

# Special Session Update

## RECAP

The Governor's proclamation issued on July 17<sup>th</sup>, summoned the members to commence a special session of the General Assembly on August 18<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of "adopting a budget based on the revised revenue forecast and consideration of legislation related to the emergency of COVID-19 and criminal and social justice reforms." Although there was discussion by the Senate as to limiting the number of bills to be introduced per member, ultimately neither body set a limit. The Senate Chairwoman of the Finance and Appropriations Committee, Senator Janet Howell, did not permit Senate members to introduce budget amendments for consideration; however, the committee members themselves – more specifically, the conferees, will be drafting any amendments to the introduced Budget. The Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Delegate Luke Torian, did allow House members to introduce amendments to the Budget and followed the consideration process used during a regular session. Chairman Torian did request that members limit their requests to their top three priorities and did not require that the budget requests be in accordance with the subject areas of the Governor's proclamation.

Below is a statistical summary update of the status of the 407 bills and resolutions introduced during the session. Following the statistics table is a subject matter breakdown of bills that have advanced through the committee process and are now being heard by the full House and Senate.

## THIS WEEK – (September 21 – September 25):

Both the House and Senate conducted committee hearings starting on Monday this week and moved through hearings at a consistent pace through mid-week with many bills being re-referred to either Senate Finance or House Appropriations for review of fiscal impact. Senate Finance met on Thursday to consider all non-budget bills referred to the committee with a few making it out of Finance and advancing to the Senate floor for debate on Friday. The House of Delegates had a House Appropriations meeting scheduled for Wednesday which was rescheduled to Friday where the House released their proposed amendments to the budget and considered several remaining criminal and police reform bills that were reviewed to House Appropriations. The House budget includes investments in broadband to address the increased need due to virtual schooling and teleworking. The House budget also restores K-12 funding, directs use of CARES Act funding to support school physical re-opening. Higher education is also supported with \$80 million in additional general fund supports. Human services and mental health support is also amended with adjustments made to mental health funding, substance abuse funding, Medicaid adjustments, hazard duty pay supplements and several language amendments dealing with COVID reporting and handling of vaccine. The full staff presentations outlining the proposed amendments are available to review at the bottom of this update. HB5005 passed the Appropriations Committee and now moves to the House floor for debate next week. Friday's meeting is the last scheduled meeting to consider Senate bills.

Senate Finance also met on Friday to introduce their amendments to SB5015 – the Senate budget. The Senate budget, like the House’s, included funding for criminal justice and police reform; however the Senate budget allocated \$11.2 million in reform funding and a \$500 law enforcement officer raise versus the House budget of \$28.4 which funds some legislative initiatives such as the administrative costs associated with the expungement of criminal records and developing a system for earned credits while incarcerated. State and local employees and first-time teachers would receive a 2% bonus under the Senate plan while the House budget includes \$82 million for a \$1,500 state supported local employees if the state meets its revenue goals for fiscal year ending on June 30, 2021. Nursing homes also receive support under both plans by ending the extra \$20.00 per day Medicaid stipend which assists in ensuring that skilled nursing homes are able to maintain staffing care levels.

While the Senate again expressed concerns this week regarding communication delayed coming over from the House making it challenging to schedule, with both bodies now advancing their budgets for floor votes, we may be getting close to the finish line on special session. However, as the General Assembly failed to pass a procedural resolution at the start of session, it is unclear how they will work through the normal budget conferee process. The Governor is set to introduce his proposed budget for the 2021 General Assembly session on December 15, 2020.

The House will hold a public budget briefing on Monday at 10:00 with floor budget amendments by members due by noon on Monday. The budget briefing may be viewed at <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/committees/commstream.html>. The House will hear the budget on the House floor on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> with the Senate budget floor session on Thursday, October 1st.

Type	Introduced	Passed House	Passed Senate	Passed	Cont'd to next session	Failed	Pending	Approved	Vetoed
H.B.	149	38	0	0	0	29	120	0	0
H.J.R.	13	3	0	0	0	2	11	0	0
H.R.	103	85	0	85	0	0	20	0	0
S.B.	121	1	44	1	0	75	45	1	0
S.J.R.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
S.R.	51	0	40	40	0	0	11	0	0
Totals	440	127	84	126	0	107	207	1	0

*NOTE: While the total pending bills/resolutions increased from 201 from last week, all HR and SR resolutions are commending/memorializing resolutions and should not factor in as a gauge of work/timing of remaining special session efforts.*

## COVID:

The Governor is requesting that language be placed in the budget for utility debt forgiveness be granted to rate payers who have lapsed 60 days in their electric bill. These funds will come from overcharges by electric utilities in a statement by the SCC earlier this week. (The final decision on the overcharges were to be determined following an established SCC process in the spring of 2021.)

<p><b>HB 5028</b> - <b>Jones</b> - Workers' compensation; presumption of compensability for COVID - 19.</p>	<p>Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(S) Passed by indefinitely in Finance and Appropriations (15-Y 1-N)</p>	<p>09/24/20</p>
<p><b>HB 5050</b> - <b>Helmer</b> - Emergency Services and Disaster Law; powers and duties of Governor, purchase of PPE.</p>	<p>Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(S) Constitutional reading dispensed (36-Y 0-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>HB 5059</b> - <b>Willett</b> - Hospices, certain, home care organizations, etc.; immunity from civil liability, COVID- 19.</p>	<p>Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(S) Passed the Senate (36-Y 0-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>HB 5093</b> - <b>Watts</b> - Emergency Services and Disaster Law; powers and duties of the Governor, executive orders, penalty.</p>	<p>PASSED THE HOUSE <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(S) Passed the Senate with Amendment (19-Y 17-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>HB 5106</b> - <b>Cole, J.G.</b> - Landlord and tenant; noncompliance with rental agreement, reporting negative credit information.</p>	<p>PASSED THE HOUSE <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(S) Passed the Senate with Amendment (19-Y 17-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>HB 5115</b> - <b>Price</b> - Emergency laws; civil relief, citizens furloughed or otherwise receiving reduced wages or payments.</p>	<p>(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(S) Passed by for the day</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>

<b>HB 5116 - Guzman</b> - Public and private employers; required to provide eligible employees paid quarantine leave, etc.	(H) Committee on Appropriations  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Passed by indefinitely in Commerce and Labor (14-Y 1-N)	09/16/20
<b>SB 5025 - Newman</b> - Emergency orders and regulations; orders adopted by the Board and Commissioner of Health, duration.	(S) Committee on Education and Health  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Tabled in Health, Welfare and Institutions (13-Y 9-N)	09/17/20
<b>SB 5039 - Marsden</b> - Emergency Services and Disaster Law; powers and duties of Governor, purchase of PPE.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Passed House with substitute 65-Y 32-N	09/25/20
<b>SB 5051 - Hashmi</b> - Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; temporary prohibition against landlord termination.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations	08/27/20
<b>SB 5066 - Saslaw</b> - Workers' compensation; presumption of compensability for COVID-19.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered	09/09/20
<b>SB 5081 - Barker</b> - Outbreaks of communicable disease of public health threat; posting of information about cases.	(S) Committee on Education and Health  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Passed House with amendment BLOCK VOTE (97-Y 0-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5082 - Marsden</b> - Hospices, certain, home care organizations, etc.; immunity from civil liability, COVID-19.	(S) Committee on the Judiciary  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Passed the House (87-Y 9-N)	09/25/20

<p><b>SB 5088</b> - Ebbin - Virginia Residential Landlord &amp; Tenant Act; landlord remedies, noncompliance with rental agreement.</p>	<p>(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology</p> <p><a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(H) Passed House with substitute 55-Y 42-N</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>SB 5090</b> - Dunnivant - COVID-19 virus; Commissioner of Health shall make information available to public on a website.</p>	<p>(S) Committee on Education and Health</p> <p><a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(H) Passed House with substitute with amendment (97-Y 0-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>SB 5095</b> - Dunnivant - Rapid diagnostic testing; availability to all essential workers.</p>	<p>(S) Committee on Education and Health</p> <p><a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(H) Tabled in Health, Welfare and Institutions (13-Y 9-N)</p>	<p>09/17/20</p>
<p><b>SB 5106</b> - Lewis - Local land use approvals; extension of approvals to address the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>(S) Committee on Local Government</p>	<p>(H) Passed by for the day</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>SB 5107</b> - McPike - Unemployment compensation; extends date VEC is required to establish, etc., short-time compensation.</p>	<p>(S) Committee on Commerce and Labor</p> <p><a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a></p>	<p>(H) Defeated by House (75-Y 22-N) (Requires 78 affirmative votes to pass)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b>SB 5109</b> - Chafin - Nursing home/assisted living facility employees/residents; priority for testing for COVID-19 virus.</p>	<p>(S) Committee on Education and Health</p>	<p>(H) Tabled in Health, Welfare and Institutions (13-Y 9-N)</p>	<p>09/17/20</p>

<b>SB 5117 - Deeds</b> - Emergency Services and Disaster Law; powers and duties of the Governor, executive orders, penalty.	(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	(H) Passed House with amendment (56-Y 41-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5118 - McClellan</b> - Emergency Debt Repayment Plan; every utility providing electric, gas, etc., service to develop.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations  <a href="#"><u>FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</u></a>	(H) Referred to Appropriations	09/17/20

## EDUCATION:

<b>SB 5068 - Peake</b> - Student safety drills and student health screenings; school boards to waiver drills & screenings.	(S) Committee on Education and Health  <a href="#"><u>FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</u></a>	(H) Referred to Committee on Education	09/17/20
<b>SB 5083 - McClellan</b> - School boards; board required to post on its website the COVID-19 virus mitigation plan.	(S) Committee on Education and Health  <a href="#"><u>FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</u></a>	(H) Passed by for the day	09/25/20
<b>SB 5100 - Dunnivant</b> - Public schools; COVID-19-related absences.	(S) Committee on Education and Health  <a href="#"><u>FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</u></a>	(H) Referred to the Committee on Education	09/17/20
<b>SB 5101 - Dunnivant</b> - Private school employees and volunteers; essential workers, personal protective equipment.	(S) Committee on Education and Health	(H) Referred to the Committee on Education	09/17/20

## ELECTIONS:

The State Board of Elections The State Board of Elections met on September 18<sup>th</sup> to certify the use of DemTech Centerpoint system electronic pollbooks.

<p><b><u>HB 5103</u></b> - <u>Sickles</u> - Elections, Department of; appropriations to provide prepaid postage for return of absentee ballots.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u></a></p> <hr/> <p><a href="#"><u>(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations</u></a></p>	<p>(S) Recommitted to Finance and Appropriations</p>	<p>09/10/20</p>
<p><b><u>SB 5120</u></b> - <u>Howell</u> - Elections, Department of; appropriations to provide prepaid postage for return of absentee ballots.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u></a></p> <hr/> <p><a href="#"><u>(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</u></a></p>	<p>(G) Approved by Governor-Chapter 1 (effective 9/4/20)</p>	<p>09/04/20</p>

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM:

<p><b><u>HB 5045</u></b> - <u>Delaney</u> - Inmate, parolee, probationer, detainee, or pretrial defendant, etc.; carnal knowledge.</p>	<p>Passed the House</p>	<p>(S) Constitutional reading dispensed (36-Y 0-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b><u>HB 5108</u></b> - <u>Guzman</u> - Criminal Justice Services Board and Committee on Training; change in membership &amp; responsibilities.</p>	<p>Passed the House</p>	<p>(S) Constitutional reading dispensed (36-Y 0-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b><u>HB 5146</u></b> - <u>Herring</u> - Criminal records; automatic expungement for certain convictions, etc.</p>	<p>Passed the House</p>	<p>(S) Constitutional reading dispensed (36-Y 0-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>
<p><b><u>HB 5148</u></b> - <u>Scott</u> - Earned sentence credits; max. of 4.5 credits may be earned for each 30 days served on certain sent.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u></a></p>	<p>(S) Constitutional reading dispensed (36-Y 0-N)</p>	<p>09/25/20</p>

<b>SB 5007</b> - Morrissey - Criminal cases; sentencing reform.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations	(H) Reported from Appropriations (13-Y 9-N) with amended enactment clause.	09/25/20
<b>SB 5012</b> - Suetterlein - Virginia Freedom of Information Act; Virginia Parole Board member votes.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations	(H) Tabled in Courts of Justice (13-Y 7-N)	09/22/20
<b>SB 5013</b> - Stuart - Marijuana; possession, violations by an adult shall be prepayable.	(S) Committee on the Judiciary	(H) Passed House (63-Y 34-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5017</b> - Boysko - Correctional facility, local; clarifies definition.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations	(H) Reported from Appropriations (13-Y 8-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5018</b> - Bell - Geriatric, terminally ill, or permanently physically disabled prisoners; conditional release.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations	(H) Reported from Appropriations with substitute (14-Y 8-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5032</b> - Surovell - Assault and battery; penalty.	(S) Committee on the Judiciary	(H) Passed by indefinitely in Courts of Justice (18-Y 1-N)	09/22/20
<b>SB 5033</b> - Surovell - Court authority in criminal cases; prosecutorial discretion to dispose of a criminal case.	(S) Committee on the Judiciary	(H) Passed House with substitute (53-Y 44-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5041</b> - Stuart - Concealed handgun permits; demonstration of competence, changes effective date.	(S) Committee on the Judiciary	(H) Referred to Public Safety	09/17/20
<b>SB 5043</b> - Deeds - Police and court records; expungement of certain records.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations	(H) Reported from Appropriations (15-Y 7-N)	09/25/20



<b>SB 5050 - Obenshain - Parole;</b> notice and certification, monthly reports, discretionary early consideration.	(S) Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services	(H) Tabled in Courts of Justice (13-Y 7-N)	09/22/20
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## POLICE REFORM:

<b>HB 5029 - McQuinn - Law-enforcement officer;</b> failure to intervene in an unlawful use of excessive force, penalties.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (12-Y 4-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5043 - Bourne - Mental health awareness response &amp; community understanding serv. (Marcus) alert syst.;</b> establishes.	(H) Committee on Appropriations <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (12-Y 3-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5049 - Helmer – Law enforcement agencies;</b> acquisition and use of military property.	(H) Committee on Appropriations – REPORTED WITH A SUBSTITUTE <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Constitutional reading dispensed (36-Y 0-N)	09/25/20
<b>HB 5051 - Simon – Law enforcement officer or jail officer;</b> notice to Criminal Justice Services Board of misconduct.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (11-Y 5-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5055 - Herring – Law enforcement civilian review panels;</b> localities required, on or before 7/1/2021, to establish.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (11-Y 4-N)	09/24/20

<b>HB 5058 - Hope</b> - Marijuana and certain traffic offenses; issuing citations, etc.,	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (11-Y 5-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5069 - Carroll Foy</b> – Law enforcement officers; prohibition on the use of neck restraints, Class 6 felony.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (11-Y 5-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5072 - Lopez</b> – Law enforcement; Attorney Gen. authorized to file civil suit or inquire into any unlawful practice.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (11-Y 5-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5090 - Hurst</b> - Virginia Freedom of Information Act; law-enforcement criminal incident information, etc.	(H) Committee on Appropriations (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	(S) Passed by indefinitely in General Laws and Technology with letter (14-Y 0-N)	09/18/20
<b>HB 5098 - Askew</b> - Hate crimes; falsely summoning or giving false reports to law-enforcement officials, penalty.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (16-Y 0-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5099 - Aird</b> - Search warrants; prohibition on no knock search warrants.	Passed the House	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (11-Y 5-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5104 - Price</b> - Law-enforcement officers, sheriff, etc.; minimum qualifications, disclosure of information.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (16-Y 0-N)	09/24/20
<b>HB 5109 - Hope</b> – Law enforcement officer training & qualifications; DCJS to develop uniform curriculum & plans, etc.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Reported from Finance and Appropriations (16-Y 0-N)	09/24/20

<b>HB 5112</b> - Levine – Law enforcement officer; duty to render aid, duty to report wrongdoing by another officer.	Passed the House <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(S) Passed by indefinitely in Judiciary (10-Y 3-N)	09/16/20
<b>SB 5003</b> - Stuart - Civil Rights and Policing, Commission on; established, membership, report, sunset provision.	(S) Committee on Rules <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Referred to House Committee on Rules	09/17/20
<b>SB 5014</b> - Edwards – Law enforcement officers; officers to complete crisis intervention team training.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations	(H) Reported from Appropriations	09/25/20
<b>SB 5024</b> - Lucas – Law enforcement; Attorney Gen. authorized to file civil suit or inquire into any unlawful practice.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Reported from Appropriations	09/25/20
<b>SB 5029</b> - Lucas - Marijuana and certain traffic infractions; possession, issuing citations.	(S) Committee on the Judiciary <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Passed the House with substitute (51-Y 45-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5030</b> - Locke - Policing reform; acquisition of military property, training of officers in de-escalation techniques.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Reported from Appropriations with substitute (13-Y 9-N)	09/25/20
<b>SB 5035</b> - Hashmi – Law enforcement civilian review boards; locality authorized to establish.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Read second time	09/24/20

<b>SB 5038</b> - McPike - Mobile crisis co-response team programs; DCJS & DBHDS to establish throughout the Commonwealth.	(S) Committee on Finance and Appropriations  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Referred to Committee on Appropriations	09/21/20
<b>SB 5052</b> - Reeves – Law enforcement agencies; body-worn camera systems.	(S) Committee on the Judiciary  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Referred to Committee on Appropriations	09/21/20

### OTHER:

<b>HB 5030</b> - McQuinn - Monuments and memorials for war veterans; authority of localities.	(H) Committee on Rules	(S) Referred to Committee on Local Government	09/09/20
<b>SB 5031</b> - Locke - Legal holidays; Juneteenth.	(S) <a href="#">Committee on General Laws and Technology</a>  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Read second time	09/24/20
<b>SB 5036</b> - McPike - Alcoholic beverage control; local special events license, limitations on events, etc.	(S) Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services  <a href="#">FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT</a>	(H) Read second time	09/24/20

### OTHER KEY ITEMS:

#### House Appropriations Budget:

Chairman’s Remarks on House Budget amendments [here](#)

Recommended Amendments to HB5005 Staff Presentation [here](#)

Committee Approved Budget [here](#)

#### Senate Finance Budget:

Recommended Amendments to SB5015 Staff Presentation [here](#)

## **Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission Meeting Presentation:**

Potential JLARC Study Topics ([Presentation](#))

### **Department of Labor & Industry Public Hearing on 9/30 @ 9:15 am.**

The Safety and Health Codes Board adopted an Emergency Temporary Standing – Infectious Disease Prevention SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19 on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This standard became effective immediately. A public hearing will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> for consideration to make these temporary standards permanent. An excerpt of the official notice follows:

A public hearing is being held for the purpose of consideration of 16VAC25-220, Proposed Permanent Standard: Infectious Disease Prevention: SARS-CoV2 Virus That Causes COVID-19 by the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board pursuant to Va. Code §40.1-22(6a).

Notice of this public hearing will be published in the Richmond Times Dispatch on September 25, 2020. Notice of this hearing was also published on the Virginia Regulatory Townhall's website here: <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewMeeting.cfm?MeetingID=31418>.

Any member of the public wishing to speak can do so by submitting a request in advance to Princy.Doss@doli.virginia.gov no later than 5:00 PM on September 29, 2020 indicating that they wish to offer oral comment. Comments may be offered by these individuals when their name is announced by Ms. Doss. Oral comments must be restricted to 5 minutes each.

### **PRESS ARTICLES:**

#### **[Assembly's money committees adopt competing spending plans amid pandemic](#)**

Almost six weeks into a special session of the General Assembly called to revise the state budget, the General Assembly's money committees adopted a pair of competing two-year spending plans on Friday that rely heavily on federal emergency aid for the COVID-19 pandemic, while proposing targeted investments in K-12 and higher education, child care, behavioral health, Medicaid services and protections for the most vulnerable Virginians. *Richmond Times Dispatch – 9/25/20*

#### **[Virginia changes guidelines to make it easier for landlords seeking rent and mortgage relief](#)**

Virginia landlords can now apply for assistance on behalf of tenants who owe back rent through a state relief program.

Gov. Ralph Northam announced the change to the state's \$50 million rent and mortgage relief program Thursday. Using federal CARES Act money, Northam set up the program

at the end of June to quell housing instability stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. – *Richmond Times Dispatch* 9/24/20

### [New unemployment claims rose last week in Virginia](#)

The number of people filing new unemployment claims in Virginia last week rose by 482 to 10,582 compared with the week before as the fall from a peak of 147,369 new claims in mid-April remains bumpy. Those who are still collecting unemployment benefits after making that initial claim dropped to 188,195, though, falling for the fifth straight week, according to data released Thursday by the Virginia Employment Commission. *Virginian Pilot* – 9/24/20

### [Governor Northam Announces Refinancing Plan to Save Virginia Colleges and Universities More Than \\$300 Million Over Next Two Years](#)

Governor Ralph Northam today announced a higher education refinancing plan that will save Virginia's public colleges and universities more than \$300 million over the next two years. The Commonwealth of Virginia will take advantage of low interest rates by refinancing bonds issued by the Treasury Board of Virginia (TBV) and the Virginia College Building Authority (VCBA), which institutions of higher education use for capital projects. The Governor was joined by George Mason University President Dr. Gregory Washington and state legislators for the announcement at the university's Fairfax campus. – *Governor's Press Release* – 9/22/20

### [House committee kills two Senate bills that would have required greater Virginia Parole Board transparency](#)

In a party-line vote, the Virginia House of Delegates' Courts of Justice Committee effectively killed two Senate bills that would have required greater transparency of decisions made by the Virginia Parole Board, which has come under intense scrutiny in recent months for the controversial release of convicted killers. – *Richmond Times Dispatch* – 09/22/20

### [State delegate joins business owners in lawsuit challenging Virginia's virus workplace safety regulations](#)

A state delegate joined the Virginia Manufacturers Association and other business owners to challenge [emergency COVID-19 safety regulations](#) adopted by the state's Safety and Health Codes Board in July. – *Virginia Mercury* – 09/22/20

### [Virginia public schools are seeing an early drop in enrollment. It could put millions in state funding at risk.](#)

Since the start of the school year in August, Radford City Schools have lost around 75 students compared to enrollment counts last May, according to district Superintendent Robert Graham. Across the state in Middlesex County, public schools are down roughly 47 students, said Superintendent Pete Gretz. – *Virginia Mercury* – 9/18/20