have developed infertility during the course and scope of employment as a firefighter in certain instances. The bill provides that such infertility is compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act if diagnosed by a medical professional and that such compensation may include medical treatment, temporary total incapacity benefits, and temporary partial incapacity benefits for a maximum period of 52 weeks from the date of diagnosis. The bill also requires each employer of firefighters to refer a firefighter seeking infertility health care services to a licensed medical professional after January 1, 2025.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Appropriations: Compensation and Retirement	

Bill # and Title: HB 300 Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.		
Patron:	Ballard	Summary: Allows local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service to full-time salaried 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such enhanced retirement benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2025, but allows an employer, as that term is defined in relevant law, to provide such enhanced retirement benefits for service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher before July 1, 2025, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	SB328	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Appropriations: Compensation and Retirement	

Bill # and Title: HB 491 Income tax, state; subtraction for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.		
Patron:	Garrett	Summary: Provides a state income tax subtraction of \$2,000 per taxable year for bona fide volunteers who perform qualifying services, defined in the bill as volunteer firefighting and fire prevention services, emergency medical services, auxiliary police officer services, ambulance services, emergency rescue services, and all training and training-related activities required by law to perform such qualifying services.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in Finance: #1 by a vote of 5-3	

Bill # and Title: HB 631 Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; extends membership to emergency dispatchers.		
Patron:	Cherry	Summary: Extends membership in the Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System (VaLORS) to emergency dispatchers who are employed by the Department of State Police and agencies whose law-enforcement officers are eligible for membership in VaLORS. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025, and provides that such membership would apply only to service earned on or after July 1, 2025.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Appropriations: Compensation and Retirement	

Bill # and Title: HB 1226 Workers' compensation benefits; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by firefighters, etc.		
Patron:	Rasoul	Summary: Removes the provision in the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act that benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters acting in the line of duty shall provide for a maximum of 52 weeks from the date of diagnosis.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	SB593	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Appropriations: Compensation and Retirement	

Bill # and Title: HB 1292 Income tax, state; subtraction for professional firefighter pension.		
Patron:	Askew	Summary: Establishes an income tax subtraction for up to \$20,000 of firefighter benefits in taxable year 2024, up to \$30,000 in taxable year 2025, and up to \$40,000 in taxable year 2026 and each year thereafter. The bill defines firefighter benefits to include retirement income related to firefighting services and benefits paid to the surviving spouse of a firefighter whose death occurred in the line of duty.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	SB61	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Finance: #1	

Bill # and Title: SB 114 Local tax credits; emergency services providers..		
Patron:	Peake	Summary: Enables localities to by ordinance provide a credit against taxes and fees imposed by the locality to an individual who provides approved emergency services in the locality. As defined in the bill, "approved emergency services" includes professional or volunteer local law enforcement or first-responders who provide emergency services to a nonprofit organization or to the locality. The bill specifies that the credit shall not be applied against any property taxes or payments in lieu of property taxes but otherwise gives localities discretion to determine which taxes or fees are permissible uses of the credit. Under current law, localities may only provide such credit to volunteer first-responders.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Failed to Report in Finance and Appropriations by a vote of 7-7	

Funding

This section contains legislation that was related to funding of fire and EMS. *This list is not all inclusive.*

Bill # and Title: HB 147 Terrorism hoax incident, etc.; reimbursement of expenses incurred to localities.		
Patron:	Reid	Summary: Allows a locality that has an ordinance requiring any person over 18 years of age convicted of false emergency communication to emergency personnel to reimburse such locality at the time of sentencing or in a separate civil action to bill a flat fee of \$2,500 or a minute-by-minute accounting of actual costs incurred. The bill also allows a locality that has an ordinance requiring any person under 18 years of age convicted of false emergency communication to emergency personnel to reimburse such locality at the time of sentencing or in a separate civil action to bill a flat fee of \$2,500 or a minute-by-minute accounting of actual costs incurred, not to exceed \$2,500. Current law allows a flat fee of \$250 or a minute-by-minute accounting of actual costs incurred, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in Courts of Justice	

Bill # and Title: HB 304 Virginia Firefighting Facilities Grant Program; established report.		
Patron:	Ballard	Summary: Establishes the Virginia Firefighting Facilities Grant Program for the purpose of awarding grants on a first-come, first-served basis to localities for the purpose of building and maintaining their firefighting facilities. The amount of such grants shall be as provided in the appropriation act. The Program shall be administered by the Department of Fire Programs. The Department shall develop guidelines for the Program, which shall (i) emphasize providing grants to localities that are cost burdened in the provision of firefighting services and (ii) require remedying facilities that do not meet minimum standards established by law.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in General Laws by a vote of 3-5	

Bill # and Title: HB 489 Fire Programs Fund; increases annual assessment used to fund.		
Patron:	Garrett	<p>Summary: Provides that the portion of the Fire Programs Fund allocated to localities may be used for the additional purposes of (i) constructing, improving, or expanding fire station facilities, (ii) providing mental health resources, or (iii) hiring additional fire personnel and funding recruitment and retention programs. The bill also prohibits such funds from being used, except as provided, for the purposes of investments, operating expenses, debt repayment, taxes, or fees.</p>
House Vote:	99-0	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Senate Finance and Appropriations	

Bill # and Title: HB 494 Virginia Fire and EMS Safety Loan Fund; created.		
Patron:	Garrett	<p>Summary: Creates the Virginia Fire and EMS Safety Loan Fund, to be administered by the Virginia Resources Authority. Under the bill, money in the Fund would be used exclusively for the financing of purchases by local fire and EMS services of at least \$50,000 (i) for capital projects to construct or modernize facilities that house firefighting equipment or vehicles or ambulance or rescue vehicles; (ii) of firefighting apparatus, ambulances, or rescue vehicles; and (iii) of protective, accessory, or communication equipment for firefighting or EMS services. The bill also establishes the Joint Fire and EMS Loan Board, which shall be responsible for directing the distribution of loans from the Fund, with an emphasis on localities in need of financing assistance to meet minimum standards.</p>
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in Appropriations: Transportation and Public Safety by a vote of 7-1	

Bill # and Title: HB 852 Local government ordinances related to fire departments; billing on behalf of volunteer fire depts.		
Patron:	Williams	Summary: Provides that the governing body of any county, city, or town in which a fire department or fire company is established may make such ordinances in relation to the powers and duties of such fire departments or fire companies as it deems proper, including billing on behalf of volunteer fire departments for the provision of emergency medical services.
House Vote:	99-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Amend and Sign	
Action:	The governing body of a locality may bill on behalf of volunteer fire departments for the support of a licensed emergency medical service agency. This is not expected to have a direct impact on the Department of Fire Programs.	

Bill # and Title: HB 1043 Virginia Firefighting Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.		
Patron:	Sickles	<p>Summary: establishes the Virginia Firefighting Personnel and Equipment Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants to localities to hire additional firefighters and to improve their firefighting and emergency medical services. The Department of Fire Programs shall administer the Program and two types of grants shall be made from the Program. The first shall provide grants to localities to increase the number of firefighters. Such grants shall be made for up to three years and shall be used by localities for programs to (i) hire new, additional full-time firefighters; (ii) convert part-time or volunteer firefighters to full-time firefighters; or (iii) recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The other type of grant shall be provided to localities for improving firefighting and emergency medical services. Authorized uses of grant funds include acquiring firefighting and emergency medical services vehicles and equipment and modifying facilities. For both grants, the funds shall not be used to supplant any funds currently provided by the Commonwealth or by the locality and shall be used to increase the total amount of funds available for the provision of firefighting or emergency medical services.</p> <p>The Department shall report annually, beginning November 1, 2025, to the Governor and the General Assembly information regarding a list of grants, the amount of each approved grant, information on the performance assessment system that the bill directs the Department to create, an evaluation of each grant based on such system, and any other criteria deemed relevant by the Department.</p>
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	SB648	
Action:	Left in Appropriations: Transportation and Public Safety by a vote of 8-0	

Fire Code/Life Safety

This section contains legislation that was related to the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC), Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), or other fire/life safety legislation. *This list is not all inclusive.*

Bill # and Title: HB 66 Public schools; fire drills, timing and frequency.		
Patron:	Campbell	Summary: Requires every public school to hold fire drills during the school session in accordance with the requirements of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. Current law requires such fire drills to be conducted at least twice during the first 20 school days of each school session and at least twice more during the remainder of the school session.
House Vote:	98-0	
Senate Vote:	39-0	
Conference:	House Version Agreed to	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Action:	Public schools will conduct fire drills in accordance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. Fire drills shall be conducted monthly in accordance with the SFPC.	

Bill # and Title: HB 364 Local government; water-filled fire sprinkler systems.		
Patron:	Martinez	Summary: Permits a locality to allow the installation of automatic water-filled or wet-pipe fire sprinkler systems in new townhome construction. The bill provides that such ordinance shall require the installation be completed in compliance with standards, requirements, and specifications for the installation of an automatic water-filled or wet-pipe fire sprinkler system as prescribed by the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems. An automatic water-filled or wet-pipe fire sprinkler system shall not be required when additions or alterations are made to existing townhomes that do not have an automatic residential fire sprinkler system installed.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Senate Cognate:	SB524	
Action:	Left in General Laws: Housing/Consumer Protection by a vote of 6-0	

Bill # and Title: HB 484 Consumer fireworks; authorizes use, penalties.		
Patron:	Garrett	Summary: uthorizes the use of consumer fireworks in the Commonwealth and distinguishes by definition consumer fireworks from display fireworks and permissible fireworks. The bill defines "consumer fireworks" as small fireworks devices (i) containing restricted amounts of pyrotechnic composition designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion and (ii) complying with certain federal regulations regarding composition and labeling. The bill also provides that the storage and transportation of consumer fireworks are to be considered the same hazard class as the storage and transportation of 1.4G explosives under the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) and Uniform Statewide Building Code. The bill excludes from the provisions of the SFPC, unless prohibited by a local ordinance, (a) the sale of permissible or consumer fireworks; (b) any person using, igniting, or exploding permissible or consumer fireworks on residential or agricultural property with the consent of the owner of such property; or (c) such permissible or consumer fireworks when they are being transported from a locality where they were legally obtained to a locality where they are legally permitted. Current law only excludes sale of permissible fireworks or the use of such fireworks on private property. The bill also directs 10 percent of the sales and use tax revenue generated by the local sales and tax use on the sale of consumer or permissible fireworks to be allocated to a special fund used solely for providing funding for first responders, as defined in the bill. The bill contains technical amendments.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in General Laws: Housing/Consumer Protection by a vote of 2-6	

Bill # and Title: HB 930 Zoning ordinances; adequate public facilities.		
Patron:	Earley	Summary: Allows a locality to determine the timing of development by considering the adequacy of public facilities when making zoning decisions. The bill provides that a locality that makes a determination of inadequate facilities may reject or defer a rezoning application based solely on that determination.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in Counties, Cities, and Towns: #2	

Bill # and Title: HB 1425 Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; exempts railway tunnels and bridges from Building Code.		
Patron:	Austin	Summary: Exempts railway tunnels and bridges owned by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) from the Uniform Statewide Building Code and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code Act. The bill requires the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority to report annually to the State Fire Marshal on the maintenance and operability of installed fire protection and detection systems in its railway tunnels and bridges.
House Vote:	100-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Action:	This bill exempts VPRA owned tunnels and bridges from the SFPC and USBC. This exemption already exists for Virginia Department of Transportation owned bridges and tunnels.	

Bill # and Title: SB 195 Uniform Statewide Building Code; Board of HCD to convene advisory group to evaluate.		
Patron:	VanValkenburg	Summary: Directs the Board of Housing and Community Development (the Board) to convene a stakeholder advisory group including fire code officials to evaluate and recommend revisions to the Uniform Statewide Building Code to permit Group R-2 occupancies to be served by a single exit, provided that the building has not more than six stories above grade plane. The bill requires the stakeholder advisory group to submit its findings and recommendations to the Board and to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.
House Vote:	96-2	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
House Cognate:	HB368	
Action:	The Board of Housing and Community Development must convene a stakeholder advisory group, which includes fire code officials, to evaluate and recommend revisions related to R-2 occupancies and single stairwells.	

Workgroup/Study

This section contains legislation that created a workgroup or ordered a preexisting entity to study/review an item related to fire/EMS. *This list is not all inclusive.*

Bill # and Title: HB 133 Local gov't; ongoing health care for employees exposed to toxic materials.		
Patron:	Convirs-Fowler	Summary: Directs the Department of Fire Programs to convene a work group to identify options to assist local government employee responders who were exposed to toxic materials when responding to emergencies. The bill directs the work group to assess eligibility for funding, qualifying emergencies, and other criteria and directs the work group to submit a report to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2024.
House Vote:	98-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Senate Cognate:	SB650	
Action:	The Department of Fire Programs will convene a workgroup of stakeholders identified in the legislation, as well as other relevant to the issue, to comply with the provisions of the bill.	

Bill # and Title: HB 492 Fire and emergency medical services apparatuses and equipment; procurement, report.		
Patron:	Garrett	Summary: Directs the Department of Fire Programs, the Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services, and the Department of General Services to establish a work group to prepare statewide contract language for the procurement of fire and emergency medical services apparatuses and equipment. The bill requires the Department of Fire Programs to report the work group's findings and recommendations to the Virginia Fire Services Board and State EMS Advisory Board on or before October 1, 2024, and to make such report available to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology, upon request.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Rules	

Bill # and Title: HB 1049 Firefighters and emergency medical services personnel; recruitment and professional development.		
Patron:	Batten	Summary: Requires the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, to convene a work group to (i) study the recruitment and professional development of firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, (ii) make recommendations to ensure the uniformity of training for firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, and (iii) examine whether the state regulation of firefighters and emergency medical services personnel should be consolidated under a single secretariat and if a new secretariat should be created to oversee such regulation. The bill requires the work group to submit a report to the relevant General Assembly committees by November 1, 2024.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Continued to 2025 in Rules with amendments	

Bill # and Title: HB 1245 Volunteer firefighters; studying recruitment and development.		
Patron:	Zehr	Summary: Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to establish a work group to study the recruitment and development of volunteer firefighters with a specific focus on providing training to volunteer fire departments, volunteer fire companies, and volunteer firefighters in a cost-efficient and effective manner and to identify and recommend eliminating any barriers to the recruitment and development of volunteer firefighters.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in Rules by a vote of 4-2	

Bill # and Title: HB 1309 St. Emerg. Medical Services Advisory Bd.; guidelines for provision of emerg. trtmt. of police dogs.		
Patron:	Campbell	Summary: Requires the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, to develop guidelines and guidance for the provision of emergency treatment of fire, police, and search and rescue dogs injured in the line of duty and the transportation of such dogs by an emergency medical services vehicle to a veterinary care facility equipped to provide emergency treatment to such dog.
House Vote:	98-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Action:	The State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board will develop guidance for emergency treatment of dogs injured in the line of duty. This is not expected to have a direct impact on the Department of Fire Programs.	

Other

This section contains legislation that was related to fire/EMS but could not be categorized into an independent category. *This list is not all inclusive.*

Bill # and Title: HB 15 Warning light units, certain; increases number of units person may equip on one vehicle, etc.		
Patron:	McNamara	Summary: Increases from two to four the number of flashing or steady-burning red or red and white combination warning light units with which a member of a fire department, volunteer fire company, or volunteer emergency medical services agency and any police chaplain may equip one vehicle owned by him.
House Vote:	98-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Senate Cognate:	SB150	
Action:	Volunteer firefighters, EMS, and police chaplains can increase the number of light units on one vehicle. This is not expected to have a direct impact on the Department of Fire Programs.	

Bill # and Title: HB 49 Window tint; emergency vehicles.		
Patron:	Taylor	Summary: Authorizes window tinting on all emergency medical services vehicles and vehicles used to fight fire, including publicly owned state forest warden vehicles. Current law authorizes tinting on the rear and rear side windows of emergency medical services vehicles used to transport patients.
House Vote:	N/A	
Senate Vote:	N/A	
Governor's Decision:	N/A	
Action:	Left in Transportation: Highway Safety and Policy by a vote of 5-3	

Bill # and Title: HB 149 Employee protections; medicinal use of cannabis oil.		
Patron:	Helmer	Summary: Amends the provision that prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee for such employee's lawful use of medical cannabis oil, with certain exceptions, by specifying that such use must conform to the laws of the Commonwealth and by including the employees, other than law-enforcement officers, of the Commonwealth and other public bodies in such protections.
House Vote:	82-17	
Senate Vote:	26-13	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Action:	This bill prevents employers from discriminating against employees for the use of cannabis oil as defined in the code. This will apply to public safety agencies excluding those defined as law enforcement. Of note, fire marshals are not considered law enforcement.	

Bill # and Title: HB 163 Higher educational institutions, public; student identification cards, emergency services website.		
Patron:	Cole	Summary: Requires each public institution of higher education to maintain and annually update as necessary to ensure accuracy and currency a website page that includes telephone numbers for certain emergency services enumerated in the bill and to include (i) the URL of such website page on each new digital student identification card and any replacement digital student identification card issued by the institution beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year and (ii) the URL of or a QR Code that directs to such website page on each new physical student identification card and any replacement physical student identification card issued by the institution beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year.
House Vote:	100-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Action:	This bill requires public institutions of higher education to include and annually update a website page that lists telephone numbers for local law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services.	

Bill # and Title: HB 933 Alzheimer's disease and dementia; training for dispatchers, firefighters, etc.		
Patron:	LeVere Bolling	Summary: Requires certain agencies in the Commonwealth to develop curricula and provide training related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia to dispatchers employed by or in any local or state government agency, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission and the Commonwealth Council on Aging.
House Vote:	98-0	
Senate Vote:	40-0	
Governor's Decision:	Signed	
Action:	<p>This bill requires that fire departments and emergency medical services agencies provide training on Alzheimer's disease and dementia as provided in the bill, including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Techniques for respectful and effective communication 2. Techniques for addressing the behavioral symptoms, including alternatives to physical restraint 3. Protocols for identifying and reporting incidents of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals to adult protective services 4. Protocols for contacting caregivers when an individual is found wandering or during an emergency or crisis situation 5. A reference list of local resources available and a reference list of local and national organizations that assist law-enforcement personnel with locating missing and wandering individuals <p>The Department of Fire Programs must provide appropriate continuing education.</p>	

Appendix

1. Virginia LIS Link
<https://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>
2. 2024 Virginia Legislative Priorities and Issues
3. 2024 VDFP “Bills to Watch”