

Specific Legislation and Legislation for Discussion
Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee
February 5, 2021

Specific Legislation

New Bills – 2021 GA

HB 1778 (Ward) (Passed House; SLG) provides that a locality may by ordinance require the removal of clutter from property, or may, whenever the governing body deems it necessary, after reasonable notice, have such clutter removed by its own agents or employees, in which event the cost or expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owners of such property and may be collected by the locality as taxes are collected. The bill defines "clutter" as including mechanical equipment, household furniture, containers, and similar items that may be detrimental to the well-being of a community when they are left in public view for an extended period or are allowed to accumulate. Violations of the bill are subject to the existing civil penalty applicable to violations of provisions relating to the removal of trash, garbage, refuse, litter, and similar substances from property. Recommend support. (21101674D)

Environment and Energy

SB 1284 (Favola) (Senate Floor) establishes the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy, replacing the Commonwealth Energy Policy. The bill sets out the energy policy and objectives of the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy, which include: (i) the Commonwealth recognizes that effectively addressing climate change and enhancing resilience will advance the health, welfare, and safety of the residents of the Commonwealth and that addressing climate change requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the Commonwealth's economy sufficient to reach net-zero emission by 2045 in all sectors, including the electric power, transportation, industrial, agricultural, building, and infrastructure sectors; (ii) the Commonwealth recognizes the need to promote environmental justice and ensure that it is carried out throughout the Commonwealth and the need to address and prevent energy inequities in historically economically disadvantaged communities; and (iii) the Commonwealth must continue to prioritize economic competitiveness and workforce development in an equitable manner. Recommend support. (21103831D-S1)

Health and Human Services

HB 1962 (Gooditis) (Passed House; SRSS) requires local departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies to involve in the development of a child's foster care plan the child's relatives and fictive kin who are interested in the child's welfare. The bill requires that a child 12 years of age or older be involved in the development of his foster care plan; under current law, a child's involvement is mandatory upon reaching 14 years of age. The bill contains other amendments to provisions governing foster care and termination of parental rights that encourage the placement of children with relatives and fictive kin. Recommend support. (21103967D-H1)

HB 2206 (Filler-Corn) (Passed House; SEH) creates the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Program (the Program) to provide financial assistance for child care to families in need during the public health emergency caused by COVID-19. The bill directs the Department of Education (the Department) to administer the Program and to create a process through which applicants may apply online to participate in the Program. The bill provides that after a Program participant has selected an eligible child care provider, the Department shall issue a voucher, for full-time or part-time care, directly to the provider and provide notice of the amount of the voucher to the Program participant. The bill provides that an applicant shall be eligible to participate in the Program if the applicant's household income is at or below 100 percent of the state median income or regional median income and the applicant's child for whom a voucher will be issued is 13 years of age or younger. The bill contains an emergency clause and will sunset on the last day of the sixth month after its passage. Recommend support. (21103864D-H1)

Legislation Provided for Discussion

HB 2191 (Leftwich) (Passed House; SRSS) provides that a local department of social services shall, upon request of the legal guardian or custodian of a child, disclose to such legal guardian or custodian the location of the child when the child is in the custody of another legal guardian or custodian, unless the local department finds that such disclosure would compromise the safety of the child or the legal guardian or custodian. (21103371D-EH1)

HB 2227 (Kory) (House Floor) requires the Board of Housing and Community Development to adopt amendments to the Uniform Statewide Building Code within one year of publication of a new version of the International Code Council's International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to address changes related to energy efficiency and conservation. The bill requires the Board to adopt Building Code standards that are at least as stringent as those contained in the new version of the IECC. (21104318D-H1)

SB 1224 (Boysko) (SGL) requires the Board of Housing and Community Development to adopt amendments to the Uniform Statewide Building Code within one year of publication of a new version of the International Code Council's International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to address changes related to energy efficiency and conservation. The bill requires the Board to adopt Building Code standards that are at least as stringent as those contained in the new version of the IECC. (21101752D)

HJ 556 (Lopez) (HPE) establishes that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to follow the principles of environmental justice in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and to ensure that no population, especially minority, low-income, or historically economically disadvantaged communities, faces higher levels or greater impacts of pollution and climate change than other populations. (21101762D)