

**WORK SESSION TO REVIEW 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION  
AFFECTING PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY**

After each General Assembly session, staff identifies changes in State law which: (1) mandate changes in how the County operates; or (2) authorize new ordinances at the discretion of the Board. The attached summary “scorecard” contains the staff recommendations on which items should be studied further or scheduled for a public hearing.

**2017 Virginia General Assembly  
Legislation Affecting the County**

**I. Optional or Discretionary Powers Granted to Counties**

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Bill No.</u>	<u>Bill Description</u>	<u>Board Choice</u>	
			<u>Action</u>	<u>Take No Action</u>
(1)	HB 1565	Authorizes counties to create "green development zones" that provide tax incentives and regulatory flexibility for businesses: (1) operating in an energy-efficient building or (2) operating a business that produces energy-efficiency products.	_____	_____
(2)	HB 1970	Authorizes counties to create "economic revitalization zones" by giving incentives for developers to purchase and combine parcels and extending regulatory flexibility.	_____	_____
(3)	SB 926	Allows counties to collect civil penalties in lieu of criminal prosecution for violations of the noise ordinance.	_____	_____
(4)	SB 964	Authorizes counties to adopt an ordinance requiring the upkeep of running bamboo and prohibiting its spread to other property.	_____	_____
(5)	SB 1578	Authorizes a local ordinance to require registration of all short-term rentals; so-called "Air BnB" ordinances. Also allows local enforcement of state and federal laws, including ABC laws, under such an ordinance.	_____	_____
(6)	HB 1404	Authorizes ordinances requiring payment of the County expense of responding to a false fire alarm from anyone convicted of falsely activating a fire alarm.	_____	_____
(7)	HB 1477	Authorizes an ordinance for the issuance of lifetime dog or cat licenses with a maximum fee of \$50.00	_____	_____
(8)	HB 1884	Allows real estate tax relief for surviving spouses of public safety personnel killed in the life of duty.	_____	_____

## II. New State Mandates Affecting County Operations

### No Board Choice

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Bill No.</u>	<u>Bill Description</u>
(9)	HB 1697	Extends development/land use approvals that normally expire in 5 years, from the original extended year of 2017 to 2020.
(10)	HB 1797	Requires direct personal mail notice to anyone affected by any request to amend proffers.
(11)	SB 1123	Requires County to send notices to residents of mobile home parks if the landlord fails to fix <u>Code</u> violations at the mobile home park.
(12)	HB 1854	Multiple changes in Conflict of Interest Act including changing filing deadline from January 15 to February 1; making the disclosure year the previous calendar year; eating and drinking while "standing" now not considered a "gift" and law requires redacting certain personal information.
(13)	HB 1597	Requires local stormwater ordinances to provide a credit if stormwater is retained or treated on-site (County Ordinance already includes credit).
(14)	HB 2477	Directs State Department of Health to begin eliminating evaluation and design services for septic tanks and wells in localities.
(15)	HB 1539 -1540	Many changes to FOIA access to public records and requirements that must be met to go into closed session. Also clarifies where notices and minutes must be posted.
(16)	HB 1941	Provides civil immunity for defamation claims arising from any comments made by citizens at Board meetings.
(17)	SB 1548	County may purchase directly from contracts of the Virginia Sheriff's Association.
(18)	HB 2003	Must annually certify that the Board of Supervisors has been given the audit report.
(19)	SB 1282	Eliminates local regulation of certain wireless infrastructure and mandates that localities allow free use of public rights.
(20)	SB 1189	Makes it harder for the County to place a lien on a landowner's parcel because of unpaid sewer and water bills of a tenant.

- (21) HB 1888 Allows school bus drivers to use hands-free wireless telecommunication devices.