



Legislation Text

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2023

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES F. PARAJON, CITY MANAGER /s/

DOCKET TITLE:

Update on the 2023 Virginia General Assembly Session.

ISSUE: Update on the 2023 General Assembly Session.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the legislative positions included in Attachment 1 (Recommended Positions on Bills of Impact to the City), as recommended by Council's Legislative Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Councilmember McPike) at their January 13 and January 20, 2023 meetings.

DISCUSSION: The 2023 General Assembly Session began on Wednesday, January 11. The 2023 Session is a "short" 45-day Session and will adjourn sine die on Saturday, February 25. Other dates of note for the 2023 Session includes:

- Friday, January 20 was the last day to introduce bills and certain joint resolutions;
- February 5 is "Budget Sunday" when the Senate Finance and House Appropriations complete action on the Budget Bills;
- Tuesday, February 7 is "Crossover," the last day for each house to act on its own legislation, except Budget Bills Sunday;
- Thursday, February 9 is the deadline for Houses of origin to complete action on Budget Bills;
- Wednesday, February 15 is the last day to act on Budget Bills and revenue bills of other house and appoint conferees; and
- Monday, February 20 is the last day for committee action on remaining bills.

Sarah Graham Taylor, the City's Legislative Director, will continue to represent the City at the General Assembly during the 2023 General Assembly Session.

Recommended positions on 357 bills have already been completed by staff, approved by the Legislative

Subcommittee, and are included in the attached documents for your approval.

Legislative Package - The City's 2023 Legislative Package (Attachment 3) has the proposals organized into two sections - Legislative Principles and Legislative Priorities.

The section of Legislative Principles is structured around City Council Priorities and creates a clear nexus between the City's goals and the legislative and funding measures necessary for us to achieve these goals. In general, the Legislative Principles are broadly crafted and focus on comprehensive legislative strategies rather than specific legislative tactics.

A number of pieces of legislation that align with and support the City's Legislative Principles have been filed, including bills related to voter access, energy efficiency, marriage equality, common sense gun legislation, recycling, mitigation of inland flooding, eviction prevention, and the preservation and expansion of affordable housing.

The City's Legislative Priorities are, generally, specific revenue and legislative proposals that the City has identified as the issues of greatest impact to the City. These are the issues the City intends to continue expending significant political capital on and the issues that we intend to ask our General Assembly delegation to engage in on behalf of the City.

Legislation filed to date that aligns with and supports the City's Legislative Priorities includes legislation to:

- Provide the City with authority to establish a locally administered health department (SB 1344);
- Provide localities with authority to enforce the life/health/safety provisions of the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (HB 1650);
- Extending the "pay or quit" period for tenants facing eviction from 5 to 14 days (HB 1830);
- Changing the word "handicapped" in code to reflect person first language, including "persons with disabilities" (HB 1450, SB 798);
- Removing the surety bond requirement for members of the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission (SB 942, HB 2371);
- Expanding the membership of the current Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding to include members from urban and rural localities that experience riverine and stormwater flooding as well as additional subject matter experts (HJ 516, SJ 243);
- Allow law enforcement agencies to hire individuals who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence who have resided in the United States for no less than 60 months and who are both eligible for and have applied for United States citizenship (HB 1994);
- Make the Unlawful Detainer Form more accessible and navigable to pro se litigants, with a focus on plain language/plain English materials and translation opportunities (HB 1996).

There are budget amendments that have been filed with impact to the City, including:

- \$50K for LINK Club (Item 136 #31h)
- \$16M to establish a regional Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Facility (CRSF) in Region 2, serving the City of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax-Falls Church, Loudoun, and Prince William

(Item 312 #1h)

- \$700K to the City of Alexandria to support the development of MetroStage Theatre (Item 244 #2s)
- \$700K to offset losses to local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) due to the impact of 2020 census changes on the distribution formula for federal Older Americans Act funding. This would ensure that 11 AAAs - including Alexandria - would not experience funding losses due to the impact of census changes on funding distribution (Item 331 #2s)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Recommended Positions on Bills of Impact to the City Discussed at the January 13, 2023, Legislative Subcommittee Meeting and the January 20, 2022, Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
2. City of Alexandria 2022 Legislative Package

STAFF:

Sarah Taylor, Assistant City Manager, Legislative Director
Alexis Quinn, Management Analyst, Legislative Aide