

Current Status of City Package Bills February 19, 2016

HB 56 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 70 or older.

Patrons: Kory and Watts

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting by persons age 70 or older. Entitles persons who will be age 70 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 68 Elections; early voting.

Patrons: Sullivan, Heretick and Plum

Summary as introduced:

Elections; early voting. Allows any registered voter to vote early in any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason or making prior application for an absentee ballot. The bill requires that early voting be available beginning the twenty-first day prior to any general election, the seventh day prior to any special election held on a date other than the date of a general election, and the seventh day prior to any primary election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election. The bill further requires early voting to be available during regular business hours each weekday during the applicable period, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each Saturday during the applicable period, and from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on each Sunday during the applicable period. The bill removes the current provisions for voting absentee in person but retains those provisions for voting an absentee ballot by mail, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons that allow a registered voter to vote absentee by mail.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 100 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patrons: Marshall, D.W. and Kory

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older. Entitles persons who will be age 65 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 101 Elections; early voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patron: Marshall, D.W.

Summary as introduced:

Elections; early voting by persons age 65 or older. Allows any registered voter age 65 or older to vote early in any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason or making prior application for an absentee ballot. The bill requires that early voting be available beginning the twenty-first day prior to any general election, the seventh day prior to any special election held on a date other than the date of a general election, and the seventh day prior to any primary election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election.

The bill further requires early voting to be available during regular business hours each weekday

during the applicable period, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each Saturday during the applicable period, and from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on each Sunday during the applicable period. The bill does not amend the current provisions for voting absentee, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons that allow a registered voter to vote absentee.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 103 Consumer finance loans; caps maximum rate of interest.

Patron: Rasoul

Summary as introduced:

Consumer finance loans; rate of interest. Caps the maximum rate of interest that a licensed consumer finance company may charge on any loan at 36 percent annually. The measure eliminates the existing provision that permits such licensees to charge any agreed-upon amount of interest on consumer finance loans over \$2,500.

02/16/16 House: Left in Commerce and Labor

Notes: City Position: support

HB 107 Restoration of civil right to vote; eligibility for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies.

Patron: Habeeb

Summary as introduced:

Restoration of civil right to vote. Provides for the automatic restoration of the civil right to be eligible to register to vote to persons convicted of nonviolent felonies (excepting felony drug and election fraud crimes) upon completion of sentence, including probation or parole, and the payment of all restitution, fines, costs, and fees assessed as a result of the felony conviction.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 190 NVT A; use of population estimate in connection with decisions.

Patrons: Bulova and Herring

Summary as introduced:

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Provides that the population criterion required for decisions of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority shall be the estimates, not the projections, made by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia.

02/17/16 Senate: Reported from Transportation with substitute (13-Y 0-N)

Notes: City Position: support

HB 250 Consumer loans; interest rate limits and lending practices.

Patrons: Minchew, Yancey, Lindsey and Simon

Summary as introduced:

Consumer loans; interest rate limits and lending practices. Caps the rate of interest that may be charged on motor vehicle title loans, consumer finance company loans, payday loans, and open-end credit plans at 36 percent per year. The measure prohibits a lender from charging a membership fee, participation fee, or transaction fee in connection with any such extension of credit.

02/16/16 House: Left in Commerce and Labor

Notes: City Position: support

HB 266 Law libraries; assessment as part of cost in civil actions.

Patrons: Davis; Senator: Wagner

Summary as introduced:

Assessment for law libraries as part of cost in civil actions. Increases the allowable law library assessment cost from four to five dollars.

02/16/16 House: Left in Courts of Justice

Notes: City Position: support

HB 288 Disposable plastic shopping bags; local option to prohibit distribution.

Patron: Helsel

Summary as introduced:

Distribution of disposable plastic shopping bags prohibited; local option. Allows any locality by ordinance to prohibit the distribution, sale, or offer of disposable plastic shopping bags to consumers. The bill exempts from any such prohibition reusable bags of a certain thickness; bags that are used to carry certain products, such as ice cream or meat; and garbage bags that are sold in multiples.

02/16/16 House: Left in Counties, Cities and Towns

Notes: City Position: support

HB 329 Amber lights, flashing; allows publicly owner or operated transit buses to use.

Patron: Villanueva

Summary as introduced:

Amber lights on public transit buses. Allows publicly owned or operated transit buses to use flashing amber lights.

02/17/16 Senate: Reported from Transportation (13-Y 0-N)

Notes: City Position: support

HB 403 Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; use of population estimate in connection with decisions.

Patron: Herring

Summary as introduced:

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Provides that the population criterion required for decisions of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority shall be the estimates, not the projections, made by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia.

02/16/16 House: Left in Transportation (in lieu of another bill that was approved by Committee)

Notes: City Position: support

HB 418 Elections; absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person.

Patrons: Bagby, Boysko, Carr, Heretick, Herring, Keam, Kory, Krizek, Levine, Lindsey, McClellan, McQuinn, Plum, Simon, Spruill and Tyler

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person. Allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 430 Elections; absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person.

Patron: Villanueva

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person. Allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 530 Public employment; inquiries by state agencies and localities regarding criminal convictions.

Patrons: Carr and Aird

Summary as introduced:

Public employment; inquiries by state agencies and localities regarding criminal convictions, charges, and arrests. Prohibits state agencies from including on any employment application a question inquiring whether the prospective employee has ever been arrested or charged with, or convicted of, any crime, subject to certain exceptions. A prospective employee may not be asked if he has ever been convicted of any crime unless the inquiry takes place after the prospective employee has received a conditional offer of employment, which offer may be withdrawn if the prospective employee has a conviction record that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the position. The prohibition does not apply to applications for employment with law-enforcement agencies or certain positions designated as sensitive or in instances where a state agency is expressly permitted to inquire into an individual's criminal history for employment purposes pursuant to any provision of federal or state law. The bill also authorizes localities to prohibit such inquiries.

02/16/16 House: Left in General Laws

Notes: City Position: support

HB 531 Absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to election.

Patron: Murphy

Summary as introduced:

Absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to election. Allows for any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in person in 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 the twenty-first 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.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 597 Minimum wage; increases minimum wage from its current federal level.

Patrons: Plum and Ward

Summary as introduced:

Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$13 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$15 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal law.

02/16/16 House: Left in Commerce and Labor

Notes: City Position: support

HB 623 Minimum wage; increases minimum wage from its current federal level.

Patrons: Krizek and Plum

Summary as introduced:

Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour effective July 1, 2016, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). This increase applies only to any employee who is (i) age 25 years or older and (ii) employed by an employer with more than 15 employees.

02/16/16 House: Left in Commerce and Labor

Notes: City Position: support

HB 716 Commonwealth Transportation Board; project evaluation.

Patrons: LeMunyon and Albo

Summary as introduced:

Commonwealth Transportation Board; project evaluation. Requires the congestion mitigation factor to be given a weight twice that of all other factors combined by the Commonwealth Transportation Board when evaluating projects in the Northern Virginia highway construction district using the statewide prioritization process.

02/16/16 House: Left in Transportation

Notes: City Position: oppose

HB 797 State plan for medical assistance; eligibility of individuals.

Patron: Plum

Summary as introduced:

State plan for medical assistance; eligibility. Requires the Board of Medical Assistance Services to include in the state plan for medical assistance provision for the payment of medical assistance on behalf of individuals described in 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) who are under 65 years of age and not otherwise eligible for medical assistance and whose household income does not exceed 133 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of that size. The bill provides that such provision shall expire on December 31 of any year in which the federal contribution falls below the percentages set forth in 42 C.F.R. § 433.10(c)(6).

02/16/16 House: Left in Health, Welfare and Institutions

Notes: City Position: support

HB 899 Elections; early voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patrons: Toscano and Mason

Summary as introduced:

Elections; early voting by persons age 65 or older. Allows any registered voter age 65 or older to vote early in any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason or making prior application for an absentee ballot. The bill requires that early voting be available beginning the twenty-first day prior to any general election, the seventh day prior to any special election held on a date other than the date of a general election, and the seventh day prior to any primary election and ending on the Saturday immediately preceding the election. The bill does not amend the current provisions for voting absentee.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 995 Minimum wage; establishes a procedure by which a local alternative wage may be imposed.

Patron: Levine

Summary as introduced:

Local alternative minimum wage. Establishes a procedure by which a local alternative minimum wage may be imposed in any locality. If imposed by ordinance of the local governing body, the alternative minimum wage requirement shall become effective on the July 1 that follows delivery of a certified copy of the ordinance to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. A local alternative minimum wage requires every employer to pay to each of his employees, for work performed by them within the locality, wages at a rate to be determined by local ordinance up to and including \$10 per hour beginning July 1, 2016; thereafter, the maximum local alternative minimum wage shall be adjusted based on the CPI. If the federal minimum wage exceeds the levels specified in an alternative local minimum wage requirement, the federal minimum wage will prevail.

02/16/16 House: Left in Commerce and Labor

Notes: City Position: support

HB 1008 Motor vehicle fuels; sales tax in certain transportation districts, price floor.

Patrons: Levine and Hester

Summary as introduced:

Motor vehicle fuels sales tax in certain transportation districts; price floor. Places a floor on the 2.1 percent tax imposed on motor vehicle fuels sold in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads by ensuring that the average sales price be no less than the statewide average sales price on February 20, 2013—the date used as a floor on the statewide motor vehicle fuels sales tax.

02/08/16 House: Stricken from docket by Finance

Notes: City Position: support

HB 1075 Consumer finance loans; rate of interest.

Patrons: Yancey, O'Bannon and Krizek

Summary as introduced:

Consumer finance loans; rate of interest. Caps the maximum rate of interest that a licensed consumer finance company may charge on any loan at 36 percent annually. The measure eliminates the existing provision that permits such licensees to charge any agreed-upon amount of interest on consumer finance loans over \$2,500. The measure also limits the late charge that a licensee may charge to the greater of \$20 or five percent of the unpaid installment. Currently, such late charges may not exceed five percent of the unpaid installment. Finally, the measure extends the grace period that must elapse before a late charge may be assessed from seven to 10 calendar days.

02/16/16 House: Left in Commerce and Labor

Notes: City Position: support

HB 1216 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patron: Aird

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older. Entitles persons who will be age 65 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HB 1258 Minimum wage; increases wage from federally mandated level to \$8.50 per hour.

Patron: Rasoul

Summary as introduced:

Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$8.50 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$11.84 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Effective July 1, 2019, and for years thereafter, the \$11.84 rate shall be adjusted to reflect annual increases in the consumer price index.

02/16/16 House: Left in Commerce and Labor

Notes: City Position: support

HJ 82 Constitutional amendment (first resolution); qualifications to vote; restoration of civil rights.

Patrons: Bagby, Boysko, Heretick, Kory, Krizek, Lindsey, McQuinn, Plum, Rasoul, Simon, Sullivan and Tyler

Summary as introduced:

Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote; restoration of civil rights. Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies who have completed service of their sentences subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law. The present Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds an alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to law for nonviolent felons.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HJ 92 Constitutional amendment; qualifications of voters, restoration of civil rights

Patrons: Carr and Plum

Summary as introduced:

Constitutional amendment; qualifications of voters; restoration of civil rights. Provides that the General Assembly may provide by general law for the restoration of civil rights to persons who have been convicted of felonies and who have completed service of their sentence, including any period or condition of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HJ 119 Constitutional amendment; restoration of civil rights

Patron: Torian

Summary as introduced:

Constitutional amendment; qualifications of voters; restoration of civil rights. Provides that no person convicted of a felony shall be qualified to vote unless he has served his full sentence and been released back to civil society. The proposed amendment removes the current constitutional language that provides for restoration of civil rights by the Governor or other appropriate authority.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: support

HJ 134 Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote; restoration of civil rights.

Patron: Lopez

Summary as introduced:

Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote; restoration of civil rights. Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies who have completed service of their sentences subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law. The present Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds an alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to law for nonviolent felons.

02/16/16 House: Left in Privileges and Elections

Notes: City Position: Support

SB 54 Payday loans; permitted interest.

Patrons: Locke and Miller; *Delegates:* Kory and Krizek

Summary as introduced:

Payday loans; permitted interest. Removes provisions of the Payday Loan Act that authorize lenders to charge a loan fee or verification fee, thereby limiting permissible charges on payday loans to interest at a maximum annual rate of 36 percent.

01/25/16 Senate: Failed to report (defeated) in Commerce and Labor (4-Y 10-N)

Notes: City Position: support

SB 55 Disposable plastic shopping bags; local option to prohibit distribution.

Patrons: Locke; *Delegate:* Kory

Summary as introduced:

Distribution of disposable plastic shopping bags prohibited; local option. Allows any locality by ordinance to prohibit the distribution, sale, or offer of disposable plastic shopping bags to consumers. The bill exempts from any such prohibition reusable bags of a certain thickness; bags that are used to carry certain products, such as ice cream or newspapers; and garbage bags that are sold in multiples.

01/19/16 Senate: Failed to report (defeated) in Local Government (6-Y 7-N)

Notes: City Position: support

SB 68 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patron: Wexton

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older. Entitles persons who will be age 65 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

01/26/16 Senate: Incorporated by Privileges and Elections into SB188, which was defeated

Notes: City Position: support

SB 105 Virginia Housing Trust Fund; revenue deposits.

Patron: Locke

Summary as introduced:

Virginia Housing Trust Fund; revenue deposits. Provides that 20% of annual recordation tax revenue in excess of \$325 million shall be deposited into the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. The bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Housing Commission.

02/03/16 Senate: Continued to 2017 in Finance (12-Y 3-N)

Notes: City Position: support

SB 106 Absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person.

Patrons: Dance, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Howell, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, McEachin, Saslaw, Surovell and Wexton

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person. Allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

02/16/16 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table

Notes: City Position: support

SB 114 Plastic bags; tax imposed in Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Patron: Petersen

Summary as introduced:

Plastic bag tax in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Imposes a five-cent per bag tax on plastic bags provided to customers by certain retailers in localities located wholly within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and directs revenues to be used to support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. The bill also allows every retailer that collects the tax to retain one cent of the five-cent tax.

01/20/16 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Finance (10-Y 5-N)

Notes: City Position: support

SB 129 Minimum wage; increases minimum wage from its current level to \$8.00 per hour.

Patron: Edwards

Summary as introduced:

Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$9.00 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$10.10 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA.

02/01/16 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Commerce and Labor (11-Y 4-N)

Notes: City Position: support

SB 143 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patron: Edwards

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older. Entitles persons who will be age 65 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee. This bill was incorporated into SB 188.

01/26/16 Senate: Incorporated by Privileges and Elections into SB188, which was defeated

Notes: City position: Support

SB 164 Consumer finance loans; rate of interest.

Patrons: Surovell, Locke, Ebbin, Howell and McEachin

Summary as introduced:

Consumer finance loans; rate of interest. Caps the maximum rate of interest that a licensed consumer finance company may charge on any loan at 36 percent annually. Also eliminates the existing provision that permits such licensees to charge any agreed-upon amount of interest on

consumer finance loans over \$2,500. The measure also limits the late charge that a licensee may charge to the lesser of \$20 or five percent of the unpaid installment. Currently, such late charges may not exceed five percent of the unpaid installment. Finally, the measure extends the grace period that must elapse before a late charge may be assessed from seven to 10 calendar days.

01/25/16 Senate: Failed to report (defeated) in Commerce and Labor (4-Y 9-N 1-A)

Notes: City Position: support

SB 188 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patrons: Miller, Barker, Edwards and Wexton

Summary as passed Senate:

Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older. Entitles persons who will be age 65 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

02/16/16 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table

Notes: City Position: support

SB 189 Payday loans; permitted interest.

Patron: Miller

Summary as introduced:

Payday loans; permitted interest. Removes provisions of the Payday Loan Act that authorize lenders to charge a loan fee or verification fee, thereby limiting permissible charges on payday loans to interest at a maximum annual rate of 36 percent.

01/25/16 Senate: Incorporated by Commerce and Labor into SB54, which was defeated.

Notes: City Position: support

SB 299 Amber lights, flashing; allows publicly owned or operated transit buses to use.

Patrons: Ebbin; Delegate: Villanueva

Summary as passed Senate:

Amber lights on public transit buses. Allows public transit buses to use flashing amber lights.

02/18/16 House: Reported from Transportation with amendment (21-Y 0-N)

02/19/16 House: Read second time

Notes: City position: support

SB 320 Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

Patrons: Barker and McPike

Summary as introduced:

Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older. Entitles persons who will be age 65 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

01/26/16 Senate: Incorporated by Privileges and Elections into SB188, which was defeated.

Notes: City position: support

SB 413 NVTA; use of population estimates in connection with decisions.

Patron: Barker

Summary as introduced:

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Provides that the population criterion required for decisions of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority shall be the estimates, not the projections, made by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia and provides that the population estimates shall be adjusted once the estimates are available for

July 1 of the fifth year after the decennial census. Under current law the population estimates are adjusted on July 1 of the fifth year, which requires them to use the previous year's data.

02/02/16 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (39-Y 0-N)

02/05/16 House: Referred to Committee on Transportation

Notes: City Position: support

SB 477 Motor vehicle fuels; sales tax in certain transportation districts, price floor.

Patrons: Wagner and Surovell; *Delegates:* Hester, Torian and Watts

Summary as introduced:

Motor vehicle fuels sales tax in certain transportation districts. Places a floor on the 2.1 percent tax imposed on motor vehicle fuels sold in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads by ensuring that the tax is not imposed on a sales price less than the statewide average sales price on February 20, 2013, the date used as a floor on the statewide motor vehicle fuels sales tax.

02/09/16 Senate: Stricken at request of Patron in Finance (15-Y 0-N)

Notes: City Position: support

SB 532 Paper and plastic bags; authorizes localities in Planning District 8 to impose a tax.

Patrons: Surovell and Ebbin

Summary as introduced:

Planning District 8 paper and plastic bag tax. Authorizes localities in Planning District 8 by ordinance to impose a tax of five cents on disposable paper bags and disposable plastic bags. Revenues from the local tax would be collected by the Tax Commissioner and distributed monthly to the county or city imposing the tax.

01/26/16 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Finance (12-Y 3-N)

Notes: City position: support

SB 603 Absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to election.

Patrons: Howell and Favola

Summary as introduced:

Absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to election. Allows for any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in person in 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 the twenty-first day prior to the election and ending on the Saturday immediately preceding the election. The bill retains the current provisions for voting an absentee ballot by mail.

02/16/16 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket

Notes: City Position: support

SB 623 Consumer finance loans; rate of interest.

Patron: Locke

Summary as introduced:

Consumer finance loans; rate of interest. Caps the maximum rate of interest that a licensed consumer finance company may charge on any loan at 36 percent annually. The measure eliminates the existing provision that permits such licensees to charge any agreed-upon amount of interest on consumer finance loans over \$2,500.

01/25/16 Senate: Incorporated by Commerce and Labor into SB164, which was defeated

Notes: City Position: support

SB 668 Minimum wage.

Patrons: Favola and Dance

Summary as introduced:

Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$13 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$15 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

02/01/16 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Commerce and Labor (12-Y 3-N)

Notes: City position: support

SB 742 Motor vehicles; fuels sales tax in certain transportation districts.

Patrons: Wagner, Alexander, Lewis, McPike and Surovell; Delegate: Hester

Summary as passed Senate:

Motor vehicle fuels sales tax in certain transportation districts. Changes the regional gas tax in Hampton Roads from a percentage to a cents per gallon tax that decreases as the price of gas increases. The regional gas tax in Hampton Roads would have a floor of \$0.05 per gallon and a ceiling of \$0.14 per gallon and would be determined based on the average wholesale price of unleaded regular gasoline. The bill places a floor on the price of gasoline that the regional gas tax is imposed on in Northern Virginia that is identical to the floor used for the statewide gas tax and increases the regional gas tax in Northern Virginia from 2.1% to 3%.

02/12/16 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (23-Y 11-N)

02/17/16 House: Referred to Committee on Finance

Notes: City Position: support

SJ 12 Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote, restoration of civil rights.

Patron: Dance

Summary as introduced:

Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote; restoration of civil rights. Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies who have completed service of their sentences subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law. The present Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds an alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to law for nonviolent felons.

01/19/16 Senate: Continued to 2017 in Privileges and Elections (12-Y 0-N)

Notes: City Position: support