

III. Specific Legislation

Historical Positions of the Board

SUPPORT

SB 1013 (Stanley) (Passed Senate; HCT) repeals the requirement that the driver's license of a person convicted of any violation of the law who fails or refuses to provide for immediate payment of fines or costs be suspended. The bill also removes a provision allowing the court to require a defendant to present a summary prepared by the Department of Motor Vehicles of the other courts in which the defendant also owes fines and costs. The bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to return or reinstate any person's driver's license that was suspended prior to July 1, 2019, solely for nonpayment of fines or costs, provided that such person has paid the applicable reinstatement fee. The provisions of the bill are contingent upon funding in a general appropriation act. This bill incorporates SB 1310 and SB 1612. Recommend support; Board has historically supported concept of alternatives to driver's license suspension to address non-payment of court fines and costs. (19104813D-ES1)

SB 1301 (Edwards) (Passed Senate; HFIN) allows a local treasurer to employ private collections agents to assist with the collection of delinquent amounts due other than delinquent local taxes. Current law allows only for the collection of delinquent taxes by private collections agents. Recommend support; Board has historically supported concept. (19102375D)

New Bills – 2019 GA

SB 1425 (Dunnavant) (Passed Senate; HFIN) provides that when the owner of a mobile food unit, defined as a restaurant mounted on wheels and readily moveable at any time during its operation, pays any license tax in the county or city in which the mobile food unit is registered and in which property taxes are paid, no other license shall be required in any other county, city, or town in the Commonwealth. Recommend monitor. (19105609D-S1)

Elections

HB 2790 (Rush) (Passed House; SPE) allows for any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in person beginning on the second Saturday immediately preceding any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason or making prior application for an absentee ballot. The bill makes absentee voting in person available beginning on the forty-fifth day prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election. The bill retains the current provisions for voting an absentee ballot by mail or in person prior to the second Saturday immediately preceding the election, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons for absentee voting. Recommend support with amendment to allow time for the Department of Elections and stakeholders to prepare to implement the bill for the November 3, 2020, general election. (19102828D-E)

HJ 615 (Cole) (Agreed to by House; SPE) requires the establishment of independent redistricting commissions by the General Assembly and the governing bodies of each county, city, or town in which members of the governing body are elected from districts. The Virginia Independent Redistricting Commission is required to be convened for the purpose of proposing districts for the United States House of Representatives and for the Senate and House of Delegates. The Commission shall consist of twelve commissioners, four to be appointed by the Governor, four to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and four to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Equal representation shall be given to the two major political parties. Congressional district plans must receive an affirmative vote of eight of the twelve commissioners in order to be submitted to the General Assembly for a vote. Senate district plans must receive an affirmative vote of three of the four commissioners appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules in order to be submitted to the Senate for a vote. House of Delegates district plans must receive an affirmative vote of three of the four commissioners appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in order to be submitted to the House of Delegates for a vote. Plans may not be amended by the General Assembly or the respective body and are not subject to amendment, approval, or veto by the Governor. If a plan is rejected by the General Assembly or the respective body, the Commission is required to submit a new plan for consideration and if that plan is rejected, the districts shall be established by the Supreme Court of Virginia. Congressional and legislative districts are to be established in accordance with certain criteria set out in the amendment. The independent redistricting commissions established by the governing body of each county, city, and town in which members of the governing body are elected from districts will consist of four members, with equal representation given to the political parties, and will be responsible for submitting to its governing body proposed plans for local electoral districts. A proposed plan submitted to a governing body shall, if enacted, be done so in accordance with law. Recommend amend. Amend to remove provisions pertaining to the local Independent Redistricting

Commission, due to concerns that the bill would override the more robust process the County has used in the past. (19105844D-H1)

Transportation

HB 2784 (Hodges) (Passed House; STRAN)/**SB 1749** (McDougle) (Passed Senate; Reported from HTRAN) establishes the Robert O. Norris Bridge and Statewide Special Structure Fund to be used for the purpose of funding maintenance and replacement of large and unique structures. The bill also requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board to (i) undertake a comprehensive review of the current and future condition of pavements and bridges in the Commonwealth; (ii) dedicate a portion of certain funds to the Robert O. Norris Bridge and Statewide Special Structure Fund; and (iii) evaluate the feasibility of using the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 to design, build, operate, and maintain two bridges to replace the Robert O. Norris Bridge on State Route 3 and the Downing Bridge on U.S. Route 360. Recommend monitor. (19105915D-H1, 19106283D-S1)

HB 2805 (LaRock) (Passed House; STRAN) prohibits parking any vehicle in any striped access aisle adjacent to a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities. Recommend support. (19103221D)

Human Services

HB 2560 (Pillion) (Passed House; SRSS) authorizes local departments of social services to foster, when practicable, the creation, maintenance, and coordination of hospital and community-based multidisciplinary teams focused on the abuse and exploitation of adults 60 years of age or older or 18 years of age or older who are physically or mentally incapacitated. The bill provides that such teams may: (i) assist the local department of social services in identifying abused, neglected, and exploited adults; (ii) coordinate medical, social, and legal services for abused, neglected, and exploited adults and their families; (iii) develop innovative programs for detection and prevention of the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults; (iv) promote community awareness and action to address adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and (v) disseminate information to the general public regarding the problem of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation, strategies and methods for preventing such abuse, and treatment options for abused, neglected, and exploited adults. The bill also allows the attorney for the Commonwealth in each jurisdiction to establish a multidisciplinary adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation response team to review cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults. Such multidisciplinary team may be established separately or in conjunction with any already existing multidisciplinary team. Recommend support. (19105283D-H1)

SB 1104 (Peake) (Passed Senate; HAPP) provides that the state pool of funds for community policy and management teams may be used for wrap-around services, as defined in the Policy Manual of the Children's Services Act and subject to specific appropriation, that are provided in a public school setting. The bill requires the Office of Children's Services to report annually to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance regarding the use of wrap-around services in public school settings. Recommend support. (19106004D-S1)