

Water in the 2024 Virginia General Assembly

As of February 28, 2024

The 2024 General Assembly convened on January 10 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 9; the 2024 session calendar is available online, as a PDF, at https://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/calendar/cal2024_2.pdf (as of 2-22-24). This is a so-called “long session,” which is held in all even-numbered years. “Short sessions,” initially of 30 days but usually adjusted to about 45 days, are held in even-numbered years. A **reconvened (“veto”) session** is held on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of each regular or special session (April 17 in 2024). During long sessions, the Commonwealth’s budget for the upcoming two years is set; amendments to the current biennial budget may be considered both in short and long sessions. More information about the Assembly’s normal schedule and duration is available in “About the General Assembly,” online at [this link](#). The General Assembly’s main Web page, <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/index.php>, offers several useful features, including member lists, session calendars, live video of floor sessions, and information on legislative processes. The Legislative Information System (LIS) Web site, <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>, provides lists and summaries of all bills, searchable by topic, member, committee, etc.

In the tables below (starting on page 2), the Virginia Water Resources Research Center lists 135 measures in the 2024 Assembly dealing with water resources. The bills may affect water *directly*, such as bills on fishery management, water and sewer systems, or water quality standards; or *indirectly* by dealing with land uses, energy uses, or energy production, all of which can affect aquatic habitat, water use, water pollution, or climate-change impacts. The list also includes the Budget Bills, which have major effects on water through funding of water-related agencies, as well as occasionally through policy statements approved during the budget process.

The list was generated from information on the Legislative Information System (LIS) Web site at <http://lis.virginia.gov/> (also at <http://leg1.state.va.us> in a slightly different format), in the categories indicated by headings in the table. Within each category, bills are listed in order of their **bill number**, using the following abbreviations: **HB** = bill started in House of Delegates; **HR** = House resolution; **HJ** = joint resolution started in the House; **SB** = bill started in the Senate; **SR** = Senate resolution; and **SJ** = joint resolution started in the Senate.

In the tables, numbers in the left-hand column have been added by the Water Center for cross-referencing among the bills. The second column from the left contains the actual bill numbers, hyperlinked to the LIS Web site. **Click on the bill numbers** to access more detailed bill information at the LIS site, including a summary of the bill and the chronology of legislative action. The third column from the left is the **LIS short description of the bill**, edited in some cases for clarity or to add key information. The right hand-column lists the **status of the bill**—that is, in a given committee, on the House or Senate floor, or already passed or failed—according to information available on the LIS Web site in the afternoon of February 28.

LIS links to information about General Assembly committees (including members and meeting times) are available online at <https://lis.virginia.gov/241/com/COM.HTM>.

Inventories from previous General Assembly sessions (1998 through 2023) are available online at <http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/virginia-water-legislation/>.

Abbreviations in the tables: House ACNR = House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources committee; Senate ACNR = Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources committee; DEQ = Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; SCC = State Corporation Commission; VMRC = Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

BUDGET/APPROPRIATIONS

Please note that the budget bills include many separate proposed changes to the current or upcoming biennial budget. Details on the budget are available at <https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/>.

1.	HB 29	Budget Bill. Amendments to the biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2022-2024.	Passed House; passed Senate with amendments.
2.	HB 30	Budget Bill. Appropriations for the biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2026.	Passed House; passed Senate with amendments.
3.	SB 29	Budget Bill. Amendments to the biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2022-2024.	Passed Senate; in House Appropriations.
4.	SB 30	Appropriations for the biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2026.	Passed Senate; in House Appropriations.
5.	HB 928	Interference with commercial fishing vessel; penalties.	Passed House and Senate.
6.	HB 1155	Electric vehicle battery suppliers; certification, penalty.	Failed in House ACNR.
7.	HB 1465	Interference with commercial fishing vessel; penalties.	Failed in House Courts of Justice.

CONSERVATION

8.	HB 3	State Air Pollution Control Board; motor vehicle emissions standards.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
9.	HB 47	Invasive plant species; notice requirements for retail sales.	Passed House and Senate with substitute; in conference committee.
10.	HB 67	Disabled Veteran's Passport for state parks; expanding eligibility for service-connected disability.	Failed in House ACNR.
11.	HB 122	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); review and authorization of projects, hearing and appeal.	Passed House; in Senate Courts of Justice.
12.	HB 170	Trees; conservation during land development process.	Incorporated into HB 1100 (see below in this section).
13.	HB 216	Impounding structures, certain; variances to general permit requirements.	Failed in House ACNR.
14.	HB 259	Dam Safety, Flood Prevention, and Protection Assistance Fund; percentage of funds available.	Failed in House ACNR.
15.	HB 309	Forestland and Urban Tree Canopy Conservation Plan; Department of Forestry to establish.	Passed House; in Senate Finance and Appropriations.

16.	HB 316	Virginia Recycling Development Center; established, report.	Passed House; in Senate Finance and Appropriations.
17.	HB 397	Electric utilities; development of renewable energy facilities, etc.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
18.	HB 420	Federal park operations; temporary funding.	Passed House; in Senate Finance and Appropriations.
19.	HB 496	Waste tire disposal by tire producers and haulers; fee, requirements.	Passed House; in Senate Finance and Appropriations.
20.	HB 538	Virginia Student Environmental Literacy Plan Grant Fund and Program; established.	Reported from House Education; failed in House Appropriations.
21.	HB 660	Income tax, corporate; distribution of revenues to state parks.	Failed in House Finance.
22.	HB 673	Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund; low-income geographic areas; nature-based solutions	Passed House and Senate.
23.	HB 741	Nuclear energy electric generation facilities; permitting for “small clean” facilities.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
24.	HB 745	Mattress stewardship program; established, report, civil penalty.	Continued to 2025 in House ACNR.
25.	HB 892	Office of Farmland Preservation, Office; transfers office from Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to Department of Forestry.	Passed House; reported from Senate Finance and Appropriations.
26.	HB 948	Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; Advisory Review Committee to assist in distribution of loans.	Incorporated into HB 1458 (see below in Study Commissions section).
27.	HB 1012	First Responder and Veteran Passport; established, discounted entry and parking.	Failed in House Appropriations.
28.	HB 1056	Coastal resilience policy; consultation from research university collaborative.	Failed in House ACNR.
29.	HB 1100	Trees; Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia), conservation during land development process.	Passed House and Senate.
30.	HB 1157	Federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth; agencies to consult on permits and reviews.	Passed House; in Senate Finance and Appropriations.
31.	HB 1227	Recycling Infrastructure Improvement Fund; established, report.	Failed in House Appropriations.
32.	HB 1379	DEQ reports; consolidates varying due dates.	Passed House and Senate.
33.	HB 1464	Conservation easements; validity, open-space land.	Failed in House ACNR.

34.	HB 1523	State parks; procurement exemption, Natural Area Preservation Funds created.	Reported from House General Laws; failed in House Appropriations.
35.	SB 3	State Air Pollution Control Board; repeat of authority for regulations on low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle standards.	Failed in Senate ACNR.
36.	SB 298	Conservation tillage and precision agricultural application equipment; tax credit for purchase.	Passed Senate and House.
37.	SB 299	Cave Board; repeals provisions relating to establishment and transfers duties to BCR.	Failed in Senate ACNR (stricken from docket by patron).
38.	SB 306	Invasive plant species; notice requirements for retail sales.	Passed Senate; reported from House ACNR with substitute.
39.	SB 414	Tire stewardship program; established, report.	Failed in Senate ACNR.
40.	SB 446	Board of Environmental Resources; created and consolidating Air Pollution Control Board, State Water Control Board, and Waste Management Board.	Continued to 2025 in Senate ACNR.
41.	SB 461	Forest canopy and health assessment; Department of Forestry to convene advisory committee to study.	Passed Senate; in House Appropriations.
42.	SB 465	Virginia Land Conservation Foundation; authorities land trusts that have been accredited, etc.	Continued to 2025 in Senate ACNR.
43.	SB 486	Natural gas; certain pipeline expansion unlawful in Planning District 19 (Crater Region).	Failed in Senate ACNR.
44.	SB 561	Nuclear energy electrical generation facilities; permitting for small facilities.	Failed in Senate ACNR (stricken at request of patron).
45.	SB 580	DEQ judicial review, authorization of projects, hearing & appeal.	Passed Senate and House.
46.	SB 616	Office of Farmland Preservation; transfers office from Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to Department of Forestry.	Passed Senate and House.

FISHERIES AND HABITAT OF TIDAL WATERS

47.	HB 19	Atlantic menhaden; Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), et al., to study ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance.	Continued to 2025 in House Rules.
48.	HB 596	Fisheries Innovation for Sustainable Harvest Fund; established.	Passed House; reported from Senate Finance and Appropriations with substitute.
49.	HB 1135	Blue Catfish; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, <i>et al.</i> , to review efforts to create a market.	Passed House and Senate.

50.	HB 1151	Dandy Point Landing; Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to use photo monitoring system at facility.	Failed in House ACNR.
51.	SB 267	Local wetlands boards; changes to standard for permit application approval.	Failed in Senate ACNR (stricken at request of patron).
52.	SB 268	VMRC permit public notice requirements.	Failed in Senate ACNR.
53.	SB 269	General oyster-planting ground leases.	Failed in Senate ACNR (stricken at request of patron).
54.	SB 402	Blue Catfish; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, <i>et al.</i> , to review efforts to create a market.	Passed Senate; reported from House Rules; in House Appropriations.
55.	SB 730	Nonliving shoreline stabilization structures; regulations.	Continued to 2025 in Senate ACNR.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES OR CHEMICALS

56.	HB 245	PFAS; facilities that have engaged in manufacture, etc., to produce report on use of chemicals.	Incorporated into HB 1085 (see below in Waters of the State section)
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HEALTH

57.	HB 220	Water facilities; requirement for staffing by licensed operators.	Passed House and Senate.
58.	HB 1052	Alternative and conventional onsite sewage systems; requirement for local government related to notification of owners regarding maintenance.	Passed House; reported from Senate Local Government; defeated on Senate floor.
59.	HB 1431	Alternative onsite sewage systems; criteria for Department of Health approval of treatment units.	Passed House and Senate.

HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES

60.	HJ 5	Hog Island; Department of Transportation to study need for bridge from Surry County to James City County.	Failed in House Rules.
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PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES

61.	HB 106	Shared solar programs; amends existing program provisions to apply to Dominion Energy Virginia.	Passed House; reported from Senate Commerce and Labor; on Senate floor.
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62.	HB 108	Shared solar programs; State Corporation Commission (SCC) to establish by a program for American Electric Power.	Passed House; reported from Senate Commerce and Labor; on Senate floor.
63.	HB 117	Net energy metering; solar interconnection, cost recovery.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
64.	HB 118	Electric vehicles; utilities required to develop electric vehicle charging infrastructure.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
65.	HB 385	Railroad safety; crew requirements.	Passed House; reported from Senate Commerce and Labor; on Senate floor.
66.	HB 403	Temporary power purchase agreements with generators of zero-carbon electricity.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
67.	HB 636	Siting of energy facilities related to solar power, wind power, and energy storage.	Continued to 2025 in House Labor and Commerce.
68.	HB 638	Electric utilities' energy-efficiency programs, duty to implement the Energy Policy, etc.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
69.	HB 714	Electric utilities' pilot program for underground transmission lines; addition of one project.	Passed House; in Senate Commerce and Labor.
70.	HB 746	Energy efficiency programs; definitions of public interest, cost effectiveness, incremental annual savings.	Passed House; reported from Senate Commerce and Labor; on Senate floor.
71.	HB 1027	Energy policy of the Commonwealth; state authority and legislative declaration relative to federal regulation.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
72.	HB 1062	Net energy metering; eligibility and liability protections for customer-generators and agricultural customer-generators.	Passed House and Senate.
73.	HB 1074	Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard; eligibility of hydrogen and nuclear resources.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
74.	HB 1288	Public utilities; classification of customers related to water, etc., for data centers.	Continued to 2025 in House Labor and Commerce.
75.	HB 1334	Energy Innovation Program; established, report.	Failed in House Labor and Commerce.
76.	HB 1376	Submetering or energy allocation equipment; groups to be covered by billing rules.	Passed House; in Senate Commerce and Labor.

77.	HB 1491	American Electric Power recovery of development costs associated with small modular nuclear facility.	Passed House; reported from Senate Commerce and Labor; on Senate floor.
78.	SB 137	Energy policy and costs; SCC to ensure energy policy at lowest reasonable cost.	Continued to 2025 in Senate Commerce and Labor.
79.	SB 253	Shared solar programs; amends existing program provisions to apply to Dominion Energy Virginia.	Passed Senate and House.
80.	SB 255	Shared solar programs; SCC to establish a program for American Electric Power.	Passed Senate and House.
81.	SB 271	Net energy metering; eligibility and liability protections for customer-generators and agricultural customer-generators.	Passed Senate and House.
82.	SB 346	Net energy metering; solar interconnection, cost recovery.	Continued to 2025 in Senate Commerce and Labor.
83.	SB 454	American Electric Power and Dominion Energy Virginia recovery of development costs associated with small modular reactor.	Passed Senate; reported from House Labor and Commerce with substitute.
84.	SB 495	Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard; legibility of falling water generation facilities.	Passed Senate; reported from House Labor and Commerce.
85.	SB 508	Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard; eligibility of geothermal heating and cooling systems.	Passed Senate; reported from House Labor and Commerce.
86.	SB 562	Captured coal mine methane; pilot program, eligibility for Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.	Continued to 2025 in Senate ACNR.
87.	SB 565	Energy efficiency programs; definitions of public interest, cost effectiveness, incremental annual savings.	Passed Senate; reported from House Labor and Commerce with substitute.
88.	SB 567	Siting of renewable energy facilities; approval by the SCC, providing state rather than local control of siting facilities.	Continued to 2025 in Senate Commerce and Labor.
89.	SB 578	Offshore wind-generation facilities; competitive procurement process.	Continued to 2025 in Senate Commerce and Labor.
90.	SB 688	Offshore wind capacity; development, prohibited cost recovery.	Continued to 2025 in Senate Commerce and Labor.,
91.	SB 737	Energy efficiency programs; clarifies definition for purposes of Virginia Electric Utility Regulation Act.	Passed Senate; reported from House Labor and Commerce with substitute.

STUDY COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND REPORTS

92.	HB 1186	All-terrain power wheelchairs in state parks; Department of Conservation and Recreation to establish two-year pilot program.	Passed House; reported from Senate ACNR with substitute; in Senate Finance and Appropriations.
93.	HB 1458	Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth; Office of Commonwealth Resilience; Interagency Resilience Working Group; Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund; Advisory Review Committee.	Passed House; reported from Senate ACNR with substitute; reported from Senate Finance and Appropriations.
94.	HB 1474	Dam Safety Act; Virginia Code Commission work group to recommend exemptions from the Act.	Failed in House ACNR.
95.	HJ 12	Utility-scale solar development impacts on agriculture, forestry, and environment; JLARC to study.	Failed in House Rules.
96.	HJ 55	Recurrent flooding; joint subcommittee to continue study for two more years.	Failed in House Rules.
97.	HJ 82	State park at the Mendota Trail and Abrams Falls in Washington County; Department of Conservation and Recreation to study feasibility of establishing.	Continued to 2025 in House Rules.
98.	SB 79	Solar-ready roofs for certain government buildings; net-zero energy consumption building design for schools; Department of Energy work group to make recommendations on renovations.	Passed Senate; reported from House General Laws with substitute; tabled in House Appropriations.
99.	SB 313	Solar energy facilities; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regulations regarding mandatory solar disclosures; report.	Passed Senate; passed House with substitute; substitute rejected by Senate.
100.	SB 455	Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund to be created; report by Department of Wildlife Resources on funding and grants.	Passed Senate; tabled in House Appropriations.
101.	SB 729	Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank to be created; annual report.	Passed Senate; reported from House Rules; in House Appropriations.
102.	SJ 25	Groundwater supply in the Commonwealth; DEQ to study.	Passed Senate; reported from House Rules; in House Appropriations.

TAXATION

103.	HB 4	Plastic bag tax; distribution to towns.	Passed House and Senate.
104.	HB 152	Land preservation tax credit; increases threshold credit amount.	Failed in House ACNR.
105.	HB 197	Solar energy equipment; establishes a nonrefundable income-tax credit.	Failed in House Finance.
106.	HB 785	Energy storage systems; clarifies the tax treatment of systems.	Passed House; failed in Senate Finance and Appropriations.
107.	HB 1015	Agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and agricultural equipment purchase tax credits; sunset date extension for five years.	Passed House and Senate.
108.	HB 1183	Land preservation tax credit; maximum amount increase.	Failed in House Finance.
109.	HJ 35	Litter tax; Department of Taxation and DEQ to study tax policy options for reforming.	Continued to 2025 in House Rules.
110.	SB 129	Forest Sustainability Fund; fund allocation rules related to use-value assessment, and limits for an individual locality.	Passed Senate and House.
111.	SB 297	Agricultural BMPs tax credit; sunset date extension for five years.	Passed Senate and House.

WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

112.	HB 1295	Drinking water maximum contaminant levels; Rural Water Supply Program and Fund established.	Continued to 2025 in House Health and Human Services.
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WATERS OF THE STATE, PORTS AND HARBORS

113.	HB 71	Combined sewer overflow outfalls; compliance with regulations for certain outfalls in Chesapeake Bay Watershed.	Passed House; reported from Senate Finance and Appropriations.
114.	HB 357	Tidal and nontidal wetlands; DEQ to establish work group to develop strategies to protect, report.	Continued to 2025 in House Rules.
115.	HB 524	Natural gas pipelines; changing minimum pipeline diameter subject to permit applications.	Continued to 2025 in House ACNR.
116.	HB 530	Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act; amends Act to require State Water Control Board to allow use and development of land.	Failed in House ACNR.
117.	HB 656	Regulated land-disturbing activities; submission and approval of erosion and sediment control plan.	Passed House and Senate.
118.	HB 870	Sewage sludge regulations; relief from administrative requirements during adverse and unusual weather.	Passed House and Senate.
119.	HB 1085	PFAS contaminants; identification, monitoring, and Expert Advisory Committee establishment.	Passed House and Senate.

120.	HB 1196	Virginia Waterway Maintenance Grant Program; changed to criterial for grant funding related to dredged material.	Failed in House ACNR.
121.	HB 1352	Salt and brine; prohibiting use on certain highways located in watershed of Occoquan River.	Failed in House Transportation.
122.	HB 1449	Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative at College of William and Mary; changing <i>Va. Code</i> sections to refer to this instead of Coastal Policy Center at William and Mary Law School.	Failed on House floor.
123.	HB 1472	Water certificates or permits; requiring any permitted activities to be in compliance with water quality standards.	Failed in House ACNR.
124.	HB 1478	Casino gaming authorized on cruise ships.	Failed in House General Laws.
125.	HB 1520	Surface water intakes' effects on aquatic fauna and water quality in Chesapeake Bay; Virginia Institute of Marine Science to review the feasibility of studying.	Continued to 2025 in House ACNR.
126.	SB 243	PFAS contaminants; identification, monitoring, and Expert Advisory Committee establishment.	Passed Senate and House.
127.	SB 275	Lynnhaven River and tributaries; certain oyster-aquaculture permits prohibited.	Failed in House ACNR (stricken at request of patron).
128.	SB 337	Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area; continued withdrawal permit for a specific residential well.	Passed Senate; reported from House ACNR.
129.	SB 365	Regulated land-disturbing activities; submission and approval of erosion and sediment control plan.	Passed Senate and House.
130.	SB 581	Groundwater and surface water withdrawal permits by the DEQ; authorization to use "comprehensive groundwater, surface water, and aquifer data" in permit evaluations.	Passed Senate; reported from House ACNR.
131.	SB 665	Southwest Regional Recreation Authority added to localities allowed to submit standards and specifications in lieu of soil erosion control and stormwater management plans.	Continued to 2025 in Senate ACNR.
132.	SB 673	State Water Control Board and DEQ directed to prioritize water for human consumption and food production in all water permitting and regulatory actions.	Passed Senate; in House ACNR.
133.	SB 674	Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative at College of William and Mary; changing <i>Va. Code</i> sections to refer to this instead of Coastal Policy Center at William and Mary Law School.	Passed Senate and House.

BILLS FROM MISCELLANEOUS CATEGORIES

134.	HB 338	Siting of data centers; allows localities, before approving data center siting, to perform site assessments on water usage and carbon emissions.	Passed House; in Senate General Laws and Technology.
135.	SB 285	Siting of data centers; requires localities, before approving data center siting, to perform site assessments on water usage, electricity usage, carbon emissions, and impacts on agricultural, historic, and cultural resources.	Continued to 2025 in Senate General Laws and Technology.