

Update

June 26, 2009



The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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State faces \$300 million FY09 revenue shortfall

State revenue collections for the fiscal year that ends June 30 will fall \$300 million short of the amount that was forecast just two months ago, according to Secretary of Finance Richard Brown. The finance secretary spoke at the June 16 meeting of the House Appropriations Committee and the June 18 meeting of the Senate Finance Committee.

State revenue, forecast to decrease by 7.3 percent in FY09, is likely to decrease by 9.3 percent. The 9.3 percent decline represents the largest annual drop on record. Revenues would have to increase by 10.2 percent in June in order to meet the annual estimate.

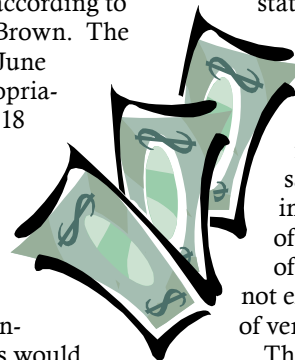
"That's not going to happen," Brown said.

As a result of the still dismal revenue picture, Gov. Tim Kaine has ordered a reforecast of state revenues, which he will include in his Aug. 19 budget presentation

to the joint meeting of the legislative money committees. The state will make-up the shortfall by squeezing the surpluses of state agencies, as well as by using the bulk of an unappropriated fund balance that the General Assembly set aside.

Even in the midst of the grim news concerning revenue, Brown said that the recession is weakening and he expects the beginning of a turnaround in the third quarter of 2009. Even so, the state should not expect a big rebound, but a period of very slow growth instead.

The big question is what the revenue forecast means for the FY10 budget due to take affect July 1. Brown said that the revenue shortfall in FY09 – the current fiscal year – has serious implications for FY10 and beyond. In terms of future bienia, Brown painted this picture: revenue growth would be slower; spending needs



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Panel looks to reduce state education spending

At the urging of Del. Phillip Hamilton, the joint subcommittee studying elementary and secondary education funding will be looking for ways to reduce the state's commitment to pay for the cost of K-12 education.

Specifically, the joint subcommittee will recommend whether the state should change how it treats the use of federal education grants in calculating how much state money is allotted for education. The committee met June 18 in Richmond.

A little history: Gov. Mark Warner first proposed back in 2004 that the federal revenues received by school divisions be

deducted when calculating the cost of the Standards of Quality that is shared between the state and localities. The result would have been to decrease the amount of SOQ costs to be split between the state and localities. Because most localities exceed the required local minimum for education funding, however, the primary result would have been decreased state contributions. The upshot was that the budget adopted in 2004 required the reduction of 29.22 percent of federal revenues (the amount that was estimated to be attributable to support expenditures as opposed to expenditures for teachers). The House of Delegates in

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FROM THE CAPITOL**FY09 revenue shortfall continued ...**

would increase; and federal stimulus aid would draw to a close. The result? The governor is likely to order another round of budget cuts – this time to the FY10 budget.

While not discussed during the presentation before either committee, local governments will face the double whammy of declining local revenue sources and continued reductions in state funding. The bottom line: local officials will be the ones who will have to make the difficult decisions of either trying to make up for cuts in state funding by using local revenues, or face citizens irate over cuts in education, human services, public safety or other programs.

In response to questions from Del. Steve Landis focusing on whether the federal stimulus program would lead to a long-term fiscal imbalance in state programs, especially education, Brown said that if the economy has not im-

proved at the conclusion of the federal stimulus program, the state will find itself staring over the edge of a cliff.

Brown said that plummeting revenues are shrinking the state budget back to FY05-FY06 levels. Further, even a modest increase in inflation and in the use of Medicaid would result in insufficient revenues for needs such as rebenchmarking the Standards of Quality, debt service costs for higher education, public safety requirements, and employee salary increases. A “calculated budget gap in the billions of dollars is certainly possible,” according to Brown. In all, the state revenue shortfall may be anywhere from \$3 billion-\$4.5 billion for the 2010-2012 biennium, depending on the rate at which the economy improves, and what actions are taken to curtail spending.

In response to the secretary’s presentation, Sen. Walter Stosch, a senior budget conferee, suggested reverting to

the 2005-2006 budget spending levels immediately. He said local governments were making spending commitments and that the state needed to send a signal now to the “people dependent on us.”

In parsing out the details of the continued slowdown in state revenue collections, virtually every state revenue source is trailing the forecast, with the exception of recordation taxes and refunds. Income tax refunds, which are a drain on revenue collections, are running well ahead of the forecast, while recordation taxes have not declined as much as was predicted.

Brown’s presentation to Senate Finance can be found at <http://sfc.state.va.us/committeemeetings.shtml>; the address for his presentation to the House Appropriations Committee is http://hac.state.va.us/Committee/files/2009/06-16-09/Revenue_Presentation.pdf. ❖

State education spending continued ...

both 2006 and 2008 proposed changing the way the revenues are deducted; the results of both attempts would have increased the amount of the deduction, thereby decreasing state contributions. School divisions that receive more federal revenue (typically directed at at-risk students) would be most affected by this type of change to the current method of calculating the deduction. The primary rationale for changing the methodology is that it saves the state money.

The committee, again at Hamilton’s urging, will add budgeting and/or regulatory flexibility to its agenda. Hamilton suggested that the local match for lottery funds be eliminated, and that localities be allowed to use lottery funds as they wished, instead of the state dedicating the use of lottery funds for particular programs.

The committee’s work plan thus will focus on these issues: capping the number of support positions funded by the state, the use of the triennial census, retirement incentives (such as promoted by the House of Delegates in the last

session), health insurance issues (such as promoted by the Senate in the last session), local flexibility, the deduction of federal revenues, reimbursement for Medicaid special education, potential changes in the composite index, and federal stimulus funding.

The committee is scheduled to meet Aug. 19, Sept. 14 and Nov. 9.

According to the Appropriations Act adopted this session, the subcommittee is to 1) study the use of the prevailing salary and cost approaches to funding the Standards of Quality, as compared with alternative approaches, such as a fixed point in time salary base that is increased annually by some minimum percentage or funding the national average teacher salary; 2) review the “federal revenue deduct” methodology, including the current use of a cap on the deduction; and 3) review the methodology for establishing a consistent funding cap process for all state funded instructional and certain support positions. Items 1 and 2, however, are carryover items from the 2008 session. ❖

FROM THE CAPITOL

Impact fees, urban development areas remain under microscope

A study committee is still sorting through possible changes in the law that deals with land-use management. The Joint Subcommittee to Study Development and Land Use Tools in Virginia's Localities will continue to concentrate on tweaking the existing law dealing with urban development areas and adopting a broad new impact fee law.

The chair of the joint subcommittee, Del. Clay Athey, proposed a new approach relating to impact fees that is a significant improvement over what the General Assembly considered in 2008 as it debated and then defeated SB 768.

Impact fees can be assessed by local governments against all new development to help offset the costs associated with providing public infrastructure related to the development. In contrast, cash proffers that are used by local

governments to help cover the cost of infrastructure are limited to development that involves a rezoning. As a result, developers who don't require a rezoning don't pay their fair share.

The Athey draft would allow impact fees for schools, public safety and roads. It tasks the Commission on Local Government with crafting a model impact fee ordinance that any locality adopting impact fees would have to mirror.

Unlike SB 768, the draft has no caps on impact fees. During the negotiations at the meeting, representatives of the Homebuilders Association of Virginia said the industry would oppose any bill that does not contain caps on the fees.

In the draft, the maximum fees in an urban development area may not exceed two-thirds of the fee outside a UDA. This last feature is intended to help move growth to urban centers, which

are the kernel of urban development areas, and to reduce sprawl in outlying rural areas. The draft that the committee discussed June 18 would put an end to cash proffers.

The committee also worked on changes to the urban development area provision of the state code that requires the comprehensive plans of growing localities to identify areas of higher-density residential development in or near existing urban centers. The committee is contemplating changing the law to require that these UDAs have even higher densities.

Given the questions about the impact fee draft and the number of issues with the proposal, it appears that the next step will be to write new impact fee language before renewing the discussions. The committee meets again Aug. 18. ❖

Question raised on local use of stimulus education funding

States are still waiting for final guidance from the federal government on the projects and programs eligible for public education under the federal economic stimulus package.

Barbara Reese, deputy policy director in the office of Gov. Tim Kaine, provided a status report to the Senate Finance Committee June 18.

Sen. Edd Houck, who said he had heard anecdotally that some localities were using federal stimulus education money to lower tax rates, asked if that were true. Reese responded that Superintendent of Public Instruction Pat Wright, as well as Kaine, had to certify that funds were used correctly. She said that in some cases local governments reduced local contributions to education, but went on to say that localities have funded more than their required amount for education and are not using federal funds for local purposes.

Much of Reese's presentation focused on bond provisions in the federal stimulus package, including Qualified Zone Academy bonds. Sixteen Virginia localities qualify for the program based on levels of economic distress and free lunch participation of more than 50 percent. This set of localities is eligible

for \$20 million under the program, which offers tax credits in lieu of interest payments. QZABs can be used only for renovation and repair, not for new construction, and the program requires participation by the private sector. School divisions have had difficulty finding private sector partners in past years because of the relatively small size of the individual bonds. Reese said that the state is investigating the possibility of having the state serve as a conduit for the issuance of the bonds in order to make the program more attractive to private investors. The Virginia Department of Education has advised the eligible divisions to submit applications (due by Aug. 15) for the QZABs even though the divisions may not be able to provide a letter of intent at this time from a lending institution.

Reese also reviewed these bond programs:

1. Qualified School Construction Bonds, a new program under which the state is authorized to receive about \$191 million in bonds in 2009 and that amount again in 2010. There are no interest payments under these bonds; only the principal has to be repaid. QSCBs

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FROM THE CAPITOL

Stimulus education funding continued ...

can be used for new construction. The state has announced its preliminary intention to use the QSCBs to fund projects on the first priority waiting list for loans under the Literary Fund, and the Virginia Department of Education is currently reviewing that list of projects (which totals \$191 million) to determine if the loans are still needed.

2. Build America Bonds, which are taxable bonds that can be used for tra-

ditional governmental purposes. There is no limit on the amount of bonds to be issued, but the authorization expires in December 2010. Projects have to meet the same requirements as for tax-exempt bonds, and bonds are subject to arbitrage and private use restrictions. The purpose of the program is to broaden the market for municipal debt and provide a more efficient subsidy than tax exemption. There are two types of

Build America Bonds: tax credit bond (under which the holder receives a tax credit equal to 35 percent of the taxable interest earned) and direct payment/subsidy bonds (under which the issuer receives a subsidy from the federal government that is equal to 35 percent of interest payments).

Reeses's presentation is posted at the Senate Finance Committee's Web site at <http://sfc.state.va.us>. ❖

VDOT proposes changes to economic development access program

The Virginia Department of Transportation has proposed making changes to its economic development access program that will provide more state money for qualifying local government projects.

VDOT is authorized under state law to provide access to economic development sites for purposes of manufacturing, processing, research and development, distribution centers, regional service centers, and corporate headquarters. Privately owned sites are not eligible for the program. Nor can program funds be used to acquire land or relocate utilities.

Annual funding for the program is \$5.5 million, and encompasses road, airport and rail industrial access projects. The maximum allocation is \$300,000

plus an additional \$150,000 if matched by the affected locality. Any allocation is contingent upon documentation of a capital investment of at least \$10 of private money for every \$1 of public money. These requirements have been in effect since 1980.

VDOT's proposal would:

- Reduce the capital investment ratio from 10:1 to 5:1;
- increase the maximum allocation to \$500,000 unmatched; and
- reduce the \$150,000 matching requirement to \$50,000.

For example, under current policy for a \$600,000 project, the state would provide \$300,000 of unmatched funds and another \$150,000 of state dollars if a local match is provided (i.e., \$300,000 + \$150,000 state match + \$150,000 lo-

cal match = \$600,000). This scenario is predicated on a documented capital outlay requirement of \$6 million.

Under the proposed policy, the state would provide \$500,000 of unmatched funds plus \$50,000 more if matched by the locality (i.e., \$500,000 + \$50,000 state match + \$50,000 local match = \$600,000 project). The documented capital outlay requirement would be reduced from \$6 million to \$2.75 million.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will make its decision on the proposal in July. If the CTB approves, localities will be notified in July, and the state's Economic Development Access Program Guide will be updated this fall. ❖

CTB approves new Six-Year Improvement Program

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has approved a six-year improvement program for FY10 through FY15 that reflects yet another substantial cut in the money available for road construction, as well as rail and transit projects.

The program includes \$5.5 billion for highway construction plus \$2 billion for rail and public transportation for a total package of \$7.5 billion. Compared to the program adopted two years ago, the highway construction budget is \$3.1 billion or 36 percent less. The primary, secondary, and urban road allocations are \$1 billion, \$500 million and \$400

million less, respectively, than the FY08-FY13 improvement program.

The highway program strategy maximizes the use of federal funds, pays for projects already federally approved to draw down all federal funds for the FY09 federal fiscal year (FFY09), and recognizes safety projects and reconstruction of existing infrastructure as the most important priorities. In developing the new six-year program, the CTB moved previous interstate allocations from one district to another in order to obligate all of the FFY09 federal funds.

Given the weakened economy and

uncertainty over future federal revenue reductions, VDOT warns that the new program could be trimmed, perhaps as early as this December. In order to ensure the sustainability of the transportation program, state construction funds are used only to match federal dollars and to fund state mandated programs. This effectively eliminates state formula distributions for unpaved roads, and the primary, secondary and urban systems. (There were project funding reductions in the new improvement program affecting Norton, Marion, Big Stone Gap, Wytheville, Smithfield, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Suffolk, Emporia, South Bos-

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FROM THE CAPITOL

Six-Year Improvement Program continued ...

ton, Herndon, Alexandria, Petersburg, Galax, Salem, Blacksburg, Roanoke, Lexington, Buena Vista, Front Royal, Luray, Harrisonburg, Elkton, Covington and Grottoes.)

Transportation bonds will only be used to support transit, rail and federal match on construction projects, although there is some concern about the long term sustainability of the bond program. Surface Transportation Program (STP) federal formula funding by population will no longer be distributed to localities beginning in FY11. And, on top of all of this, is the ever-increasing transfer of construction funds to the VDOT maintenance program. In FY09 the transfer amount is just under \$400

million. By FY15, some \$600 million will have to be moved out of the road construction budget to cover maintenance expenses.

Transit and rail have fared better than new road construction because of the emphasis placed on these projects by Gov. Tim Kaine. For example, the state's blended matching share for transit capital projects at 78 percent is the highest match in more than a decade. The new program includes funding for a three-year demonstration passenger rail service and related capital costs in the I-95 (Richmond to D.C.) and I-81 corridors (Lynchburg to D.C.). There is also funding for Norfolk Light Rail, new transit service in Haymarket, new

locomotives for VRE, and other commuter programs.

Perhaps, Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer described the situation best in an appearance last week before the Senate Finance Committee. The secretary said "(w)e are going backwards with respect to our infrastructure funding for transportation." He predicted a significant degradation in the secondary and urban road systems, and a future transportation program that will only be able to address interstate and primary road priorities. It appears problematic whether the Commonwealth will be able to afford even this relatively modest vision. ❖

Potholes gobble up VDOT budget, not just cars

Virginia Department of Transportation officials admitted last week what many motorists have long suspected: The roads are in bad shape. More than 20 percent of interstate pavement (1,679 lane miles) is rated deficient; almost 25 percent of primary pavement (5,201 lane miles) is rated deficient; and almost 9 percent of bridges and culverts are rated as structurally deficient. The bumpy assessment was part of a presentation made to the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

VDOT is proposing to boost maintenance spending from \$1.2 billion in FY09 to \$1.4 billion in FY10 and by an additional 1.6 percent between FY10 and FY15. Interstate paving will increase by \$28.6 million in FY10 to \$123.4 million. Paving for primary roads will increase by 93 percent over FY09 spending to \$227.2 million.

The dollars, however, are not being distributed equally. Interstate pavement dollars increase in the Richmond construction district by almost \$25 million in FY10 while the allocation for the Hampton Roads district is decreased by almost \$11 million. Regarding pave-

ment for the primary system, every district but two (Lynchburg and Culpeper) will receive greater allocations in FY10 than in FY09.

The FY10 maintenance and operations budget, including maintenance payments to localities by VDOT

construction district is listed below. The FY10 payments for localities are roughly 3 percent higher than the FY09 allocation. In recent years, the annual increase in local payments had been 4 percent. ❖

District	FY09 revised allocation (Approved February 2009)	FY10 allocation
Bristol	\$139.7 million	\$141.9 million
Salem	\$157.6 million	\$157.9 million
Lynchburg	\$100.7 million	\$103.2 million
Richmond	\$228.7 million	\$286.4 million
Hampton Roads	\$296.4 million	\$323.1 million
Fredericksburg*	\$102.9 million	\$96.4 million
Culpeper	\$77.9 million	\$76.9 million
Staunton	\$132.7 million	\$143.4 million
Northern Virginia	\$214.8 million	\$261.5 million
Statewide Programs	\$73.8 million	\$118 million
TOTAL	\$1.52 billion	\$1.71 billion
* <i>Fredericksburg District FY09 allocation includes \$20.4 million of one-time federal special bridge funds</i>		

FROM THE CAPITOL

All aboard for high-speed rail in Virginia? Not so fast ...

Virginia is unlikely to begin construction on a program of high-speed rail projects anytime soon unless it dedicates a source of funding for passenger rail operations that will allow it to remain competitive for federal funding.

In a presentation before the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on June 17, Department of Rail and Public Transportation Director Chip Badger provided an overview of efforts to connect Virginia to high-speed rail.

He noted that Virginia is strategically located as the connecting point between high speed rail in the Northeast Corridor (Boston to Washington) and the proposed Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (Charlotte to Raleigh to Washington). The Hampton Roads Corridor, including the Peninsula and South Hampton Roads, are not part of either the Northeast or Southeast corridors. It would be up to the state to push for inclusion of Hampton Roads.

Badger provided CTB members with rough cost estimates for several intercity

passenger rail projects, including:

- \$1.5 billion to connect Richmond/Petersburg to D.C. via high speed rail;
- \$300 million - \$800 million to connect Richmond to Hampton Roads with high speed rail;
- \$303 million for commuter rail improvements across the state;
- \$170 million for I-81/Route 29 corridor passenger rail; and
- \$797 million to run high speed rail from Petersburg to the N.C. state line.

Badger also pointed out two sources of federal funding for high-speed rail. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), \$8 billion is provided for high-speed rail projects across the country. The federal government released last week the guidance for these dollars. Applications will be submitted on a staggered schedule in August and September. Decisions will be made in December for rail corridor development projects.

Also, President Obama's FY10 budget proposes \$1 billion a year for five years for high-speed rail initiatives.

Virginia rail officials are confident that the state will be competitive because of:

- Framework agreements with Norfolk Southern and CSX;
- an existing agreement with Amtrak for state-sponsored passenger rail service;
- history of funding rail capital projects with state dollars;
- close working relationship with CSX, VRE, Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration in the I-95 corridor; and
- the enviable position of needing very little additional rights-of-way (and thus minimizing potential environmental impacts).

While the state has plans for specific high-speed rail projects, what it doesn't have is the money to operate a system of high-speed trains. The federal government is unlikely to provide billions of dollars to help construct a system that has no source of operating funds. ❖

VDOT releases new policy manual for locally-administered projects

The Virginia Department of Transportation's revised *Locally Administered Projects Manual* will take effect July 1. According to the state agency, the manual:

- Initiates a risk based approach to VDOT oversight – lower risk reduces VDOT oversight;
- emphasizes outcomes not processes;
- clarifies VDOT and local government roles, responsibilities and expectations;
- provides examples of properly completed submittals; and
- incorporates a streamlined state-aid project certification based on local autonomy and sole responsibility to meet legal requirements, while retaining

VDOT oversight for those activities that may affect the state.

VDOT's commissioner wants to expand the manual to include clarification of VDOT's construction and materials oversight, the Urban Construction Initiative, enhancement projects, and other program specific guides as chapters or supplements. The manual is available at VDOT's Web site – www.virginia-dot.org/business/local-assistance.asp. Questions or comments can be sent to Mike Estes, who serves as the director of VDOT's Local Assistance Division. His phone number is 804/786-2745. His e-mail address is Michael.Estes@VDOT.Virginia.gov. ❖

FROM THE CAPITOL

Comments sought on expanding groundwater management area DEQ also contemplates changes to water withdrawal regulations

Recent declines in groundwater levels, combined with a new understanding of the coastal plain aquifer system, has prompted the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to make several changes in ground water withdrawal regulations.

Under the Ground Water Management Act of 1992, Virginia manages ground water through a program regulating the withdrawals in certain areas called Ground Water Management Areas (GWMA). Currently, there are two GWMA's in the state. The Eastern Virginia GWMA comprises an area east of Interstate 95 and south of the Mattaponi and York rivers. The Eastern Shore GWMA Area includes Accomack and Northampton counties. Any person or entity wishing to withdraw 300,000 gallons per month or more in a declared management area must obtain a permit.

The purpose of this regulatory action is to consider expanding the Eastern Virginia GWMA to include the remaining portion of Virginia's coastal plain. Under this proposal, Section 9VAC25-600-20 of the Virginia Administrative Code will be amended to include the following additional counties and one city: Caroline, King and Queen, Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, Essex, Spotsylvania (part), Stafford (part), Prince William (part), King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Lancaster, Northumberland, Fairfax (part), Arlington (part); and the City of Alexandria.

A second regulatory action will consider amending the water withdrawal regulations to address the increasing demand on limited groundwater

resources, changes to the administrative review process, and regulatory changes necessitated by new information on the coastal plain aquifer system. DEQ will consider the following changes to the existing regulation:

- Improve organization and structure;
- evaluate current administrative procedures, clarify application and permitting requirements, and allow for a more efficient application review process;
- evaluate the appropriateness of the current application of 80 percent draw-down criterion;
- refine the appropriate priority of application review;
- evaluate the appropriateness of prohibiting the use of ground water for nonagricultural irrigation, including whether the use of reclaimed water should be required for any nonagricultural irrigation associated with a facility that has a ground water withdrawal permit;
- evaluate the appropriateness of limiting ground water withdrawal permits to essential (as compared to beneficial) uses, including whether to define essential use;
- evaluate the appropriateness of limiting ground water withdrawal permits for agricultural irrigation to withdrawals from the water table aquifer, including whether all water table withdrawals should be exempt from permit requirements; and
- reconcile the new hydrogeologic framework of the Virginia Coastal Plain with current requirements to place all pumps above aquifer tops.

Both these Notices of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) will be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on July 6, which will begin a public comment period that will conclude Aug. 19. The comment period will include three public hearings at the following dates, times and locations:

Aug. 10 (6 p.m.)

Northampton County Administration
Former Circuit Court Room
16404 Court House Road
Eastville, VA 23347

Aug. 13 (7 p.m.)

James City County Board of Supervisors Room
101 C. Mount Bay Road, Bldg. C
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Aug. 18 (7 p.m.)

Spotsylvania County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
Route 208 at Spotsylvania Court House
9104 Courthouse Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Written comments may be submitted at a public meeting or sent to: Melissa Porterfield, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 E. Main St., P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218; e-mail: melissa.porterfield@deq.virginia.gov; Phone: 804/698-4238.

Comments may also be submitted through the Public Forum feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall Web site at: www.townhall.virginia.gov. ❖

Housing commission studies landlord liability for tenant nuisances

A work group of the Virginia Housing Commission is discussing possible legislation to make landlords responsible for nuisances caused by tenants. The issue was addressed during the 2009 session of the General Assembly in HB 2653. While that bill was defeated, the issue was assigned to the housing commission for further work.

VML has drafted an alternative to HB 2653. It would make the landlord civilly liable for repeated violations of certain nuisance type actions by tenants on leased property. For example, if tenants or their guests are charged three or more times in 12 months for public intoxication on the property, the landlord could receive a civil penalty for the violations.

Many nuisance actions already allow localities to charge the landowner for the cost of repair or correction. If a building is a nuisance to the neighbors, the locality may demolish it and charge the owner the costs. The proposal uses a similar approach to help convince landlords to take responsibility for the actions of their tenants. ❖

AT THE LEAGUE

VML Legislative Program starts taking shape

VML's Legislative Committee identified a number of issues as likely priorities for the 2010 General Assembly session when it met June 12 in Richmond.

The issues included: the economic health of urban centers, impact fees, uranium mining, tax exemptions for veterans, marking of sewer laterals, changes to investment requirements affecting the Local Government Investment Pool, dangerous weapons in government buildings, multi-state sales tax on internet sales, transportation finance and payment of transient occupancy taxes by online hotel booking companies.

Despite this abundance of policy issues, the weak economy and its

impact on state and local government revenues will remain the biggest issue in 2010. The committee was briefed on the grim financial picture by the state's chief economic forecaster and a league consultant.

The Legislative Committee is charged with identifying local government legislative priorities for each General Assembly session. Six steering committees will now delve into the issues more deeply. They will make recommendations to their respective policy committees, which in turn will report back to the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee will then develop a draft Legislative Program that will be sent to all league members and voted upon at the league's annual busi-

ness meeting on Oct. 20 in Roanoke.

Important upcoming dates:

July 1 - General Laws Steering Committee meets.

July 2 - Community and Economic Development, Finance, Health Development and Education and Transportation steering committees meet.

July 9 - Environmental Quality Steering Committee meets.

July 23 - Full policy committees meet.

Sept. 10 - Legislative Committee meets.

Oct. 18 - Legislative Committee meets.

Oct. 20 - Annual business meeting.

❖

ETCETERA

Safe Routes to School program guidelines available

Local governments and school divisions interested in improving conditions so more students can walk or ride bikes to school should obtain copies of the 2009 guidelines for participating in the Virginia Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program.

Schools and communities interested in promoting students (K-8) walking and biking to school are encouraged to form a Safe Routes to School team, create a School Travel Plan for one school or

many schools, and to apply for funding to implement planned education, engineering and other strategies.

Up to \$500,000 for infrastructure improvements (per locality) is available with no local match required. School Travel Plans are due Nov. 27 and applications for funding are due Dec. 28.

For more information, contact VDOT SRTS Coordinator Sarah Weisiger at 804/371-4868 or visit www.virginiadot.org/saferoutes. ❖

Warner schedules energy stimulus funds summit July 10

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner will be the host of a summit open to local government representatives July 10 that will focus on how to access energy-related federal stimulus funds.

Speakers from the U.S. Department of Energy, state agencies and private sector experts will explain how to maximize opportunities available through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act for: programs related to weatherization and low-income families; local government initiatives; and innovations such as smart grid technology and renewable energy projects.

In addition to local governments, stakeholders representing organizations that work with low-income families, as well as segments of the private sector, have been invited to attend.

The summit will be held July 10 at Hampton University in Hampton. Details regarding the exact location on campus and the starting time will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please mark the date on your calendar.

If you plan to attend, RSVP via e-mail to the senator's office by July 2. The address is rsvp@warner.senate.gov. ❖

POSITIONS

Longer version of job ads posted at www.vml.org

Because of the number of requests it receives to publish job advertisements, VML reduces the length of the position descriptions in Update. A full version of the entire job listings published here for the past two months appears on VML's Web site at www.vml.org. Visit the VML site and click on "Marketplace" to read the complete descriptions.

County Attorney, Prince William

SALARY: Negotiable in upper \$100,000s DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Principal legal adviser to Board of County Supervisors; responsible for matters before local / state / federal / appellate courts. Supervises staff of 25 and a \$3.1 million bdt. Reqs. 7-10 yrs. increasingly responsible exper., especially Va. law, including performance in areas of zoning, subdivision and land use/planning, personnel and labor law, local tax issues, contracts and contractual matters related to development issues, procurement of goods and services, lease and purchase of real property, easements, FOIA, conflict of interest, litigation, inter-governmental agreements, and ordinance preparation/ amendment. Apply at www.pwcgov.org or send resumes, salary history and references to: Human Resources Director, Prince William County, 4380 Ridgewood Center Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Deadline: July 13. EOE.

Procurement Specialist II, Chesapeake

SALARY: \$41,175-plus. DOQ. (12-month temporary assignment). Experienced procurement specialist will review departmental requisitions and assist city personnel with procurement of goods and services by expediting the procurement process and ensuring compliance with related codes. Reqs. bachelor's degree or educ. and training equiv. to 4 yrs. of college in purchasing, marketing, business mngmnt., or closely-related field. Also reqs. 2-plus yrs. of relevant work exper. Prefer 5-plus yrs. exper. in public purchasing and a CPPPO, CPM or PPB certification. For more info and/or to apply, visit www.jobs.cityofchesapeake.net. Open until filled. EOE.

Grants Writer/Coordinator, Pulaski County

SALARY: Contract position / salary paid through percentage of grant funds generated by this position. Duties include researching federal, state and other grant opportunities; processing and coordinating grant applications; monitoring grant accounts; maintaining documentation; reporting to granting agencies; conducting program evaluations; and working with county departments to maximize grant revenue for programs and services. Apply to: Robert Hiss, assistant county administrator, 143 3rd St., N.W., Pulaski, VA 24301 or through the VEC office, 206 3rd Ave., Radford, VA, 24141. Submit cover letter, resume, completed county application (available at www.pulaskicounty.org), and one- to two-page description of successful grant awards/projects. Application review begins July 20. Open until filled. EOE.

Senior Benefits Analyst, Loudoun County

SALARY: \$50,579-\$68,282 hiring range. Supervise benefits specialists and assigned employee benefits functional areas. Serve as subject expert and point of coordination for specific benefits programs, such as limited term disability, LOSAP and other volunteer programs, life insurance, retirement/deferred compensation, tuition assistance, flexible spending accounts, COBRA, wellness initiatives, medical, vision and dental plans, and other health and welfare benefits. Reqs. any comb. of educ. and exper. equiv. to a master's degree in benefits administration, human resource mngmnt. or related field, plus 2 yrs. related benefits mngmnt exper. Prefer prior senior level benefits mngmnt. exper. CPB, CEBS, PHR/SPHR certifications desirable. Visit www.loudoun.gov for additional info and to apply. #09-A106 Deadline: July 7. EOE.

Utility Maintenance Mechanic I, Prince William County Service Authority (Woodbridge)

SALARY: \$20.60-\$32.96 per hour. Performs maintenance and repairs of mechanical equipment in support of the authority's maintenance programs. Reqs. H.S. diploma or GED and 2 yrs. work-related exper. Prefer CDL or must be able to obtain CDL within 90 days. Visit www.pwcsa.org for more info and to apply. Job # 00070. Deadline: July 2. EOE.

Workers' Compensation Indemnity Claim Representative, VML Insurance Programs

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Handle workers' compensation indemnity claims for administrator of group self insurance programs for Virginia local governments. Prefer min. 2 yrs. exper. adjusting workers' compensation indemnity claims. Responsibilities include investigating and determining compensability, negotiating settlement of claims and directing defense counsel. Submit cover letter, including salary reqs., and resume to: Human Resources, VML Insurance Programs, P.O. Box 3239, Glen Allen, VA 23058, fax 804/273-0560, or e-mail to: hr@vmlins.org, Attn: WC. To learn more about VML Insurance Programs visit: www.vmlins.org. Open until filled. EOE.

Director of Economic Development, Suffolk

SALARY: \$89,313-\$118,339 (+) benefits. Performs responsible administrative work in planning, directing and coordinating economic and industrial development programs within the city. Will oversee the development of short- and long-term business plans for the city and preparation of economic impact analyses. Supervises departmental staff, the Division of Tourism and will spearhead downtown development initiatives. Reqs. relevant bachelor's degree and 6-9 yrs. of increasingly responsible exper. in business, planning, public finance, industrial development, marketing, real estate, or a related field. Complete application online at www.suffolk.va.us or call 757/514-4110 for additional info. Open until filled. EOE.

Energy Management Technician I/II, Fairfax County Public Schools

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Performs responsible technical work carrying out the daily operations and functions of the energy management program; provides user support and maintenance services on the Central Control and Monitoring System (CCMS) to all assigned schools. Reqs. H.S. graduation supplemented by technical training or course work in heating, ventilating, air-conditioning systems and controls (HVAC), and microprocessor-based electronic equipment, plus 3 yrs. progressive exper. in the repair, maintenance and operation of industrial HVAC systems; knowledge of CCMS and of information

Continued on page 10

POSITIONS

systems applicable to energy management. Job # 813BR. Apply at <http://careers.fcps.edu>. Open until filled. EOE.

Housing Manager and Advocate, Manassas

SALARY: \$53,581-\$71,510 (+) benefits. Manages and supervises city's federal and state housing and housing advocacy programs, and associated staff, for Department of Family Services. Designs and participates in community housing outreach and educ. programs. Reqs. relevant bachelor's degree and 4-6 yrs. of progressively responsible related exper. Prefer knowledge and exper. with federal, state and local housing policy and programs. Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred. Apply: Human Resources Department, City of Manassas, 9027 Center St., Manassas, VA 20110. FAX: 703/257-5827; e-mail: hr@ci.manassas.va.us; www.manassascity.org/jobs. Open until filled. EOE.

County Attorney, Goochland

SALARY: \$90,000-\$130,000 negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (pop.20,440) Reqs. graduation from accredited law school, admitted to practice law in Va. and preferably 5-10 yrs. of increasingly responsible exper. Past local govt. exper. an important consideration, with service as a local govt. atty. or deputy atty. in a comparably sized or larger community desirable. Complete position description and county's profile available at: www.springsted.com. Submit resume, references and salary history to: John A. Anzivino, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 E. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228. 804/726-9750; 804/726-9752; richmond@springsted.com. Deadline: July 13. EOE.

Chief of Police, Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond)

SALARY: \$85,000-\$130,000 (+) benefits. Provide executive-level leadership, strategic planning and administrative direction for the Police Department, an accredited agency with 82 sworn officers and appx. 300 security personnel. Reports to vice president for finance and administration. Prefer master's degree in criminal justice or related field and extensive exper. in senior-level law enforcement administration. Certification req'd. To apply, visit www.bobmurrayassoc.com and follow the prompt to create an online profile. Direct questions to: Renee Narloch, Bob Murray & Associates, 850/391-0000. Detailed brochure available. Deadline: Aug. 10. EOE.

Other positions

NOTICE: *The following positions also are listed on VML's Web site at www.vml.org.*

Utilities Director, Danville

SALARY: \$87,000-\$120,000 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: July 22.

Human Resources Director, Martinsville

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Communications Coordinator, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission

SALARY: Mid-\$50,000s to start (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Data Processing Administrator, Buena Vista

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Professional Engineering Services (RFP), Round Hill

SALARY: Submit proposal. Deadline: 2 p.m. July 1.

Assistant County Administrator for Accounting & Finance, Goochland

SALARY: \$69,920-\$105,142 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Director of Emergency Communications and Citizen Services, Virginia Beach

SALARY: \$78,612-\$117,919 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: June 30.

Town Manager, Cape Charles

SALARY: \$55,428-\$90,071 DOQ (+) benefits. Deadline: July 21.

DEADLINE: *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, July 3. Submit ads via e-mail to David Parsons at dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758. VML publishes job advertisements at no cost to its local government members. Non-members are charged a flat rate of \$25 per ad per issue, which includes posting on VML's Web site and publication in Virginia Town & City (deadlines permitting). VML edits position descriptions in printed publications because of space limitations.*

CALENDAR

Virginia Association of Assessing Officers Spring Educational Seminar, Charlottesville, July 14-16

More information online at www.vaaoo.org

Senior Executive Institute (SEI), Charlottesville, July 19-31

The alumni program is on July 29. For more information, visit www.vlgma.org, or email Molly Harlow, mjh3a@virginia.edu.

National Association of Counties Annual Conference & Exposition, Nashville, July 24-28

For more information, visit www.naco.org.

Virginia Public Health Association Annual Conference, Richmond, Sept. 10-11

Advancing Health Equity from Theory to Practice. More info online at <http://vapha.org/events>.

2009 ICMA Conference, Montreal, Sept. 13-16

For more information, visit www.icma.org.

Virginia Economic Developers Association Fall Conference, Roanoke, Sept. 16-18

More information online at www.goveda.org

VBCOA Annual Meeting, Norfolk, Sept. 27-29

VBCOA business meeting, election of officers and educational sessions on code enforcement. To be held at the Norfolk Marriott Waterside. To register or for more information, visit www.vbcoa.org, or contact Sherall Dementi (sdementi@vml.org).

Virginia Municipal Clerks Institute, Virginia Beach, October 4-9

For more information, visit www.execed-odu.com.

Virginia Municipal Clerks Academy, Virginia Beach, October 6-9

For more information, visit www.execed-odu.com.

Virginia Association of Assessing Officers Fall Educational Seminar, Fairfax County, Oct. 13-16

More information online at www.vaaoo.org/

VML Annual Conference, Roanoke, Oct. 18-20

For registration information contact Joni Terry at 804/523-8529 or jterry@vml.org. For exhibitor information contact Kimberly Pollard at 804/523-8528 or kpollard@vml.org.

Virginia Government Finance Officers' Association Spring Conference, Charlottesville, Oct. 21-23

More information online at www.vgfoa.org/calendar.html

Virginia Association of Governmental Purchasing Fall Conference, Norfolk, Oct. 21-23

More information online at www.vagp.org/events/spring.html

Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia's Annual Conference, Giles County, Oct. 21-23

More information is available at www.rpcva.org

Virginia Library Association Annual Conference, Williamsburg, Oct. 29-30

More information online at www.vla.org/demo/Conference/Index.html

Virginia Association of Counties Annual Conference, Bath County, Nov. 8-9

More information at www.vaco.org.

NLC Congress of Cities, San Antonio, Nov. 10-14

More information at www.nlc.org.

Update

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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