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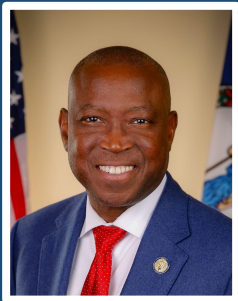
2026 General Assembly Session Recap

Prepared by Ed Reed, Vice President

Setting the Stage

House of Delegates

64 Democrats and 36 Republicans



Speaker of the House
Delegate Don Scott
(D-Portsmouth)



Majority Leader
Delegate Charniele Herring
(D-Alexandria)



Minority Leader
Delegate Terry Kilgore
(R-Scott)

*Recent resignation from Del. Michelle Maldonado (D) effective May 31st

Senate

21 Democrats and 19 Republicans



President

Lt. Gov. Ghazala Hashmi (D)



Majority Leader

Senator Scott Surovell
(D-Fairfax County)



Minority Leader

Senator Ryan McDougle
(R-Hanover County)

New Local Government Committee Leadership



Senator Lashrecse Aird
Henrico County



Delegate Dan Helmer
Fairfax County

Administration



Governor
Abigail
Spanberger (D)



Lieutenant Governor
Ghazala Hashmi (D)



Attorney General
Jay Jones (D)

General Assembly Delegation



Senator Mamie Locke
District 23



Delegate Jeion Ward
District 87



Delegate Virgil Thornton
District 86



General Assembly 2026 Session Overview

3,646 bills introduced

2,379 bills passed

31 bills vetoed

*Negotiations over new biennial
budget are ongoing*



Retail Cannabis
SB452/HB642



Skill Games
SB661/HB1272



**Collective
Bargaining**
SB378/HB1263



**Paid Family
Medical Leave**
SB2/HB1207



Data Centers
Budget



Housing
SB388/HB1279

City of Hampton Requested & Priority Bills

Bill Number	Description	Additional Information
<u>HB 115 (Ward)</u>	Establishes the Waste to Energy Grant Program to incentivize eligible localities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Struck from the docket
<u>HB 778 (Thornton)</u>	Allows a locality by ordinance to establish pop-up event zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Continued to 2027 with a letter to the Virginia Crime Commission● Recent meeting with the City of VA Beach & Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
<u>SB 543 (Aird)</u>	Amends various provisions of law to increase enforcement and penalties related to the illegal sale of marijuana or marijuana products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Passed and signed by the Governor
<u>HJ 16 (Convirs-Fowler)</u>	Continues the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding for an additional year, through the 2027 interim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Passed and effective July 1st

Bill Number	Description	Additional Information
<u>SB 84 (Williams Graves)</u>	Authorizes state and local law-enforcement agencies to place and operate pedestrian crossing violation and stop sign violation monitoring systems in school crossing zones, highway work zones, and high-risk speed corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Passed and signed by the Governor● The legislation has varying effective dates
<u>HB 583 (Glass)</u>	Creates (i) the Hampton Roads Interstate Highway Corridor Improvement Program and Fund for the purpose of planning, developing, financing, building, constructing, and otherwise making infrastructure and safety improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Failed to pass in the House Appropriations Committee
<u>SB 712 (Stuart)</u>	Tobacco products tax; local tax authority; nicotine vapor products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Failed to pass

Bill Number	Description	Additional Information
<p><u>HJ 28 (Askew)</u></p>	<p>Creates a 13-member joint subcommittee for a two-year study on options for providing long-term, sustainable, and dedicated operations and capital funding with cost-containment controls to ensure that the public transit systems that serve Hampton Roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passed the General Assembly and effective July 1st ● Meetings should conclude by November 2027
<p><u>HB 1241 (Anthony)</u></p>	<p>Directs the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) to develop an infrastructure coordination and fiscal readiness framework for Planning District 23, to be known as the Hampton Roads Infrastructure Coordination and Readiness Framework (the Framework)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passed and effective July 1st ● A report of the progress of the development of the Framework is due no later than December 1, 2026, and a final report on the Framework is due no later than December 1, 2027.

Opposed Legislation

Bill Number	Description
<u>HB 956 (Watts)</u>	License taxes; deduction for out-of-state receipts (Did not pass)
<u>SB 388 (McPike)</u> <u>/HB 1279 (Cole)</u>	Affordable housing; religious organizations and other nonprofit tax-exempt properties (Passed)
<u>SB 306/ SB 297</u> <u>(Peake)</u>	Use of violation monitoring systems to enforce traffic light signals and certain traffic control devices; repeal (Did not pass)
<u>SB 488</u> <u>(VanValkenburg)/</u> <u>HB 804 (Helmer)</u>	Statewide housing targets for localities. (Did not pass)
<u>SB 228 (Surovell)</u>	Localities; liability insurance; certain waiver of sovereign immunity. (Did not pass)
<u>HB 1493</u> <u>(Dougherty)</u>	Procedures for certain acts; economic development incentives; economic development authorities. (Did not pass)
<u>SB 454</u> <u>(VanValkenburg)/</u>	Zoning; by-right multifamily development (Did not pass)

Bill Number	Description
<u>SB 530</u> <u>(Srinivasan)</u>	State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; electronic disclosure by local government officers and employees. (Passed)
<u>SB 699</u> <u>(Ebbin)</u>	Virginia Freedom of Information Act; public bodies to post meeting agendas. (Passed)
<u>HB 1220</u> <u>(Delaney)</u>	Photo speed monitoring devices; placement and operation. (Passed)
<u>HB 888</u> <u>(Shinn)</u>	Minimum off-street parking requirements in certain areas. (Passed)

FY26-28 Budget Requests

- In December, Governor Youngkin introduced the last two budgets of his term – one for the Caboose Bill, the biennium ending June 30, 2026, and one for the 2026-28 biennium that begins on July 1.
- HB 29 was signed into law by Governor Spanberger on Feb. 20, 2026.
- House and Senate budget negotiators have been unable to complete work on a budget agreement
- The dispute revolves around the Senate's proposal to sunset a costly sales and use tax exemption for equipment used in data centers.
- The elimination of the exemption padded the Senate's budget by more than \$1.0 billion
- Most of the new initiatives in the House budget are one-time, reflecting limited ongoing resources in their fiscal plan.

Budget Update

PRIORITY



Safer Communities Program



Restore Hampton Health District



Fort Wool Restoration

STATUS

\$2.5 million for the addition of Hampton to the Safer Communities Program via DCJS was included in both the House and Senate budgets

Did not make it in the House or Senate versions of the budget

Did not make it in the House or Senate versions of the budget

Upcoming dates of importance

Date	Action
<u>May 23, 2026</u>	Governor has until 11:59pm to act on any remaining legislation communicated to her.
<u>July 1, 2026</u>	New fiscal year begins & legislation goes into effect, <i>unless otherwise specified</i> .
<u>July 2026 (TBD)</u>	Pre-filing for legislation begins mid-July.
<u>August 4, 2026</u>	Primary Elections.
<u>November 3, 2026</u>	General Elections.
<u>November 2026 (TBD)</u>	All requests for drafts of legislation to be prefiled by 5:00 p.m.

Questions?



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