2019 Federation Legislative Issues
Status Report as of: THURSDAY, 21 February, 2019

All below Legislative Issues were submitted by the Federation on 1 November, 2018, to the Fairfax delegation to the 2019 General Assembly and to the Board of Supervisors.

Status updates from Tim Thompson, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee, and Past-President. Additional research by Bill Barfield, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee, and President.

Issue ID - Legislative Issue
a) Background
b) Federation Position
c) Status

19A01 - Local Authority to Regulate Short Term Rentals
a) The 2018 General Assembly authorized local governments to regulate short term rentals. Fairfax County has done so.
b) Do not repeal this authorization.
c) SUCCESS - Sen Ebbin’s bill (SB1701) killed in the House Counties, Cities & Towns Subcommittee #2.

19E01 - City-County Revenue Equalization
a) Virginia allows city governments more options to raise revenue than counties.
b) Authorize counties the same revenue options as cities.
c) Pair of companion bills defeated in full committees of respective chambers. SB200 (carry-over from Favola 2018 session and Federation 18E01) is being combined into the nucleus of the Governor Tax Reform package for the 2020 session.

19E02 - Free and Reduced Meals
a) It generally costs more to educate students who qualify for FRM but the state funding formulas do not include this factor.
b) Structure state educational support so that additional money is provided on a per student basis for FRM students.
c) Though no particular bill made it out of Committee, unbelievable positive traction for the 2020 session from VEA's support with their push for “At-Risk Add-On” Funding (a per-pupil basis program).

2/24 · Education:
· - $85.7M in net new funding for K-12 education. Over the biennium, Fairfax County Public Schools will see an increase in basic state aid of ~$7M.
- The biennial budget already included an increase in teacher salaries by 3%. The amendments increase this to 5% and is part of our effort to address Virginia’s growing teacher shortage.

- $12.2M to increase the counselor-to-student ratio in public schools and $5.7M for other school safety recommendations of the Select Committee on School Safety.

19E03 - School Opening Date
a) The Virginia Board of Education decides whether school districts may open before Labor Day.
b) Authorize local school boards to establish their schools’ start dates.
c) IT PASSED! Waiting for Governor's signature.

19C01 - Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
a) PACE is a regional program that helps commercial property owners borrow for cost effective clean energy capital improvements. The government facilitates by collecting loan payments as an add-on to property taxes. Local governments must pass enabling legislation.
b) Expand the program to include condominium and homeowner associations. Pass statewide enabling legislation.
c) SB1200 passed as amended with deletion of “Residence”. Waiting Governor’s signature.

19C02 - Roadway Salt and Lawn Fertilizer
a) Road salt & lawn fertilizer are major pollutants.
a.1) SALT: VDOT is developing a Salt Management Strategy (SaMS).
a.2) FERTILIZER: Lawn care companies apply more applications than necessary.
b.1) SALT: Support identification and promote adoption of best management practices.
b.2) FERTILIZER: Reassess Nutrient Management Standards/Criteria; Enforce contractor-operator compliance; Expand public outreach and education.
c) HB2023 (Murphy) - Laid on Table. Meetings being scheduled with Chesapeake Bay Foundation to jointly approach this issue together and to maximize efforts to pass bill in the 2020 session.
In a related Environment/Stormwater Management bill, $10M was passed for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which is used to help urban areas meet Chesapeake Bay restoration requirements.

19C03 - Plastic Bags
a) Single-use plastic bags are an environmental disaster: they are difficult to recycle and, as litter they degrade into micro-plastics that enter the food chain.
b) Ban (or tax to reduce use of) single-use plastic bags.
c) SB1116 (Petersen) - Failed to Report from Senate Finance Committee vote by (5-11).
19L01 - Proffers and Impact Fees
a) Previously, proffers were negotiated between developer and local government. In 2016, in response to misuse by some local governments, the state put severe and confusing limitations on proffers.
b) Establish clear and concise standards for the adoption and use of proffers associated with rezonings and new development.
c) SB1373 (Favola) – PASSED the Senate 40-0, and the House 93-4-1.

2/17 The Proffer Bill SB1373 – Favola, also teasingly called "Barbara's Law" by Chairman Stanley, combines both the home builders and local county governments into a renewed partnership.

The bill, sitting on the Gov'r desk for signature, establishes a framework for the “give and take” associated with the approval of new development RESIDENTIAL projects (remember: existing proffer policy did NOT include commercial projects/development, only residential developments). It identifies the appropriate proffers to ensure that communities achieve the infrastructure necessary to sustain growth.

19G01 - Redistricting Commission
a) The legislature – with governor sign-off – draws legislative and Congressional districts after each census. The party in power typically draws districts for political advantage.
b) Establish a non-partisan redistricting commission to define legislative and Congressional districts.
c) HJ615ER (Cole / Kory) Passed House 51-48, had second reading in Senate, awaiting final floor vote.

2/24 Redistricting:
The proposed constitutional amendment that will make meaningful changes (SJ306).

The measure establishes the Virginia Redistricting Commission, to be comprised of 16 members tasked with establishing legislative districts every ten years. The membership would consist of eight legislative members (with equal representation from the two major parties) and eight citizen members. The citizen members would be selected by a committee of five retired Virginia judges. Any redistricting plan must have the vote of at least six of the eight legislative members and six of the eight citizen members. Should the commission fail to act, or the General Assembly fail to adopt the plan recommended by the commission, then districts would be drawn by the Virginia Supreme Court.

19P01 - Reduce Hand-Held Devices Usage While Driving
a) Current law prohibits drivers under age 18 from using cell phones and texting and older drivers from texting.
b) Prohibit the use of hand-held communication devises by all while operating motor vehicles, with exceptions for while legally parked, GPS-devices, emergency vehicles, and emergency situations.

c) **SB1341 (Stuart) - Passed Senate 34-6. Passed out of House Subcommittee #1 of Courts of Justice. Marcus Simon & Vivian Watts are both on full Committee of Courts of Justice. House vote ??** Legislation requiring hands-free technology for personal communications devices while driving faltered right before the finish line (**HB1811**). While the original bill would have required hands-free, the conference committee report only made minor tweaks to our existing texting and driving law and was rejected.

**19T01 - Smart Transportation: Sources to Promote Regional Connectivity**

a) Current transportation funding and priorities are auto centric, to the exclusion of other modes that could enable a better working network.

b) Five specific positions to seek new funding and study alternative methods of improving mobility.

c) **HJ647 (Carroll Foy) - Laid on Table in Rules Subcommittee #1 (8-0).**

ERA Resolution:

2/22 ERA Amendment. The House Leadership, despite Marcus Simon's parliamentary efforts, prevent the bill to come directly to the House floor, despite its passage in the Senate (and its same party control). Therefore - DEAD this session.
Tim

Sun 2/24/2019 4:18 PM
Hello All -
Latest updates from Richmond. As you can see that since Thursday evening, a couple of bills cleared a Conference Cmte and came away either "really changed" or didn't make it out of cmtte (ie: Hands Free Driving)

Being so close to get your respective committee's position adapted by the GA means just a bit more work - and maybe having witnesses appear in Richmond to speak on behalf of the legislator carrying your cmtte's bill could do the trick next year (just ask Don Hinman - Great Job this year Don! You too Flint, Nancy & Ed)

Let me know if you have any questions that I'd be more than happy to answer for you.
Tim

Friday, February 22, 2019 5:45 PM
I updated the Leg Pkge w/ Bill B at lunch yesterday, and

All other legislative concerns of the Leg Pkge updated as shared w/ the Federation's Board last week which Bill was to reply /present to the Membership last night on behalf of the Legislative Cmte.

Only other "update" which was totally expected (and barely an "outstanding item") was the

Tim
Sun 2/17/2019 2:46 PM
To patrick, cc: env, land, ed, trans cmte
Update on the Proffer Bill (SB1371 - Favola) as promised in an earlier Leg Pkge update.

Sunday, February 17, 2019 2:33 PM
Forgot to say that the legislation to "decouple" itemize individual's tax deductions was also passed - resolution I believe and since wasn't part of the Leg Pkge forgot about during my Leg Cmte update... Gov'r signed tax bill containing decoupling language other day I believe as it passed both chambers.