

Virginia General Assembly 2025 Preview

Description

The 2025 session of the Virginia General Assembly is set to begin on January 8. This “short” session will last approximately 45 days. Given the abbreviated timeframe and the fact that the House of Delegates is up for election in 2025, we anticipate an intense and fast-paced legislative period. At present, there is an unusually small number of publicly available bills, making it difficult to determine the session’s primary legislative focus.

Budget

2025 is an “off-budget” year, during which the Governor submits a “caboose budget” to amend the final year of the biennial budget passed in 2024. Governor Youngkin is expected to release this proposed budget in mid-December.

Legislation

While only a few bills have been publicly filed, we are aware of key legislative initiatives that the Virginia Land Title Association (VLTA) will be monitoring:

- 1. E-Notary Definition:** VLTA has requested legislation to clarify the definition of an e-notary. The current language has caused confusion among industry stakeholders, and this adjustment is expected to be non-controversial.
- 2. Transfer on Death Deeds:** Another VLTA-initiated bill addresses issues related to transfer on death deeds. This proposal is also anticipated to proceed without controversy.
- 3. Restrictions on Private Equity Purchases of Single-Family Homes:** We expect legislation to be introduced that seeks to prohibit private equity firms from purchasing single-family homes. While VLTA does not take a position on the intent of the bill, its details may present challenges regarding chain-of-title issues. Similar legislation last year required VLTA’s engagement.

Elections

All 100 seats in the House of Delegates will be up for election in 2025, adding another layer of intensity to the session. Election-year dynamics often influence voting behavior, as legislators weigh the potential impact of their decisions on their campaigns. Additionally, 2025 will feature elections for all three statewide offices—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General.

The outcomes of the recent federal elections could shape the political landscape for the state campaigns. Historically, the party not in control of the White House tends to gain momentum in state elections, and this trend is likely to continue.

Looking Ahead

As the session progresses and more bills are filed, we will provide additional updates and insights.

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Founding Partner, has more than two decades of experience in government affairs- with a focus on legislative and regulatory health care issues. He has worked with clients in the economic development, renewable and alternative energy, and pharmaceutical industries. James previously served as Manager of State Government Affairs for Troutman Sanders Strategies and the Director of Policy for the Virginia Pharmacists Association. James spent three legislative sessions as Legislative Assistant to Delegate John Oâ??Bannon. James is a veteran of the United States Army, serving as an infantryman during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort. After his military service, James received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is an active member of Saint Benedictâ??s Catholic Church and VFW Post 6364. He formerly served on St. Benedict Churchâ??s parish finance council and on the school board for Saint Benedict Catholic School. James and his wife have three daughters and live in Richmond.

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