



Legislation Text

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File #: 22-0745, Version: 1

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JANUARY 23, 2022

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** JAMES F. PARAJON, CITY MANAGER

**DOCKET TITLE:**

Update on the 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session.

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**ISSUE:** Update on the 2022 General Assembly Session.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council approve the legislative positions included in Attachments 1 and 2 (**Recommended Positions on Bills of Impact to the City**), as recommended by Council's Legislative Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Councilmember McPike) at their January 14 and January 21, 2022 meetings.

**DISCUSSION:** The 2022 General Assembly Session began on Wednesday, January 12. The 2022 Session is a "long" 60-day Session and will adjourn sine die on Saturday, March 12. Other dates of note for the 2022 Session include: Friday, January 21 was the last day to introduce bills and certain joint resolutions; Tuesday, February 15 is "Crossover," the last day for each house to act on its own legislation, except Budget Bills; Sunday, February 20 is "Budget Sunday" when the Senate Finance and House Appropriations complete action on the Budget Bills; and Monday, March 7 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 2022 General Assembly Session.

Recommended positions on 208 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 2022 Legislative Package (Attachment 3) has the proposals organized into two sections - Legislative Principles and Legislative Priorities.

The section of Legislative Principles is structured around the City's Strategic Plan 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, broadband access, mitigation of inland flooding, expansion of tree canopy, and legislation to make the temporary provision allowing restaurants to sell "take home" mixed beverages permanent.

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:

- Require electric utilities to report and public reliability metrics and provide information on the nexus between distribution and transmission infrastructure investment and reliability - SB 280, HB 414
- Provide authority and funding for localities to mitigate the impacts of inland flooding, including HB 448
- Expand local authority to expand affordable housing - HB 465
- Enhance building safety
- Require a homeowner purchase a land survey upon purchasing a home in a historic district - SB 286
- Reinstate local authority to regulate vehicle exhaust noise - HB 367, HB 632, SB 180
- Reallocate TRIP funding to support low and no-fare public transit - HB 142, SB 342
- Expand data and information sharing among agencies serving crossover youth - SB 326
- Expand who can serve to support local Children's Services Act funded programs - SB 435, HB 427
- Continue to increase funding for the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund - SB 299
- Protect residents experiencing housing insecurity, including SB 284, HB 160
- Increase opportunities for electronic participation in public meetings - HB 444, SB 214, HB 722
- Implement the recommendations of the General Assembly's Joint Subcommittee to Study Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform, including HJ 53
- Increase energy efficiency in buildings and strengthen energy conservation building codes in buildings, including SB 452, HB 701 and HB 905

The City has budget requests in the Governor's outgoing budget (SB 30/HB 30), including \$40 million in funding for the Alexandria CSO project and \$500,000 in funding for the restoration and renovation of Douglass Memorial Cemetery. In addition, staff has worked on budget amendments to support the study and implementation of programs to ensure parents have access to adequate and effective legal representation in child welfare proceedings, stand up a work group to study inland flooding, and increase funding for the City's Douglass Memorial Cemetery project.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Recommended Positions on Bills of Impact to the City Discussed at the January 7, 2022, Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
2. Recommended Positions on Bills of Impact to the City Discussed at the January 14, 2022, Legislative

Subcommittee Meeting

3. City of Alexandria 2022 Legislative Package

**STAFF:**

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