

City of Richmond Position BILL NO. PATRON

OPPOSE. As drafted. **HB 1841 Keam**

SUPPORT but some reservations per **HB 2052 Samirah**
Sharon Ebert

SUPPORT. Good for a built out city like **HB 2054 Samirah**
Richmond. We need to grow.

SUPPORT **HB 2266/ Ayala/Bourne/W**
HB 1738 ampler
HB 2051

Support

**HB2050/
SB1197**

Bourne/Locke

SB 1298

Bell

SUPPORT

SB 1390

Lewis

SUPPORT. Doesn't really help but another tool.

SB 1285

Locke

Oppose. Using the Emergency E9-1-1 surcharge to fund other government operations is misleading to the public and this diversion of fees jeopardizes the City's ability to apply for federal grants/funds in the future. Furthermore, if this becomes law, Virginia will be considered a state that diverts E9-1-1 fees and will make the City ineligible for any future federal 9-1-1 grants or funding. **Rec'd Advt 1/29/21.**

SB 1302

McPike

added 1/29/21

HB 1890
SB 1395

Price
McClellan

added 1/29/21

HB 1848

Sickles

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN

House Transportation

House CCT

House CCT

House General Laws

House Finance Committee

Sen Local Government

Sen. Agriculture, Conservation and Nat Res.

Local Government

Senate Finance & Appropriations

TITLE

Crosswalk and sidewalk design.

Land banks; right of first refusal for tax delinquent parcels.

Comprehensive plan; transit-oriented development.

Alcoholic beverage control; local outdoor refreshment areas.

Virginia housing opportunity tax credit

Tourism improvement districts.

Cats; trap, neuter, and return programs; civil penalty.

Blight Tools

Crisis call center; Crisis Call Center Fund established

Elections; prohibited discrimination in voting and elections administration; required process for enacting certain covered practices; civil causes of action

Relating to the Virginia Human Rights Act; discrimination on the basis of disability.

SUMMARY

Requires new crosswalks and crosswalks receiving future maintenance to be painted in a zebra pattern and have warning surface tiles on the sidewalk at each end of such crosswalk that are federal yellow if installed on a dark-colored sidewalk and red if installed on a light-colored sidewalk.

Requires localities that have established a land bank to establish a procedure whereby the land bank shall have a right of first refusal for tax delinquent parcels prior to such property being sold at auction. The price for any such purchase by the land bank shall be \$1 and any court and transaction expenses. If a land bank exercises its right of first refusal to purchase a property from the locality and, in the judgment of the locality, fails to begin rehabilitation of the property or fails to take other action to cause reuse of the property within one year, such as transferring the property to a nonprofit entity, ownership of the property shall revert back to the locality. These provisions may be utilized for any parcel with a value that does not exceed 80 percent of the median value of parcels in the locality.

Adds reducing, modifying, or waiving local parking requirements or ratios to the strategies that may be included when certain larger localities consider incorporating strategies to promote transit-oriented development in reviews of their comprehensive plans. The bill removes from the existing strategy of increasing development density in certain areas to reduce density in others the phrase "to reduce density in others."

Defines "outdoor refreshment area" and permits the governing body of any locality in the Commonwealth to designate, by ordinance, up to three outdoor refreshment areas within such locality. The bill provides that such ordinance would permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages within the outdoor refreshment area, provided that such alcoholic beverages are purchased from a permanent retail on-premises licensee located within such designated area and are contained in disposable containers with a maximum capacity of no more than 16 fluid ounces that clearly display the selling licensee's name or logo. The bill requires the locality, prior to adopting such an ordinance, to create a public safety plan for each outdoor refreshment area.

Establishes, starting in taxable year 2021, a Virginia housing opportunity tax credit, which is equal to the amount of the federal low-income housing tax credit allocated or allowed by the Virginia Housing Development Authority to a low-income building that is eligible for the federal credit. The credit would be nonrefundable and could be carried forward for up to five years.

The bill authorizes a locality to create a local tourism improvement district plan, consisting of fees charged to businesses and used to fund tourism promotion activities and capital improvements. Under the bill, the locality is authorized to contract with a nonprofit entity to administer the activities and improvements. [Link to bill HERE](#)

Authorizes any public or private animal shelter, releasing agency, or hospital or clinic that is operated under the immediate supervision of a duly licensed veterinarian to operate a trap, neuter, and return program, as defined in the bill. The bill exempts volunteers of such program from provisions related to abandonment and licensing of animals and exempts the operator from general requirements of shelters related to holding periods, release of animals, and recordkeeping. A person who violates certain required provisions for such a program is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$150 brought by any animal control officer, humane investigator, releasing agency, or the State Veterinarian or State Veterinarian's representative.

A city may by ordinance require the owner or owners of buildings that have been vacant for a continuous period of 12 months or more and that may endanger the public health, safety and welfare, to register on an annual basis and pay a fee not to exceed \$1000 to defray registration costs.

Provides that the crisis call center, which under current law is administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (the Department), shall be designated as the 9-8-8 Crisis Hotline Center for purposes of participating in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The bill increases from \$0.75 to \$0.94 the wireless E-911 surcharge and increases from \$0.50 to \$0.63 the prepaid wireless E-911 charge. The bill provides that part of the revenue attributable to the increase would be distributed to the Crisis Call Center Fund, established by the bill, to fund the Department's costs in establishing and administering the call center, and that the remainder of the revenue would be distributed to public safety answering points (PSAPs).

Prohibits any voting qualification or any standard, practice, or procedure related to voting from being imposed or applied in a manner that results in the denial or abridgment of the right of any United States citizen to vote based on his race or color or membership in a language minority group. The bill further prohibits at-large methods of election from being imposed or applied in a locality in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class, defined in the bill, to elect candidates of its choice or to influence the outcome of an election, by diluting or abridging the rights of voters who are members of a protected class.

Adds discrimination on the basis of disability as an unlawful employment practice under the Virginia Human Rights Act. The bill also requires employers, defined in the bill, to make reasonable accommodation to the known physical and mental impairments of an otherwise qualified person with a disability, if necessary to assist such person in performing a particular job, unless the employer can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer.

CITY COMMENTS

The City should support this legislation. It will help with making valuable properties available for affordable housing at a time when there are too many flippers buying up properties due to areas gentrifying. I would change the last sentence to be 150% of the median value of parcels in the locality as property values are escalating dramatically.

Discretion to engage community to make sure it is in the right place and can be flexible over time. Beth D'A: as a zoning tool, make it sunset after a time. Kevin Vonk: Act Director - operations and mgmt did to be finessed. Need to be in proportion to municipal populations. Look at a sliding scale (per x 1000 of people you can have x # of licenses).

CHRISTIE CHIPPS PETERS - I'm fine with the way this is written. I do think the "community volunteer" thing is vague. Who do they volunteer for? The City? An organization? Maybe it's clarified but it's too many words. Overall, we support the ability to perform TNR. We've been doing it for years the hard way -a work around the system-to stay legal.

DeptEmergMgmt Willoughby - not transparent to consumers and puts city in jeopardy for future federal grants.

ADVANTUS ACTIONS

We communicated with the patron and submitted written comments in opposition to the bill as introduced, based on information provided by DPW and others. The bill was subsequently changed from a mandate to a study of the issue.

We have communicated the City's support to our delegation as the legislation provides another "tool in the toolbox" for dealing with both blight and the affordable housing issue.

We have communicated the City's support for this bill since it provides increased flexibility in the City's efforts to promote transit oriented development.

Councilwoman Lynch reached out to us on this bill and we have been in frequent communication with her and the administration which has decided not to take a position on the bill. The bill has undergone significant changes as it makes its way through the legislative process.

STATUS

Amended to make a study with local government stakeholder participation. No mandate. In full committee 1/21/21

In House CCT Committee 1/29/21

Passed House 1/27/21 76-24

House
Bill/Substitute passed Committee 20-2
Senate
Bill/Substitute passed Committee 1/29/21

We have been monitoring these two bills closely. There has been little movement on the bills to date and it appears they are slated to be included in a much larger study of state taxes.

We would recommend that planning staff review the bill for any potential use by the City should it pass and determine whether or not it should be actively supported.

We have communicated the city staff comments to the delegation.

The City has supported having the authority to establish a vacant building registry in the past. We would recommend actively supporting this bill.

Awaiting further clarification on how to improve this legislation

House
subcommittee
killed bill 1/22/21
Senate bill still in
committee

Passed Senate
floor 1/29/21

On first reading,
Senate floor
1/28/21

Passed Senate on
1/21/21

Passed Senate on
12/29/20 (30 Y-7 N)