



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Supports Legislation to Address Climate Change and to Promote Clean Energy

GCV supports legislation that encourages carefully sited development of solar, wind and other forms of clean renewable energy in the Commonwealth, including small scale distributed solar. GCV also supports investments in energy efficiency as a cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1) Supports HB981, Charniele Herring, The Virginia Clean Energy Act

This bill would unblock a previously stalled effort for Virginia to join RGGI and enable legislation to be put into place for the governor to accomplish his own goal to have us be 100% decarbonized by 2050. This legislation would enable the DEQ to establish a market based cap and trade program and have a means to fund programs to combat climate change through this program (e.g. providing funding for areas affected by flooding).

2) Supports HB754, Delegates Kilgore, Hurst & Wilt, Brightfields Act

This bill is needed (1) to encourage renewable energy development on previously disturbed areas rather than on Virginia's high-value agricultural and forest lands, and (2) to create opportunities in Southwest Virginia and other communities with brownfields to ensure they share in the benefits of a clean energy transition. It establishes a Virginia Brownfield and Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund.



Land Use

The Commonwealth of Virginia offers a rich diversity of geographic character, scenic beauty, native wildlife and cultural heritage. These factors make our state a desirable place to live and work.

The Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) supports preservation and beautification of open spaces, historic areas, and environmentally sensitive habitats by promoting responsible, effective land use planning. GCV considers these activities essential to the Commonwealth's long-term economic health.

Support HB 665, Mullin, Electrical transmission lines; effect on historic resources.

Requires the State Corporation Commission (SCC), prior to approving the construction of any electrical transmission lines of 138 kilovolts or more, to determine that the corridor or route chosen for the line will avoid any adverse impact on the scenic assets, historic resources, and environment of the area concerned. If the SCC determines that no route or corridor exists that can avoid any such adverse impact, the SCC is directed to choose the corridor or route that minimizes such adverse impacts to the greatest extent reasonably practicable. Currently, the SCC is required to determine that such a line's corridor or route will reasonably minimize adverse impact on the scenic assets, historic districts, and environment of the area concerned.

Bill Boards

Oppose SB 968/HB 563, Sen. Marsden/Del. Marshall

Provides that existing provisions related to the maintenance and repair of nonconforming billboard signs do not apply to relocated billboard signs.

Nonconforming billboards are those that would be unlawful under existing laws and regulations but have been "grandfathered in" to be allowed for the life of the billboard. The billboards in question are nonconforming because the locality has taken steps to improve its visual quality by setting limits on outdoor advertising. As such, these bills would unfairly target those very localities that care about community character and that enacted legislation declaring their intent that the life of these billboards not be extended. In that way, these bills greatly override local authority.

The bill eliminates that the maintenance costs of nonconforming billboards not exceed 50 percent of the current replacement value. These bills would eliminate any limits on maintenance costs, thereby allowing owners to rebuild billboards with more lasting materials and thus circumventing the intent of grandfathering nonconforming uses to continue only for the life of the structure.



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VA HB1695

Wildlife Corridor Action Plan; created.

Views: **9** **9** **9**
in the last Week Month Total



Summary

[Bill Text](#)

[Action History](#)

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Introduced
(1/17/2020)

In Committee
(1/17/2020)

[Crossed Over](#)

[Passed](#)

[Signed/Enacted](#)

[Dead/Failed/Vetoed](#)

[Veto Overridden](#)

Introduced Session:

2020 Regular Session

Bill Summary:

Wildlife Corridor Action Plan; road construction projects. Directs the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, to create a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan (the Plan). The Plan shall identify wildlife corridors, defined as areas connecting fragmented wildlife habitats that are separated by human activities or infrastructure, and recommend wildlife crossing projects intended to promote driver safety and wildlife connectivity. The bill requires the Plan to be submitted to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by September 1, 2022, and every four years thereafter. The bill also provides that the Department of Transportation shall (i) include the impact on any wildlife corridor identified in the Plan in any environmental impact report for a highway construction project and (ii) consider measures for the mitigation of harm caused to wildlife by a highway in the design options for the construction of such highway.

Bill Subjects:

Not specified

Sponsors (1):

[David Bulova \(D\)*](#)

Last Action:

Assigned ACNR sub: Natural Resources (on 1/22/2020)

Official Document:

<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB1695>



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

The Garden Club of Virginia supports efforts to protect and improve water quality.

GCV is concerned about the risks of toxic materials polluting our waterways and drinking water.

Support HB 799/SB 393, Delegate Alex Askew, Senator Jeremy McPike: Child Day Programs, lead testing, potable water;

Support HB 797, Delegate Alex Askew: Local school boards: lead testing, report, parental notification

Support SB 410, Senator Ghazala Hashmi: Public school buildings testing for Legionella bacteria. Review and Report;

Support HB 586, Representative Elizabeth Guzman: PFOA, PFOS and PFAS, Substances in public drinking water.

- According to the EPA low levels of lead exposure have been linked to learning disabilities, stunted growth loss of IQ, and impaired hearing. Children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects, and there is no safe level of lead for children
- Legionella is a harmful bacteria that can cause a serious form of pneumonia. It is found naturally in freshwater environments but becomes a health concern when it grows and spreads in the water systems of buildings, particularly those with cooling towers such as schools and hospitals.
- The 2019 outbreak of legionella in Chesterfield County schools, where the bacteria was found in cooling towers at seven locations, shed light on the need for more stringent testing and remediation in order to prevent further outbreaks.
- Studies suggest that exposure to PFAS may adversely affect fertility, cholesterol levels and the risk of some forms of cancer. PFAS have been found in items such as shampoo, paint, food packaging, firefighting foam and non-stick pans.
- Virginia needs baseline data on the occurrence of PFAS in drinking water. The information will inform how we treat, manage, and regulate PFAS.

Support SB 776, Senator Chap Peterson: Wetlands conservation and protection/living shorelines.

The bill requires the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to promulgate and periodically update minimum standards for the protection and conservation of wetlands and to approve living shoreline approaches to shoreline stabilization where the best available science shows that such approaches are feasible. It adds language to the Code of Virginia that requires VMRC, in its permitting standards and in the VMRC wetlands guidelines, include provisions "to ensure protection of shorelines and sensitive coastal habitats from sea level rise and coastal hazards"

- This would be one of the few examples in the nation where a state has included sea level rise in any environmental permitting process
- This would make living shorelines preferable to approaches such as bulkheads and rip-rap wherever feasible.

Support SB106, Senator Scott Surovell: Prohibition of hydraulic fracturing in Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area.

In this bill hydraulic fracturing “means the treatment of a well by the application of hydraulic fracturing fluid, including a base fluid and any additive, under pressure for the express purpose of initiation or propagating fractures in a target geologic formation to enhance production of oil or natural gas.” The EVGMA comprises all of the counties east of I-95 and cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg. Aquifers are included. The bill would prohibit fracking in this area.

- The bill protects groundwater and surface water that many citizens depend on for drinking water and that agricultural & seafood industries need to grow and harvest their products.
- It protects the rural quality of life and property values in the area, the infrastructure of which (roads and bridges) is not designed for drilling rigs and tanker trucks.

Support SB 795/HB 706 and SJ 56/HJ 61, Patrons: Senator Lynwood Lewis, Delegate Mark Keam, Delegate Nancy Guy: Protect Virginia’s Coast from Offshore Drilling.

SB 795/HB 76 does several important things: removes outdated language from the code that expresses the Commonwealth’s support of offshore drilling, protects Virginia’s coastal economy and environment from near-shore activities and infrastructure that accompany drilling, and amends the code section pertaining to any potential royalty payments to state expressly that such provision is not endorsement by the Commonwealth of offshore oil & gas activity. SJ 56/HJ 61 Opposes oil and gas exploration off Virginia’s coast, highlighting key concerns, and transmits a copy of the Resolution to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

- Both NASA and The Department of Defense have expressed concerns about the impact of drilling off the coast on their facilities and operations.
- Drilling could negatively impact Virginia’s booming tourism industry. Thousands of jobs and dollars in revenue would be at risk.
- Virginia is the largest seafood producer on the east coast and 3rd largest in the U.S. Commercial fisheries and oyster and clam aquaculture would be jeopardized.