

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

**Patrick Henry Building
East Reading Room
1111 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia**

Thursday, May 22, 2025

9 A.M.

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of draft Board meeting minutes from March 20, 2025
4. Election of officers
5. Board member reports
6. Commissioner's Report to Board – Joseph Guthrie, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
7. Legislative update – Kevin Schmidt, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research
8. Budget update – Dewey Jennings, Director, Administration and Finance
9. Notice of Intended Regulatory Action – 2 VAC 5-320 (Regulations for the Enforcement of the Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act) – David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services
10. Final exempt action to repeal 2 VAC 5-380 (Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Dealers in Agricultural Products Law) – David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services
11. Final stage to amend 2 VAC 5-390 (Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Seed Law) – David Gianino, Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services
12. Proposed exempt action to amend 2 VAC 5-595 (Regulations Governing the Manufacturing and Sale of Products That Contain Industrial Hemp Extracts Intended for Human Consumption) – Nikeya Thomas, Program Manager, Office of Hemp Enforcement
13. Virginia Winery Distribution Company board appointments – Joseph Guthrie, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
14. New business
15. Future Board meetings
16. Public comment period

17. Adjourn

DRAFT MINUTES

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Thursday, March 20, 2025

The all-virtual meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) convened at approximately 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025. The meeting was held using Microsoft Teams with electronic access made available to the public via the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website. President Horsley called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

Donald Horsley
Raymond Keating
Brittany Jones
Margaret Ann Smith
James S. Huffard, III
Tyler Wegmeyer
Richard Sellers
Ginny Barnes
Charles Church
Dr. Mario Ferruzzi

Dr. Derrick Scott

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd
3rd
4th
6th
9th
10th
11th
Pesticides – Commercial Agricultural
Pesticides – Commercial Structural
Representing Dr. Timothy D. Sands, President,
Virginia Tech
Representing Dr. Makola Abdullah, President,
Virginia State University

ABSENT

Keith Harris
Cecil Shell
Jacquelin Easter Link
Kailee M. Tkacz Buller

1st
5th
7th
8th

STAFF PRESENT

Joseph Guthrie, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Kevin Schmidt, Secretary, Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Nicolas Robichaud, Policy Assistant, VDACS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Church moved that the draft minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting be approved. Mr. Sellers seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Church

Mr. Church reported that the Virginia Pest Management Association (VPMA) is busy this season with several training and recertification trainings, with well-attended events occurring throughout the spring and into early summer. VPMA members attended the National Pest Management Legislative Day and spoke to Virginia federal legislators regarding the inclusion of state

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Service

March 20, 2025

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pesticide preemption in the Farm Bill, extending the 25C tax credit, and fully funding malaria prevention treatment and research.

Ginny Barnes

Ms. Barnes shared that things have been busy with delivering feed corn, treating soybean seed, and delivering burndown and preemergence chemicals for upcoming spring planting. Rain in Kilmarnock was very strong recently, though significantly lighter to the west.

Brittany Jones

Ms. Jones reported wide variation in cover crops in the 4th Congressional District due to inconsistent rain. Potatoes have begun planting, and cattle prices remain high.

Tyler Wegmeyer

Mr. Wegmeyer noted the variability in temperature recently as particularly difficult for sensitive strawberry crops. Mr. Wegmeyer reported on a strawberry grower's meeting in February, which revolved around neopestalotiopsis, commonly referred to as "neo-p," a major disease threat facing the strawberry industry. A grower in Chesapeake is one of several growers effected and is facing significant losses. The extent of the disease's impact is not yet clear, though local growers across the Mid-Atlantic have been affected. Mr. Wegmeyer also updated the Board on difficulties facing the Christmas tree industry. With over 320,000 acres in Virginia affected by drought, many trees have been severely damaged, leaving growers with significant losses.

Richard Sellers

Mr. Sellers shared that farmers' markets in Fairfax County are opening on April 19. Rain has been very steady in the 11th Congressional District. Mr. Sellers attended the Virginia Maple Syrup Festival in Highland County this past weekend, which several local maple syrup producers attended.

Margaret Ann Smith

Ms. Smith shared the need for rain in the 6th Congressional District. Cattle prices remain astronomically high, with prices topping \$4/pound calves at light three weights. Cull cow prices are also extremely high. Hay supplies in the Valley have been depleted through the winter months due to last summer's drought. Emerald ash borers continue to kill ash trees in western Virginia, presenting consistent issues for cattle farmers. Virginia Farm Bureau Federation was approved through the Virginia Cattle Industry Grant program to bring the Bovine Extraction Response Plan to Virginia, which will train emergency responders to remove livestock from a cattle wreck.

Dr. Derrick Scott

Dr. Scott thanked everyone who supported Virginia AgFest at Virginia State University.

Mario Ferruzzi

Mr. Ferruzzi shared that Virginia Tech is also celebrating Ag Week and has several activities planned across campus. Enrollment for 2025 remains steady, with about 3,000 students entering undergraduate programs and 650 entering graduate programs. Virginia Cooperative Extension continues an ongoing needs assessment based on state-wide research needs with a new strategic plan anticipated to be implemented in June.

Raymond Keating

Mr. Keating reported that soybean exports at the terminal remain strong. Tariffs have presented some long-term uncertainty. Mr. Keating anticipates that export markets will largely remain steady, but logistics may become more costly and inefficient. A proposed tax on Chinese ships threatens to significantly impact export markets.

James S Huffard, III

Mr. Huffard shared that it has been a particularly cool winter in the Southwest. Dairy markets have significantly dropped recently. Many in the dairy workforce are worried about changes in federal immigration policy. Federal grant freezes have significantly impacted dairy sales, as many customers who provide meals for food insecure communities have lost funding and cut staff. Mr. Huffard extended his appreciation to the Commissioner, Governor, and General Assembly for the help that the Dairy Producer Margin Coverage Premium Assistance Program provides.

Donald Horsley

Mr. Horsley reported that it has been fairly wet in the 2nd Congressional District. Producers are waiting for conditions to dry before moving forward with planting corn. The wheat crops look particularly strong this year.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

During Commissioner Guthrie's presentation of his report, he briefed the Board on recent events and other matters relating to VDACS. A copy of the written report on which his presentation was based was included in the Board meeting materials and projected for the audience to read.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the Board.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

President Horsley reminded the Board of the upcoming Board meetings on May 22 and December 11 in Richmond. Commissioner Guthrie presented an option for the summer meeting and tour to the Board August 5-6, 2025, in Fredericksburg.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Trey Davis introduced himself to the Board as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Agribusiness Council.

President Horsley invited further public comment, though none was given.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at approximately 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Horsley
Board President

Kevin Schmidt
Board Secretary

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER TERMS

As of May 22, 2025

Elected Officers

For the term July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

President:	Don Horsley
Vice- President:	Margaret Ann Smith
Secretary:	Kevin Schmidt

<i>MEMBER'S NAME</i>	<i>DISTRICT</i>	<i>TERM EXPIRES</i>
Keith Harris	1 st	June 30, 2027 (1 st term)
Don Horsley	2 nd	June 30, 2025 (2 nd term)
Raymond Keating	3 rd	June 30, 2027 (1 st term)
Brittany Jones	4 th	June 30, 2025 (Unexpired term)
Cecil Shell	5 th	June 30, 2025 (1 st term)
Margaret Ann Smith	6 th	June 30, 2027 (2 nd term)
Jacquelin Easter Link	7 th	June 30, 2025 (1 st term)
Kailee M. Tkacz Buller	8 th	June 30, 2027 (1 st term)
James S. Huffard, III	9 th	June 30, 2025 (2 nd term)
Tyler Wegmeyer	10 th	June 30, 2025 (1 st term)
Richard Sellers	11 th	June 30, 2025 (2 nd term)
Virginia Barnes	Pesticide – Commercial - Agricultural	June 30, 2028 (1 st term)
Charles Church	Pesticide – Commercial - Structural	June 30, 2028 (2 nd term)

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT TO
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
May 22, 2025

PERSONNEL NEWS

Gary Milton assumed the role of Program Manager for the Office of Meat and Poultry Services (OMPS) on May 12. Mr. Milton previously served as the Program Manager for the VDACS Office of Weights and Measures (OWM). Prior to that role, he accumulated 29 years of experience with OMPS. He brings a wealth of knowledge in the meat and poultry industry, a deep understanding of VDACS operations, and extensive experience as a Program Manager. Mr. Milton has expressed a sincere interest in meeting personally with owners, operators, and managers of meat processing facilities.

GOVERNOR’S PRIORITIES

On April 22, VDACS partnered with Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, The Port of Virginia, and Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics to host the 18th Annual Virginia Agricultural Trade Conference in Richmond. Governor Youngkin provided the keynote address and hosted a reception for event partners at the Executive Mansion.

AGENCY OPERATIONS

Commissioner’s Office

On March 13 and May 9, Commissioner Guthrie and Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development (OAFD) staff hosted meetings of the Blue Catfish Work Group. Established by legislation in 2024, the Work Group is composed of stakeholders from state agencies, the seafood industry, academia, and legislators and is charged with developing actionable recommendations to the General Assembly in a report by September 1, 2025. Its goal is to support the creation of a sustainable and resilient market for wild-caught blue catfish – one that not only mitigates the species’ environmental threat but also drives economic opportunity through strategic investment, coordinated marketing, and industry development. The Work Group plans to reconvene on June 12 and July 11 and have the report finalized in August.

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Lohr and Commissioner Guthrie led the roll-out of the new Virginia Verified Beef brand during the Virginia Cattle Expo in Harrisonburg. Legislation enacted in 2024 provides for a Virginia Verified Meat brand that is certified from livestock that have been bred, born, raised, and processed in Virginia. Commissioner Guthrie signed a memorandum of understanding with the Virginia Cattlemen’s Association (VCA) that authorizes the VCA to certify Virginia Verified Beef. Secretary Lohr and bill patron Delegate Michael Webert unveiled the new brand logo. Governor Youngkin addressed the group by video.

Commissioner Guthrie, Deputy Commissioner Green, and staff from Office of Grain Services met with leadership of the DeLong Company in Joliet, Illinois. DeLong is the nation’s largest exporter of containerized agricultural commodities. The company has purchased a site in Portsmouth near the Port of Virginia to transfer rail and truck loads of commodities into containers for export. VDACS has been

meeting with the company to understand its needs for commodity inspection and testing. The company estimates 30 percent or more of the products it handles could be from local sources.

The Communications Office conducted the 2025 Virginia Agriculture Week Photo Contest from April 21 – May 20. Entries were submitted in the categories of (1) Cutest Barnyard Animals; (2) Fields, Farms & Urban Agriculture; (3) Fun in Agritourism; (4) Best of Agricultural Technology and Innovation; and (5) Favorite Virginia Food & Beverage. Winners will be announced during Virginia Agriculture Week.

Division of Marketing and Development (DMD)

Since March, the Office of Domestic Marketing and Promotions (ODMP) participated in several agriculture marketing and educational events. These included the Mid-Atlantic Grain Conference, the Spotsylvania Farmers Market vendor meeting, the 2025 Soil Fertility & Crop Nutrition Workshop and Cover Crop Field Day, the Rocky Mount Farmers Market annual meeting, the Eastern Shore Small Farm Workshop, the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting, the 2025 Women in Ag Gathering, the 2025 Farm Finance & Conservation Planning Seminar, the Independence Farmers Market Spring vendor meeting, the Chilhowie Farmers Market Spring vendor meeting, the Agricultural Career Pathways Summit, and the Capital Region Farmer Market Managers Roundtable. May ODMP staff participated in the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago. Virginia's Finest companies represented Virginia and showcased their products in the "A Taste of the States" pavilion, giving them opportunity to make new connections and grow their businesses.

OAFD staff attended a Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District meeting in Fairfax on expanding local food production. Around 30 participants from other state agencies, non-profit organizations, producers, and local officials attended. Discussions were held around how to expand local food production, the challenges faced, and opportunities for further exploration.

During Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Month in March, OAFD staff and Secretary Lohr met local and company officials for tours and meetings at several Virginia CEA facilities that have received AFID grant awards, and in some cases are seeking new ones for expansion. The companies included Aerofarms in Pittsylvania, Greenswell Growers in Goochland, Beanstalk Farms in Prince William, and Equinox Growers (formerly Better Future Farms) in Louisa.

On April 1, the spring round of the AFID Infrastructure grant round opened. It closed on April 30.

In March, the Office of International Marketing (OIM) sponsored four Virginia companies at VIV Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. This important animal feed and nutrition show generated over 100 trade leads and had immediate sales during the show. Contracts and negotiations are ongoing.

In May, OIM is sponsoring three Virginia hardwood companies at Interzum Cologne, a significant biennial woodworking and furniture tradeshow in Europe. Virginia exhibited at this show for the first time in 2023 and saw significant sales and strategic partnerships emerge as a result. OIM anticipates similar success, if not at a smaller sales volume, as in 2023.

From March through mid-April, OIM connected 18 Virginia companies with 85 new trade leads. Highlights included Chinese lumber buyers, Vietnam seafood buyers, Canadian animal health and nutrition buyers, and Hong Kong peanut buyers.

OIM has received significant stakeholder concerns regarding newly imposed tariffs trading partners have installed on imported goods from the U.S. The forest products industry has been the most vocal, facing challenges unloading containers and losing contracted sales. Several sawmills have indicated that they may need to downsize operations, including temporary layoffs, until the market and trade stabilizes.

The Office of Food Distribution (OFD) received a total of \$4.5 million worth of fruits and nut products from USDA for distribution through the Emergency Food Assistance Program. These foods were part of a bonus offering and will be distributed to food insecure Virginia families and individuals through the many partner agencies that work with the Federation of Virginia Food Banks.

OFD committed a total of \$19.1 million of National School Lunch Program entitlement dollars to be spent on the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This program provides fresh produce options for all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The foods will be provided during the 2025/26 school year.

Division of Commodity Services (DCS)

Since March 21, CS staff:

- Conducted Terminal Market and Shipping Point Inspections on 1,164,507 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables; Processed Food Inspections on 836,956 pounds of processed products; and scheduled to complete three Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audits for Virginia fruit and vegetable growers.
- Inspected and certified grain commodities including soybeans, corn, wheat, and soybean hull pellets with a total value of more than \$79 million destined for 22 countries.
- Conducted approximately 12 compliance visits with grain dealers and one grain damage class.
- Provided livestock evaluation services on 19,939 cattle and 351 lambs/goats.
- Provided 31 Market News Reports on 13,884 head of livestock at livestock markets and 451 bales of hay or straw.
- Provided 4-H & FFA Market Animal Show evaluation to 680 head of livestock in five counties. Inspected and certified 16,412,000 pounds of Farmers' Stock peanuts and regrades, 12,192,024 pounds of shelled and in-shell milled peanuts, and 1,649,340 pounds of imported peanuts.
- Analyzed 358 samples of peanuts for the presence and levels of aflatoxin.
- Certified 607,606 pounds of various poultry parts for the USDA Feeding Program for School Lunch Products.
- Graded, via contracted full-time grading services, 30,402,198 pounds of chicken and 13,234,557 pounds of turkey for the Virginia poultry and egg industry.
- Provided non-contract fee grading and certification services for 689,745 pounds of poultry based on U.S. Consumer Grades to fulfill necessary specifications and contract requirements for the Virginia poultry and egg industry.
- Performed three USDA Food Defense Audits.

Division of Consumer Protection (DCP)

Effective March 27, *Regulations for the Enforcement of the Tree and Crop Pests Law – Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine*, 2 VAC5-336 (Regulation), was repealed. No comments were received on the fast-track regulatory action. Repeal of the Regulation removes all regulatory requirements restricting intrastate movement of the spotted lanternfly or articles capable of moving the spotted lanternfly. Interstate movement may still be regulated by the importing state. As of April 23, 70 Virginia cities and counties have reproducing and persistent populations of the spotted lanternfly.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine announced that grant opportunities for the Plant Protection Action (PPA) Section 7721 and Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) grants are moving forward. Virginia will receive \$72,790 from the PPA 7721 grants and \$103,638 through the CAPS program.

On May 13, OPIS staff received notice from USDA Forest Service that partial funding for the Spongy Moth Slow the Spread Program was approved. The funds are typically awarded prior to the survey and treatment season; however, funding for 2025 was delayed. VDACS will receive funding for expenses incurred through September 30, 2025.

On March 6, Office of Pesticide Services (OPS) staff coordinated a virtual meeting with Virginia Cooperation Extension (VCE) in the northeast district to provide an overview of the pesticide collection program. The pesticide collection program will serve the northeast district during summer 2026.

On March 18, OPS staff participated in a virtual meeting of the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) Spanish Exams & Manuals Committee. The group discussed the challenges to developing Spanish exams and study materials. The group meets monthly and has plans to share recommendations during the next Association of American Pesticide Control Officials meeting.

Division of Animal and Food Industry Services (AFIS)

OMPS has received official annual approval from the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Audit Staff for fiscal year (FY) 2025. This "At Least Equal To" determination confirms that OMPS's laws, policies, and procedures meet or exceed the requirements established by the USDA to operate an intrastate meat and poultry inspection program. This approval is critical, as it allows Virginia to maintain its state inspection program and continue receiving federal funding.

The Office of Dairy and Foods (ODF) Food Safety Program (FSP) conducted 961 inspections of retail food stores, manufacturers, and warehouses in March. FSP investigated 36 consumer complaints and collected 63 food samples. FSP also performed inspections needed to open 61 new food businesses.\

From February through March, ODF Dairy Services Program (DSP) conducted 227 inspections of dairy farms and 50 cheese and ice cream manufacturing plant inspections. There are currently 357 permitted dairy farms in Virginia.

Green Hills Farm of Rockingham County finalized completion of a new Automatic Milking Installation (robotic milking system). Dairy Services Program staff assisted the producer since September 2024 by reviewing that construction and installation are compliant with state and federal regulatory requirements.

The ODF Produce Safety Program (PSP) has conducted a total of 75 inspections and 239 visits from July 1, 2024, through April 18, 2025. PSP staff has also attended several grower events across the state to engage producers about the FDA produce safety rule, online farm registration portal, and new pre- and post-harvest agricultural water requirements.

Since March 21, The Office of Hemp Enforcement (OHE) has:

- Hired two new staff members: one Compliance and Technical Specialist and one Field Inspector.
- Continued to update the Voluntary Registry of Compliant Edible Hemp Products list. The registry list has had a positive impact on the number of compliant products being sold in commerce in Virginia.
- Issued 1,118 hemp product retail facility registrations since this requirement became effective November 15, 2024. It requires any retail facility offering for sale a regulated hemp product to register with VDACS and pay \$1,000 to obtain a hemp product retail facility registration.
- Conducted over 600 inspections, including review of over 13,000 products, and collected over \$840,000 in civil penalties to date during FY 2025. Civil penalties are generally reduced from the initial assessments to encourage compliance with laws.
- Continues outreach and education efforts by participating in the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council and presenting at the Virginia Farmers Market Food Safety Summit and the Virginia Department of Health's Health Food Summit.

From January 15 to April 9, the Office of Veterinary Services (OVS) staff participated as part of the Unified Command Incident Management Team (IMT) for the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) incident on the Eastern Shore. Virginia shared resources with Maryland and Delaware to assist the poultry industry in its response. The Accomack County premises with 450,000 broilers tested positive on January 15. All birds were depopulated and composted, and the barns were cleaned and disinfected. After testing proved that the virus was killed, the quarantine was lifted on April 9 and the farm restocked.

Throughout the period, AFIS implemented a program to test bulk milk from Virginia's grade A dairies for avian influenza with no positive detections. USDA has urged states to implement plans to demonstrate that their cattle are free of the disease. Approximately 80 percent of Virginia's dairies have been tested.

OLS started its annual fish health inspections in conjunction with the DWR on March 17 with eight lots from the Wytheville hatchery. Testing for this hatchery concluded on April 16. Additional DWR hatcheries tested included the Buller, Coursey, Montebello, and Marion hatcheries.

Bill	Committee	Last Action	Date
HB1768 - Martinez - Possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of nonhuman primates prohibited; penalties.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/04/25
HB1798 - Helmer - Agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council, appointment and membership terms.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0075)	03/18/25
HB1837 - Bloxom - Dealers in agricultural produce.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0142)	03/19/25
HB1844 - Maldonado - Baby Food Protection Act; testing and labeling requirements for toxic heavy metals.	(H) General Laws (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0693)	05/02/25
HB1909 - Kent - Agricultural Education Excellence, Virginia Commission for; established, report, sunset.	(H) Education	(H) Left in Appropriations	02/04/25
HB1920 - Ward - Charitable gaming; remuneration for bingo callers and bingo managers.	(H) General Laws (S) General Laws and Technology	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0049)	03/18/25

HB1941 - Seibold - Invasive plant species; retail sales, penalty, delayed effective date January 1, 2027.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0393)	03/24/25
HB2057 - Green - Voter registration; automatic registration of hunting, fishing, and milk distributor license.	(H) Privileges and Elections	(H) Left in Privileges and Elections	02/05/25
HB2078 - Thomas - Charitable gaming; certain common interest communities qualified to conduct bingo.	(H) General Laws	(H) Left in General Laws	02/05/25
HB2167 - Krizek - Charitable gaming; conduct of athletic event drawings.	(H) General Laws (S) General Laws and Technology	(S) Passed by indefinitely in Finance and Appropriations (11-Y 4-N)	02/11/25
HB2303 - Lopez - Large animal veterinary grant program; State Veterinarian to establish, report.	(H) Appropriations (S) Finance and Appropriations	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0258)	03/21/25
HB2313 - Lopez - Boarding establishments; work group to consider whether to propose state license, etc.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0660)	04/02/25

HB2379 - Zehr - Dangerous dogs; criteria for adjudication.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Stricken from docket by Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (22-Y 0-N)	01/22/25
HB2409 - Scott, P.A. - Right to farm; minimum area requirements, animal husbandry practices.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/04/25
HB2493 - Krizek - Gaming; fantasy contests, age restrictions.	(H) General Laws (S) General Laws and Technology	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0664)	04/02/25
HB2497 - Cordoza - Electric vehicle battery suppliers; certification, penalty.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/04/25
HB2498 - Krizek - Virginia Gaming Commission; established, penalties, report.	(H) General Laws	(H) Left in Appropriations	02/04/25
HB2512 - Taylor - Johnsongrass; DCR, et al., to convene work group to examine use.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/04/25

HB2622 - Fowler - Companion animals; notification by individuals who find animals, civil penalty.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/04/25
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HB2633 - Wilt - Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Tabled in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (12-Y 10-N)	01/29/25
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HB2634 - Wilt - Charitable gaming; use of proceeds, charitable gaming adjusted gross receipts, effective date.	(H) General Laws	(H) Left in General Laws	02/05/25
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HB2651 - Jones - Charitable gaming; definition of poker events.	(H) General Laws	(H) Left in General Laws	02/05/25
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HB2710 - Lopez - Food packaging, certain; uniform labeling requirements.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Tabled in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (22-Y 0-N)	01/29/25
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HB2775 - Convirs-Fowler - Hemp product; clarifies definition.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/04/25
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HJ452 - Freitas - Constitutional amendment; right to food choice (first reference).	(H) Privileges and Elections	(H) Left in Privileges and Elections	02/05/25
SB863 - Reeves - Fantasy Contests Act; minimum age requirement.	(S) General Laws and Technology	(S) Stricken at request of Patron in General Laws and Technology (12-Y 0-N)	01/22/25
SB890 - Perry - Agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council, appointment and membership terms.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0088)	03/18/25
SB903 - Stanley - Dogs; sale and procurement by pet shops, pet shop regulations.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0610)	04/02/25
SB907 - Stanley - Animal testing facility operated by a state agency; nonhuman primates, care and treatment.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Education and Health	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0437)	03/24/25
SB911 - Stanley - Aerial pesticide application; Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy, civil penalty.	(S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(S) Passed by indefinitely in Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (12-Y 1-N)	01/14/25

SB916 - Salim - Local ordinances; regulation of pet shops.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/18/25
SB921 - Hackworth - Large animal veterinary grant program; State Veterinarian to establish, report.	(H) Appropriations (S) Finance and Appropriations	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0262)	03/21/25
SB1000 - Stuart - Livestock and poultry killed by dogs; increases fair market value compensation amounts.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0319)	03/21/25
SB1051 - Ebbin - Boarding establishments; work group to consider whether to propose state license, etc.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0613)	04/02/25
SB1127 - Boysko - Animal testing facilities; public notification of inspection report.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0329)	03/21/25
SB1151 - French - Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program and Fund; established, sunset.	(S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(S) Left in Finance and Appropriations	02/05/25

SB1166 - Salim - Invasive plant species; retail sales, penalty, delayed effective date January 1, 2027.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0409)	03/24/25
SB1241 - Durant - Charitable gaming; certain common interest communities to conduct bingo.	(S) General Laws and Technology	(S) Left in Finance and Appropriations	02/05/25
SB1280 - Ebbin - Gaming; posting of problem gambling helpline information.	(H) General Laws (S) General Laws and Technology	Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0336)	03/21/25
SB1287 - Reeves - Virginia Gaming Commission; established, penalties, report.	(S) General Laws and Technology	(S) Left in Finance and Appropriations	02/05/25
SB1481 - Stanley - Animal testing; facilities operated by public institutions of higher education, report.	(S) Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	(S) Left in Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources	02/05/25
SB1483 - Boysko - Hemp products; regulated retail facility registration, fee.	(H) General Laws (S) Rehabilitation and Social Services	(H) Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	02/18/25

Counts: HB: 24 HJ: 1 SB: 17 SJ: 0

HB 1768 - Possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of nonhuman primates prohibited; penalties.

Chief Patron: Martinez

Patron: Martinez

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 3.2 a chapter numbered 66, consisting of sections numbered 3.2-6600 through 3.2-6605, relating to possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of nonhuman primates prohibited; penalties.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of nonhuman primates prohibited; penalties. Prohibits the possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of nonhuman primates and controls the ownership of such primates already in the Commonwealth. The bill exempts from the prohibition certain institutions, qualified transporters passing through the Commonwealth, those in possession of a state or federal exhibitor's license, and those in lawful possession of a nonhuman primate prior to July 1, 2026, subject to certain conditions. The bill also provides a procedure for the seizure of a primate in certain circumstances. Any violation of the provisions of the bill is a Class 1 misdemeanor or, for a willful act or omission in the care, control, or containment of a nonhuman primate, a Class 6 felony.

HB 1798 - Agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council, appointment and membership terms.

Chief Patron: Helmer

Patron: Helmer

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-1100, 3.2-1105, 3.2-1501, 3.2-1502, 3.2-1510, 3.2-1601, 3.2-2401, 3.2-2402, and 3.2-2902 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal Chapter 20 (§§ 3.2-2000 through 3.2-2009) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council; appointment and membership terms; production areas.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council; appointment and membership terms; production areas. Amends various provisions relating to the appointment, terms, and quorums of agricultural commodity boards, including the Cotton Board, Egg Board, and Tobacco Board. The bill eliminates the Pork Industry Board and amends membership terms for the Agricultural Council so that (i) each term is for four years and (ii) no member other than an ex officio member is eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms, except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy may serve two additional consecutive terms after the term of such vacancy that such person was appointed to fill has expired. The bill also amends the production areas for the purposes of membership appointment procedures for the Cotton Board and the Tobacco Board. This bill is identical to SB 890.

HB 1837 - Dealers in agricultural produce.

Chief Patron: Bloxom

Patron: Bloxom

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-4709, 58.1-609.2, and 58.1-1707 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal Article 3 (§§ 3.2-4738 through 3.2-4752) of Chapter 47 of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to dealers in agricultural produce.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Dealers in agricultural produce. Repeals provisions relating to the licensing requirements of any person who buys, sells, solicits for sale, processes for sale or resale, resells, exchanges, negotiates, purchases, or contracts for processing or transfers any fruits and vegetables of a producer of such produce in Virginia. The bill maintains the exclusion of such person under the commission merchant licensing requirements if such person holds a license under the federal Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. The bill also makes technical changes to references to agricultural produce as a result of the repeal.

HB 1844 - Baby Food Protection Act; testing and labeling requirements for toxic heavy metals.

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Patrons: Maldonado, Bennett-Parker, Glass, Price, Shin, Askew, Callsen, Carr, Clark, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Delaney, Feggans, Gardner, Hayes, Henson, Hernandez, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Martinez, McClure, Mundon King, Rasoul, Reaser, Reid, Seibold, Sewell, Sickles, Simon, Simonds, Singh, Sullivan, Thomas, Tran, Ward, Willett

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5125.1, relating to Baby Food Protection Act; testing and labeling requirements for toxic heavy metals.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

Baby Food Protection Act; testing and labeling requirements for toxic heavy metals. Prohibits a person from selling, distributing, or offering for sale a baby food product that contains certain toxic heavy metals that exceed the limits established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bill requires a manufacturer of a baby food product to meet certain testing requirements and include certain information related to toxic heavy metals on the manufacturer's website and on the baby food product. The bill requires a consumer to report a baby food product to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services if the consumer reasonably believes that the baby food is being sold in the Commonwealth with toxic heavy metals that exceed the limits established by the FDA. The foregoing provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026. The bill also directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a work group to study and make recommendations on the current enforcement of laws related to the presence of toxic heavy metals in baby food products and any further action needed to address the issue of toxic heavy metals in baby food products. The bill requires the work group to report on its findings and recommendations by the first day of the 2026 Regular Session.

HB 1909 - Agricultural Education Excellence, Virginia Commission for; established, report, sunset.

Chief Patron: Kent

Patrons: Kent, Fowler, Green

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 3.2 an article numbered 1.1, consisting of sections numbered 3.2-108.3 through 3.2-108.8, relating to Virginia Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence established; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence established; report. Establishes the 30-member Virginia Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence as an advisory commission in the executive branch of state government, to be administratively housed within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and administered, staffed, and supported jointly by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Education, the purpose of which is to assist in developing a statewide plan for agricultural education and to coordinate with such Departments on the implementation of related agricultural education programming. The Commission has an expiration date of July 1, 2028.

HB 1920 - Charitable gaming; remuneration for bingo callers and bingo managers.

Chief Patron: Ward

Patrons: Ward, Glass

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.33 and 18.2-340.34:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; remuneration for bingo callers and bingo managers.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

Charitable gaming; remuneration for bingo callers and bingo managers. Provides that, with certain exceptions, remuneration of up to \$200 per session may be paid to bingo managers or callers who have a current registration certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or who are exempt from such registration requirement. Current law permits such remuneration to be paid so long as it does not exceed \$100 per session. The bill requires an exception for such remuneration to be paid at a rate not less than one and one-half times the normal remuneration rate when bingo managers or callers provide services on any day designated as a legal holiday. Lastly, the bill provides that by October 1, 2029, and annually thereafter, the Department shall adjust the maximum remuneration rate of \$200 to reflect the rate of inflation from the previous date that such rate was established, as measured by the Consumer Price Index or other method of measuring the rate of inflation that the Department determines is reliable and generally accepted.

HB 1941 - Invasive plant species; retail sales, penalty, delayed effective date January 1, 2027.

Chief Patron: Seibold

Patrons: Seibold, Reid, Bennett-Parker, Convis-Fowler, Gardner, Henson, Hope, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Martinez, Shin, Bagby, Boysko, Salim

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-3810 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-3801.1, relating to invasive plant species; retail sales.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

Invasive plant species; retail sales. Requires, for the retail sale of certain invasive plant species for outdoor use, a retail establishment to post in a conspicuous manner on the property located in proximity to each invasive plant signage identifying such plant as invasive, educating consumers regarding invasive plant species, and encouraging consumers to ask about alternatives. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to designate the format, size, and content of such signage no later than October 1, 2025, and requires the Commissioner to issue a stop sale order and mark or tag a plant in a conspicuous manner when an invasive plant is for sale at a retail establishment without appropriate signage. In such case, the bill requires the Commissioner to give written notice of a finding made to the owner, tenant, or person in charge of such retail establishment and requires the stop sale order issued to remain in effect until the required signage is posted. Certain provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027. This bill is identical to SB 1166.

HB 2057 - Voter registration; automatic registration of hunting, fishing, and milk distributor license.

Chief Patron: Green

Patrons: Green, Arnold, Earley, Walker, Diggs, Sturtevant

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-404, 24.2-410.1, 24.2-411.2, 24.2-427, and 24.2-653.01 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 24.2-411.4, 24.2-411.5 and 24.2-411.6, relating to voter registration; automatic registration of hunting, fishing, and milk distributor license and concealed handgun permit applicants; penalty.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Voter registration; automatic registration of hunting, fishing, and milk distributor license and concealed handgun permit applicants; penalty. Provides for automatic voter registration by the clerk of any circuit court of the Commonwealth, the Department of Wildlife Resources, and the Milk Commission upon the application for any hunting, fishing, or milk distributor license or Virginia resident concealed handgun permit.

HB 2078 - Charitable gaming; certain common interest communities qualified to conduct bingo.

Chief Patron: Thomas

Patron: Thomas

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.16, 18.2-340.23, 18.2-340.24, 18.2-340.27, and 18.2-340.33 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; common interest communities; bingo.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Charitable gaming; common interest communities; bingo. Allows common interest communities that serve residents age 55 or older to become a qualified organization for the purposes of conducting bingo in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The bill limits such bingo games to residents of the common interest community and for no more than seven days per calendar year and sets value limits for the award of bingo prize money or merchandise.

HB 2167 - Charitable gaming; conduct of athletic event drawings.

Chief Patron: Krizek

Patron: Krizek

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.16, 18.2-340.19, 18.2-340.23, and 18.2-340.33 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-340.28:3, relating to charitable gaming; conduct of athletic event drawings.

SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:

Charitable gaming; conduct of athletic event drawings. Authorizes affiliated nonprofit organizations to conduct athletic event drawings in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The bill places limits on when and where an athletic event drawing may be held and requires the prize amount of any such drawing to be 50 percent of the total amount collected from the sale of the tickets. The bill requires the organization to donate a certain percentage of the remaining funds in accordance with Department regulations.

HB 2303 - Large animal veterinary grant program; State Veterinarian to establish, report.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Patrons: Lopez, Thomas

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5901.2, relating to State Veterinarian; large animal veterinary grant program; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

State Veterinarian; large animal veterinary grant program; report. Directs the State Veterinarian to establish a large animal veterinary grant program no later than July 1, 2026, to provide grants to increase or stabilize the number of large animal veterinarians, as defined in the bill, practicing in areas of the Commonwealth that have been identified by the State Veterinarian as having a shortage of such veterinarians. The bill directs the State Veterinarian to annually select from a pool of applicants no more than four large animal veterinarians to participate in the program and to develop, in consultation with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and relevant stakeholders, selection criteria for applicants to participate in the program. The bill also requires the State Veterinarian to submit a report evaluating the extent to which the program has helped to address the shortage of large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth to the Board and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources no later than July 1, 2030. This bill is identical to SB 921.

HB 2313 - Boarding establishments; work group to consider whether to propose state license, etc.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Patrons: Lopez, Clark, Bennett-Parker

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a work group to consider whether to propose a state license and other regulatory requirements for animal boarding establishments; report.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

Grooming and boarding establishments; inspections by animal control officers. Allows an animal control officer to inspect a grooming or boarding establishment that is not regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine with the consent of the owner or person in charge or pursuant to a warrant upon a receipt of a complaint or twice annually upon their own motion to ensure compliance with state animal care laws and regulations. The bill requires an animal control officer, a law-enforcement officer, or the State Veterinarian to obtain the consent of the owner or person in charge of any business premises of any dealer, pet shop, groomer, or boarding establishment to investigate allegations of a complaint of a suspected violation of state or local animal care laws. Current law does not require such consent to investigate allegations of a complaint. The bill allows an animal control officer to search a building or place pursuant to a warrant after making a sworn statement regarding any potential violations of the cruelty to animals laws. Current law only allows a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or police officer to conduct such a search. The bill also directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, convene a work group to consider whether to propose a state license and other regulatory requirements for animal boarding establishments similar to the current licensing requirements for animal shelters and submit its report of such findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026. This bill is identical to SB 1051.

HB 2379 - Dangerous dogs; criteria for adjudication.

Chief Patron: Zehr

Patron: Zehr

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-6540 of the Code of Virginia, relating to dangerous dogs; criteria for adjudication.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Dangerous dogs; criteria for adjudication. Allows a court to find an animal is a dangerous dog if the threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a person who was willfully trespassing or if at the time of the acts complained of the animal was protecting its kennel, its offspring, or its owner's property. The bill retains the restriction on a court from finding an animal is dangerous if such animal was responding to pain or injury to itself, its owner, or another person but requires the other person to be in the animal's presence.

HB 2409 - Right to farm; minimum area requirements, animal husbandry practices.

Chief Patron: Scott, P.A.

Patron: Scott, P.A.

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-301 of the Code of Virginia, relating to right to farm; minimum area requirements; animal husbandry practices.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Right to farm; minimum area requirements; animal husbandry practices. Changes the standards under the Right to Farm Act allowing a locality to adopt minimum area requirements for land on which any agriculture activity occurs by restricting a locality from adopting minimum area requirements for agricultural operations involving an animal inconsistent with and more restrictive than standard animal husbandry practices.

HB 2493 - Gaming; fantasy contests, age restrictions.

Chief Patron: Krizek

Patron: Krizek

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact § 59.1-557 of the Code of Virginia, relating to gaming; fantasy contests; age restrictions.

SUMMARY AS ENACTED WITH GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

Gaming; fantasy contests; age restrictions. Increases from 18 years of age to 21 years of age the minimum age an individual must be to participate in fantasy contests.

HB 2497 - Electric vehicle battery suppliers; certification, penalty.

Chief Patron: Cordoza

Patrons: Cordoza, Green, Fowler

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 59.1-200, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-102.1 and by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 58, consisting of sections numbered 59.1-607, 59.1-608, and 59.1-609, relating to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; electric vehicle battery suppliers; certification; penalties.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; electric vehicle battery suppliers; certification; penalty. Requires each supplier of electric vehicle batteries operating in the Commonwealth to certify under penalty of perjury to the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that no electric vehicle batteries sold in consumer transactions, as defined in the bill, are manufactured in or sourced from African cobalt mines and that the manufacture or sourcing of such electric vehicle batteries involves no child or slave labor. The bill specifies that such certification is required by suppliers by July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter. Under the bill, it is unlawful for an electric vehicle battery supplier to sell, lease, or license any electric vehicle battery without first obtaining a certificate of compliance from the Commissioner, and a violation of this requirement constitutes a violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

HB 2498 - Virginia Gaming Commission; established, penalties, report.

Chief Patron: Krizek

Patrons: Krizek, Reeves

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-203.3, 2.2-401.01, 2.2-3705.3, 2.2-3705.6, 2.2-3705.7, 2.2-3711, 2.2-3802, 2.2-4002, 2.2-4346, 3.2-102, 3.2-6201, 4.1-100, 4.1-206.3, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 8.01-216.3, 8.01-534, 11-16.1, 11-16.2, 15.2-912.2, 15.2-2825, 18.2-325, 18.2-326, 18.2-334.2 through 18.2-334.5, 19.2-66, 19.2-215.1, 19.2-389, 19.2-390, 22.1-140.1, 37.2-314.2, 52-53, 52-54, 58.1-3, 58.1-439, 58.1-460, 58.1-3510, 58.1-3732.1, and 59.1-542.1 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a title numbered 29.5, containing a subtitle numbered I, containing chapters numbered 1 through 6, consisting of sections numbered 29.5-100 through 29.5-648, and a subtitle numbered II, containing chapters numbered 7 and 8, consisting of sections numbered 29.5-700 through 29.5-814; and to repeal §§ 2.2-2455 and 2.2-2456, Article 1.1:1 (§§ 18.2-340.15 through 18.2-340.37) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, Chapter 40 (§§ 58.1-4000 through 58.1-4048) of Title 58.1, Chapter 41 (§§ 58.1-4100 through 58.1-4141) of Title 58.1, Chapter 29 (§§ 59.1-364 through 59.1-405) of Title 59.1, and Chapter 51 (§§ 59.1-556 through 59.1-570) of Title 59.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Gaming Commission; established; penalties.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Gaming Commission; established. Establishes the Virginia Gaming Commission as an independent agency of the Commonwealth, exclusive of the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of government, to oversee and regulate all forms of legal gambling in the Commonwealth except for the state lottery. The bill sets eligibility requirements for the appointment of a Commissioner and Virginia Gaming Commission Board members, provides powers and duties of such Commissioner and Board members, and provides for the transfer of current employees of relevant state agencies to the Commission. The bill contains numerous technical amendments.

HB 2512 - Johnsongrass; DCR, et al., to convene work group to examine use.

Chief Patron: Taylor

Patrons: Taylor, Wachsmann

Status: Failed

A BILL to direct the Department of Conservation and Recreation to examine measures to reduce, mitigate, and eliminate the continued sale and use of Johnsongrass in the Commonwealth.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Department of Conservation and Recreation; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; work group to examine use of Johnsongrass in the Commonwealth. Directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation (the Department), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to convene a work group to examine measures to reduce, mitigate, and eliminate the continued sale and use of Johnsongrass in the Commonwealth. The bill requires such work group to (i) conduct a risk assessment on the use of such plant to evaluate its effect on crops, livestock, public health, and the environment; (ii) identify measures to support education and outreach to reduce the use of such plant and promote the use of noninvasive or native species as a substitute; and (iii) make recommendations regarding potential statutory and regulatory changes relating to the use of such plant, including the creation of guidance documents from relevant agencies. The bill requires the Department to report its findings and any recommendations to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources by December 1, 2026.

HB 2622 - Companion animals; notification by individuals who find animals, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Fowler

Patrons: Fowler, Ennis, Green

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-6551 of the Code of Virginia, relating to notification by individuals finding companion animals; civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Notification by individuals finding companion animals; civil penalty. Increases from \$50 to \$500 the civil penalty for violating provisions requiring an individual who finds a companion animal and (i) provides care or safekeeping or (ii) retains the companion animal in such a manner as to control its activities to notify the owner of such companion animal and a public animal shelter that serves the locality where such companion animal was found and provide adequate care of such companion animal.

HB 2633 - Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products.

Chief Patron: Wilt

Patrons: Wilt, Garrett, French

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5402.1, relating to misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Misbranded food; manufactured-protein food products. Provides that a food is misbranded if it purports to be or is represented as a meat food product and such food product (i) bears or contains a manufactured-protein food product, as defined in the bill; (ii) is offered for sale; and (iii) has a label that is part of or placed on the food product package or other container storing such product that identifies the food as a meat food product, unless such label bears a conspicuous and prominent qualifying term and is in close proximity to an identifying meat term, as such terms are defined in the bill. The bill exempts a meat food product that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services determines contains a trace amount of a manufactured-protein food product.

HB 2634 - Charitable gaming; use of proceeds, charitable gaming adjusted gross receipts, effective date.

Chief Patron: Wilt

Patron: Wilt

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.16 and 18.2-340.19 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; use of proceeds; charitable gaming adjusted gross receipts.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Charitable gaming; use of proceeds; charitable gaming adjusted gross receipts. Amends charitable gaming law to allow certain organizations, as a condition of receiving a charitable gaming permit or authorization to conduct electronic gaming, to use (i) with respect to charitable gaming, other than electronic gaming, a predetermined percentage of its charitable gaming adjusted gross receipts, not to exceed 25 percent, and (ii) with respect to electronic gaming, a predetermined percentage of its electronic gaming adjusted gross receipts, not to exceed 25 percent; however, at no time shall such predetermined percentage be calculated at an amount equal to less than 10 percent of its gross receipts derived from electronic gaming less the amount of prize money paid out to players. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.

HB 2651 - Charitable gaming; definition of poker events.

Chief Patron: Jones

Patron: Jones

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-334.2, 18.2-340.16, 18.2-340.19, 18.2-340.22, 18.2-340.28:2, and 18.2-340.33 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; poker events.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Charitable gaming; poker events. Defines poker event for the purposes of charitable gaming to mean a Texas Hold'em poker game or Texas Hold'em poker tournament in which (i) a schedule of fixed and variable fees for entry into the poker event and the number of chips received for such fees is established and posted; (ii) rebuys, reentries, and add-ons are permitted without limitation; (iii) chips with cash value are permitted to be used; (iv) games and tournaments may be run concurrently; (v) no limit applies to how many poker events occur during the time listed on the permit for such poker event; and (vi) a seating fee may be charged at a rate of up to \$8 up to once every 30 minutes. The bill requires any qualified organization that conducts any poker event to use at least 20 percent of its poker adjusted gross receipts, defined in the bill, from the conduct of Texas Hold'em poker tournaments for (a) those lawful religious, charitable, community, or educational purposes for which the organization is specifically chartered or organized or (b) those expenses related to the acquisition, construction, maintenance, or repair of any interest in real property involved in the operation of the organization and used for lawful religious, charitable, community, or educational purposes. The bill also outlines certain specifics related to the conduct of poker events, including remuneration to operators and tips or gratuities paid to dealers and employees of such operators.

HB 2710 - Food packaging, certain; uniform labeling requirements.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Patron: Lopez

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5124.1, relating to uniform labeling requirements for certain food packaging.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Uniform labeling requirements for certain food packaging. Prohibits the use of a sell-by date on a label affixed to a food product that is manufactured on or after July 1, 2026. The bill instead requires a person selling or offering for sale such food product to use on the outside packaging or container of such food product the phrase "Best if Used by," "Best if Used or Frozen by," "Use by," or "Use by or Freeze by" or its associated abbreviations, as provided in the bill. The bill exempts from its provisions infant formula, eggs, including pasteurized in-shell eggs, beer or other malt beverages, certain shellfish, and any food that is required by law or regulation to bear a label indicating a date or time such food must be consumed, sold, or discarded. The bill maintains a person's discretion to use a quality date or safety date that is not otherwise required by law; however, the bill requires use of the specified label if a person chooses to include such a label on the food product. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

HB 2775 - Hemp product; clarifies definition.

Chief Patron: Convirs-Fowler

Patrons: Convirs-Fowler, Lovejoy

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-4112 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the definition of hemp product. Also known as the Revitalize Hemp Act.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Definition of hemp product; Revitalize Hemp Act.

HJ 452 - Constitutional amendment; right to food choice (first reference).

Chief Patron: Freitas

Patrons: Freitas, Cherry, Garrett, Griffin, Oates, Tata, Wiley, Zehr

Status: Failed

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia by adding in Article I a section numbered 15-B, relating to right to food choice.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Constitutional amendment (first reference); right to food choice. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia that declares the right of the people to acquire the food of their choice from the source of their choice shall not be infringed.

SB 863 - Fantasy Contests Act; minimum age requirement.

Chief Patron: Reeves

Patron: Reeves

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 59.1-557 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Fantasy Contests Act; minimum age requirement.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Fantasy Contests Act; minimum age requirement. Increases from 18 years of age to 21 years of age the minimum age required to participate in fantasy contests.

SB 890 - Agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council, appointment and membership terms.

Chief Patron: Perry

Patrons: Perry, Craig, French

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-1100, 3.2-1105, 3.2-1501, 3.2-1502, 3.2-1510, 3.2-1601, 3.2-2401, 3.2-2402, and 3.2-2902 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal Chapter 20 (§§ 3.2-2000 through 3.2-2009) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council; appointment and membership terms; production areas.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Agricultural commodity boards; Agricultural Council; appointment and membership terms; production areas. Amends various provisions relating to the appointment, terms, and quorums of agricultural commodity boards, including the Cotton Board, Egg Board, and Tobacco Board. The bill eliminates the Pork Industry Board and amends membership terms for the Agricultural Council so that (i) each term is for four years and (ii) no member other than an ex officio member is eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms, except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy may serve two additional consecutive terms after the term of such vacancy that such person was appointed to fill has expired. The bill also amends the production areas for the purposes of membership appointment procedures for the Cotton Board and the Tobacco Board. This bill is identical to HB 1798.

SB 903 - Dogs; sale and procurement by pet shops, pet shop regulations.

Chief Patron: Stanley

Patron: Stanley

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-6501.1 and 3.2-6511.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the sale and procurement of dogs by pet shops; pet shop regulations.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

Sale and procurement of dogs by pet shops; pet shop regulations. Requires a pet shop, upon taking custody of a dog, or any representative of a pet shop upon taking custody of a dog on behalf of the pet shop, to make a record of the matter containing certain information relating to the custody of the dog. The bill requires the pet shop to maintain such records for at least two years and make them available to the State Veterinarian at the time of inspection or upon request. The bill requires the pet shop make a summary of such records available to the State Veterinarian during inspection or upon request. The bill also directs the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services to include in its regulations governing the keeping of dogs and cats by a pet shop a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per violation for each finding in a given inspection of a pet shop upon communication to the pet shop, provided that the cumulative civil penalty does not exceed \$5,000. The bill requires the civil penalty to be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General in the name of the Commonwealth and paid into a special fund in the state treasury to the credit of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

SB 907 - Animal testing facility operated by a state agency; nonhuman primates, care and treatment.

Chief Patron: Stanley

Patron: Stanley

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 13 of Chapter 65 of Title 3.2 a section numbered 3.2-6593.3, relating to animal testing facility operated by a state agency; nonhuman primates.

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:

Animal testing facility operated by a state agency; nonhuman primates. Requires any animal testing facility operated by a state agency that no longer has need for a nonhuman primate, as defined in the bill, in its possession to consider options for and determine the appropriate care and treatment of such nonhuman primate in consultation with the facility's attending veterinarian, which options shall include offering for release such nonhuman primate to a certified sanctuary, defined in the bill. The bill allows an animal testing facility to enter into an agreement with the certified sanctuary to implement the release of such nonhuman primate.

SB 911 - Aerial pesticide application; Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy, civil penalty.

Chief Patron: Stanley

Patron: Stanley

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-108.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 39 of Title 3.2 a section numbered 3.2-3934.1, relating to aerial pesticide applications; Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy; civil penalty.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Aerial pesticide application; Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy; civil penalty. Requires any commercial or private pesticide applicator performing an aerial pesticide application, as defined in the bill, to submit certain relevant information to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and to certain beekeepers located within a five-mile radius no less than five days prior to such application. The bill provides that any commercial applicator or private applicator who violates the provisions of the bill is subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for a first offense and \$2,500 for each additional offense. The bill requires the Department to post and maintain on its website certain information related to aerial pesticide applications and allows any aggrieved person to institute a proceeding for injunction or mandamus against any person or agency that has engaged, is engaged, or is about to engage in any acts or practices in violation of the provisions of the bill. The bill also requires the Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy plan to support awareness among beekeepers and the general public of proposed aerial pesticide applications submitted to the Department and posted on its website.

SB 916 - Local ordinances; regulation of pet shops.

Chief Patron: Salim

Patron: Salim

Status: Failed

A BILL to direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a work group to evaluate data on the sale of dogs and cats by pet shops to identify what information a pet shop shall make available to a prospective dog or cat owner; report.

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:

Sale of dogs and cats by pet shops; consumer education; work group; report. Directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (the Department) to convene a work group to analyze and evaluate currently collected data on the sale of dogs and cats by pet shops to identify what information a pet shop shall make available to a prospective dog or cat owner. The bill requires the work group to include representatives from animal welfare organizations, pet shops that sell dogs and cats, and any other relevant stakeholders the Department deems appropriate. The bill requires the Department to submit a report on the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources no later than November 1, 2025.

SB 921 - Large animal veterinary grant program; State Veterinarian to establish, report.

Chief Patron: Hackworth

Patrons: Hackworth, Aird, Perry, Williams Graves

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5901.2, relating to State Veterinarian; large animal veterinary grant program; report.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

State Veterinarian; large animal veterinary grant program; report. Directs the State Veterinarian to establish a large animal veterinary grant program no later than July 1, 2026, to provide grants to increase or stabilize the number of large animal veterinarians, as defined in the bill, practicing in areas of the Commonwealth that have been identified by the State Veterinarian as having a shortage of such veterinarians. The bill directs the State Veterinarian to annually select from a pool of applicants no more than four large animal veterinarians to participate in the program and to develop, in consultation with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and relevant stakeholders, selection criteria for applicants to participate in the program. The bill also requires the State Veterinarian to submit a report evaluating the extent to which the program has helped to address the shortage of large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth to the Board and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources no later than July 1, 2030. This bill is identical to HB 2303.

SB 1000 - Livestock and poultry killed by dogs; increases fair market value compensation amounts.

Chief Patron: Stuart

Patron: Stuart

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-6553 of the Code of Virginia, relating to compensation for livestock and poultry killed by dogs.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Compensation for livestock and poultry killed by dogs. Increases the fair market value compensation amounts for livestock and poultry killed or injured by dogs from \$750 to \$1,000 per animal and from \$10 to \$25 per fowl.

SB 1051 - Boarding establishments; work group to consider whether to propose state license, etc.

Chief Patron: Ebbin

Patron: Ebbin

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

A BILL to direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a work group to consider whether to propose a state license and other regulatory requirements for animal boarding establishments; report.

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:

Grooming and boarding establishments; inspections by animal control officers. Allows an animal control officer to inspect a grooming or boarding establishment that is not regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine with the consent of the owner or person in charge or pursuant to a warrant upon a receipt of a complaint or twice annually upon their own motion to ensure compliance with state animal care laws and regulations. The bill requires an animal control officer, a law-enforcement officer, or the State Veterinarian to obtain the consent of the owner or person in charge of any business premises of any dealer, pet shop, groomer, or boarding establishment to investigate allegations of a complaint of a suspected violation of state or local animal care laws. Current law does not require such consent to investigate allegations of a complaint. The bill allows an animal control officer to search a building or place pursuant to a warrant after making a sworn statement regarding any potential violations of the cruelty to animals laws. Current law only allows a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or police officer to conduct such a search. The bill also directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, convene a work group to consider whether to propose a state license and other regulatory requirements for animal boarding establishments similar to the current licensing requirements for animal shelters and submit its report of such findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026. This bill is identical to HB 2313.

SB 1127 - Animal testing facilities; public notification of inspection report.

Chief Patron: Boysko

Patrons: Boysko, Stanley, Shin

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-6593.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to animal testing facilities; public notification.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

Animal testing facilities; public notification. Requires any animal testing facility to (i) within 30 days of receiving a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection report, make such inspection report publicly available along with any other relevant USDA final incident reports and relevant documents generated during or as a result of internal or external reviews and (ii) within 30 days of receiving any USDA official warning notice of alleged violation, settlement agreement or stipulation, administrative complaint, decision or order, or any other enforcement record, make such documents publicly available. Current law requires any animal testing facility, within 30 days of receiving an inspection report, to make such inspection report publicly available along with any other relevant USDA incident reports and relevant documents generated from internal reviews. The bill also allows an animal testing facility to redact information contained within such documents in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

SB 1151 - Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program and Fund; established, sunset.

Chief Patron: French

Patron: French

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 3.2 a chapter numbered 5.1, consisting of sections numbered 3.2-511 through 3.2-514, relating to Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program and Fund established.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program and Fund established. Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish and administer the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program. The bill allows any person to participate in the Program if such person (i) owns livestock that graze in the Commonwealth, (ii) is enrolled in the federal Rainfall Index Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage insurance program (PRF insurance) and provided proof of payment of his annual premium, and (iii) certifies to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that, within the past three years and in accordance with the general sampling recommendations from Virginia Cooperative Extension for the land enrolled in PRF insurance, soil samples have been taken from the land enrolled in PRF insurance and analyzed. The bill allows the Commissioner to request documentation of such soil sampling from a Program participant who receives reimbursement through the Program and requires the person to repay such reimbursement to the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program Fund if the person fails to provide the requested documentation. The bill allows the Department to reimburse 50 percent, up to a maximum of \$500, of the Program participant's annual premium payment. The bill specifies that such reimbursement shall be provided on a first-come, first-served basis and shall be subject to availability of funds. Finally, the bill creates the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Premium Assistance Program Fund to be used for carrying out the provisions of the bill. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2030.

SB 1166 - Invasive plant species; retail sales, penalty, delayed effective date January 1, 2027.

Chief Patron: Salim

Patrons: Salim, Boysko

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-3810 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-3801.1, relating to invasive plant species; retail sales.

SUMMARY AS PASSED:

Invasive plant species; retail sales. Requires, for the retail sale of certain invasive plant species for outdoor use, a retail establishment to post in a conspicuous manner on the property located in proximity to each invasive plant signage identifying such plant as invasive, educating consumers regarding invasive plant species, and encouraging consumers to ask about alternatives. The bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to designate the format, size, and content of such signage no later than October 1, 2025, and requires the Commissioner to issue a stop sale order and mark or tag a plant in a conspicuous manner when an invasive plant is for sale at a retail establishment without appropriate signage. In such case, the bill requires the Commissioner to give written notice of a finding made to the owner, tenant, or person in charge of such retail establishment and requires the stop sale order issued to remain in effect until the required signage is posted. Certain provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027. This bill is identical to HB 1941.

SB 1241 - Charitable gaming; certain common interest communities to conduct bingo.

Chief Patron: Durant

Patron: Durant

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.16, 18.2-340.23, 18.2-340.24, and 18.2-340.33 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; common interest communities; bingo.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Charitable gaming; common interest communities; bingo. Allows common interest communities that serve residents age 55 or older to become a qualified organization for the purposes of conducting bingo in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

SB 1280 - Gaming; posting of problem gambling helpline information.

Chief Patron: Ebbin

Patron: Ebbin

Status: Acts of Assembly Chapter

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.19, 58.1-4007.3, 58.1-4122.1, and 59.1-369 of the Code of Virginia, relating to gaming; posting of problem gambling helpline information.

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:

Gaming; posting of problem gambling helpline information. Requires those legally authorized to sell Virginia lottery tickets or conduct charitable gaming, horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering, and casino gaming in the Commonwealth to post in a conspicuous place on their premises a sign that bears the toll-free telephone number for the National Problem Gambling Helpline.

SB 1287 - Virginia Gaming Commission; established, penalties, report.

Chief Patron: Reeves

Patrons: Reeves, Aird, Ebbin, Krizek

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-203.3, 2.2-401.01, 2.2-3705.3, 2.2-3705.6, 2.2-3705.7, 2.2-3711, 2.2-3802, 2.2-4002, 2.2-4346, 3.2-102, 3.2-6201, 4.1-100, 4.1-206.3, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 8.01-216.3, 8.01-534, 11-16.1, 11-16.2, 15.2-912.2, 15.2-2825, 18.2-325, 18.2-326, 18.2-334.2 through 18.2-334.5, 19.2-66, 19.2-215.1, 19.2-389, 19.2-390, 22.1-140.1, 37.2-314.2, 52-53, 52-54, 58.1-3, 58.1-439, 58.1-460, 58.1-3510, 58.1-3732.1, and 59.1-542.1 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a title numbered 29.5, containing a subtitle numbered I, containing chapters numbered 1 through 6, consisting of sections numbered 29.5-100 through 29.5-648, and a subtitle numbered II, containing chapters numbered 7 and 8, consisting of sections numbered 29.5-700 through 29.5-814; and to repeal §§ 2.2-2455 and 2.2-2456, Article 1.1:1 (§§ 18.2-340.15 through 18.2-340.37) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, Chapter 40 (§§ 58.1-4000 through 58.1-4048) of Title 58.1, Chapter 41 (§§ 58.1-4100 through 58.1-4141) of Title 58.1, Chapter 29 (§§ 59.1-364 through 59.1-405) of Title 59.1, and Chapter 51 (§§ 59.1-556 through 59.1-570) of Title 59.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Gaming Commission; established; penalties.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Gaming Commission; established. Establishes the Virginia Gaming Commission as an independent agency of the Commonwealth, exclusive of the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of government, to oversee and regulate all forms of legal gambling in the Commonwealth except for the state lottery. The bill sets eligibility requirements for the appointment of a Commissioner and Virginia Gaming Commission Board members, provides powers and duties of such Commissioner and Board members, and provides for the transfer of current employees of relevant state agencies to the Commission. The bill contains numerous technical amendments.

SB 1481 - Animal testing; facilities operated by public institutions of higher education, report.

Chief Patron: Stanley

Patron: Stanley

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 13 of Chapter 65 of Title 3.2 a section numbered 3.2-6593.3, relating to animal testing facilities operated by public institutions of higher education; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Animal testing facilities operated by public institutions of higher education; report. Requires each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth that operates an animal testing facility to publish an annual report that includes specific information about such institution's animal testing operations. The bill requires each such institution to submit the annual report to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, which shall make it publicly available on its website.

SB 1483 - Hemp products; regulated retail facility registration, fee.

Chief Patron: Boysko

Patrons: Boysko, Salim

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-4122 of the Code of Virginia, relating to regulated hemp product retail facility registration; fee.

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:

Regulated hemp product retail facility registration; fee. Changes the requirement that a regulated hemp product retail facility registration be required for each location that offers for sale or sells at retail regulated hemp products to instead require such registration for the primary location that offers for sale or sells such products. The bill also requires an applicant for a regulated hemp product retail facility registration to notify the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services no less than 14 days in advance of any additional temporary event locations, including fairs, festivals, or farmers markets, at which such facility intends to offer for sale or sell at retail (i) a regulated hemp product or (ii) a substance intended for human consumption, orally or by inhalation, that is advertised or labeled as containing an industrial hemp-derived cannabinoid. However, the bill provides that no such product or substance that contains tetrahydrocannabinol may be sold at any such temporary event location.

Counts: HB: 24 HJ: 1 SB: 17 SJ: 0

Project 8265 - Exempt Final

Department of Agriculture And Consumer Services

Repeal of 2 VAC 5-380

Chapter 380

**Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Virginia Dealers in Agricultural Products Law
(REPEALED)**

2VAC5-380-10. Definitions. (Repealed.)

~~The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

~~"Buyer or shipper" means a dealer who purchases any agricultural product from a producer, and who takes possession at the buyer's or the producer's place of business at an agreed price without conditions or contingencies.~~

~~"Conditional buyer" means a dealer who purchases any agricultural product from a producer by quoting a fixed net price or fixed gross price less handling charges. The purchase is conditioned upon the arrival of the product at the first point of delivery in the grade specified at the time of purchase. (Grade shall include size, quality, and soundness.)~~

~~"Department" means the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.~~

~~"Grower's agent or broker" means a dealer who negotiates the sale of agricultural produce on behalf of the producer according to the terms of an agreement between the parties. Written agreements are recommended but not required.~~

~~"Handling for the account of" means a dealer who accepts agricultural products from a producer to be sold directly to a specific and identified purchaser, exclusive of intermediate dealers, agents or brokers, for which the dealer charges a fixed percentage commission on gross returns, or a fixed fee per unit of product, with or without additional charges such as grading, packing, etc.~~

~~"Virginia Agricultural Products Dealers Licensing and Bonding Law" means Article 3 (§ 3.2-4738 et seq.) of Chapter 47 of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia.~~

2VAC5-380-20. License to operate as a dealer. (Repealed.)

~~Every person who applies for a license to operate as a dealer under the Virginia Agricultural Products Dealers Licensing and Bonding Law shall declare, at the time of applying for a license, the conditions as defined in 2VAC5-380-10 under which he intends to operate, and the license issued shall be limited to the conditions declared. All such licenses shall be conspicuously posted in the dealers place of business.~~

2VAC5-380-30. Notification of rejected produce. (Repealed.)

~~If any lot of produce is rejected, the conditional buyer shall notify the producer as soon as possible, either by telephone or in person. This notification must be made within 96 hours of the time the produce was shipped from the producer's or conditional buyer's place of business. The conditional buyer and the producer shall establish new conditions for handling the produce in question. Under such conditions, the conditional buyer shall assume the status of either "Handling for the account of" or "Grower agent or broker," as decided by the producer and the dealer. All verbal communication concerning the rejection and new conditions for handling shall be confirmed in writing, by the dealer to the producer, within 48 hours. All such rejection shall be confirmed by~~

~~an official USDA inspection at the point of rejection, unless confirmation is waived by the producer in writing.~~

~~2VAC5-380-40. Receipt of acceptance. (Repealed.)~~

~~Every dealer shall give a written receipt to the producer for each lot of produce received or accepted. Such receipt may be either a delivery receipt or an invoice which specifies the conditions under which the produce is handled (see 2VAC5-380-10). Such receipt shall be made within 72 hours of the time the produce is received or accepted by the dealer, his employee, his agent, or the buyer, whichever comes first.~~

~~2VAC5-380-50. Failure to comply. (Repealed.)~~

~~Any producer aggrieved by the failure of a dealer to comply with 2VAC5-380-30 and 2VAC5-380-40 shall file a complaint with the department within five days after discovery of the failure.~~

~~2VAC5-380-60. Filing of contracts. (Repealed.)~~

~~Copies of all contracts made pursuant to § 3.2-4745 of the Code of Virginia shall be filed with the Office of Product Regulation, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23209.~~

~~FORMS (2VAC5-380)(Repealed)~~

~~Application for Agricultural Products Dealer.~~

~~Bond, As Dealer in Agricultural Products in Virginia.~~

Project 7135

Department of Agriculture And Consumer Services

Amendments to Establish a Minimum Germination Rate for Cotton Seed

2VAC5-390-10. [Methods of inspecting, sampling, and testing, and the application tolerances] .

[Method of inspecting, sampling, and testing, and the application of tolerance shall be according to the "Rules for Testing Seeds" adopted by the Association of Official Seed Analysts* except:

1. For those kinds of tree and shrub seed not included in the "Rules for Testing Seeds," Association of Official Seed Analysts, the testing procedure used shall be those recommended by the National Tree Seed Laboratory.
2. That tolerances are not allowed on prohibited noxious weed seeds.
3. Tolerance shall apply to flower and vegetable germination standards only as specified in 2VAC5-390-90 and 2VAC5-390-110.
4. For seed peanuts the testing tolerance will be five on the minimum germination standard.
5. Certain kinds listed as crop seeds in Association of Official Seed Analysts Handbook 25 "Uniform Classification of Weed and Crop Seed" shall be considered restricted noxious weed seeds as listed in 2VAC5-390-20 B 2.
6. Tolerance shall not apply to cotton for agricultural seed when the germination rate for such seed, as determined by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is less than the minimum germination rate established in 2VAC5-390-190 A.

*Currently effective, copies of which may be obtained from the commissioner upon request, at cost.]

2VAC5-390-190. Minimum germination standard for cotton seed.

A. Cotton for agricultural seed, as defined in § 3.2-4000 of the Code of Virginia, shall have a 60% minimum germination.

B. [Cotton for agricultural seed with a germination rate less than 60%, as determined by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall not be distributed, sold, or offered for sale.

C.] A licensee may relabel and distribute, sell, or offer for sale cotton for agricultural seed that is labeled in violation of § 3.2-4008 C 9 [a] of the Code of Virginia if such seed is relabeled with the germination rate determined by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services [and such germination rate, without a tolerance applied, is at least 60%] .

Project 8241 - Exempt Proposed

Department of Agriculture And Consumer Services

2023 legislation regarding edible hemp products

Chapter 595

Regulations Governing the Manufacturing and Sale of ~~Products that Contain Industrial Hemp~~

~~Extracts Intended for Human Consumption~~ Edible Hemp Products

2VAC5-595-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this regulation shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Approved source" means a manufacturer of an ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product that operates (i) under inspection by the responsible food regulatory agency in the location in which such manufacturing occurs and (ii) in compliance with the laws, regulations, or criteria that pertain to the manufacturer of an ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product in the location in which such manufacturing occurs. If the location in which a manufacturer operates does not have a law, regulation, or criteria that pertains to the manufacture of an edible hemp product, then the manufacturer shall not be an "approved source."

"Batch" means a specific quantity of an ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product that is uniform and is produced during a specified period of time under similar conditions and identified by a specific code that allows traceability.

"Cannabinoid" means (i) a naturally occurring, biologically active, chemical constituent of naturally occurring bioactive phytochemical in Cannabis sativa that is or is a derivative of

cannabigerolic acid (CAS RN: 25555-57-1) or (ii) any bioactive phytochemical that is both structurally and chemically similar to a derivative of cannabigerolic acid.

"CAS RN" means Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number.

"Certificate of analysis" means a document issued by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory that details the results of an analysis conducted by that laboratory.

"Consumer" means a person who (i) purchases an ~~industrial hemp extract or a food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product for personal use, (ii) is not functioning in the capacity of an operator of a food establishment or food processing plant, and (iii) does not offer the ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product for resale.

"Consumption" means oral ingestion.

"Contaminant" means any substance not intended to be an ingredient in a food and that is potentially harmful to the consumer.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Dietary supplement" means the same as that term is defined in 21 USC § 321.

"Edible hemp product" means any hemp product that is or includes an industrial hemp extract, as defined in § 3.2-5145.1 of the Code of Virginia, and that is intended to be consumed orally.

~~"Extract" means a naturally occurring phytochemical produced by the industrial hemp plant that has been removed from the inert structural material of the plant.~~

"Food" means any article that is intended for human consumption and introduction into commerce, whether the article is simple, mixed, or compound, and all substances or ingredients used in the preparation thereof. "Food" includes a dietary supplement. "Food" does not mean a drug as defined in § 54.1-3401 of the Code of Virginia. ~~"Food" includes a dietary supplement.~~

"Food and Drink Law" means Chapter 51 (§ 3.2-5100 et seq.) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia.

~~"Industrial hemp" means any part of the plant Cannabis sativa with a concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol that is no greater than that allowed by federal law.~~

~~"Industrial hemp extract" means an extract (i) of a Cannabis sativa plant that has a concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol that is no greater than that allowed for hemp by federal law and (ii) that is intended for human consumption~~ the same as that term is defined in § 3.2-5145.1 of the Code of Virginia.

~~"Manufacturer" means a person that who (i) produces a packaged food or a food intended to be used as an ingredient in a food or packages a food for retail sale and (ii) offers the food or ingredient to be used in a food for sale directly to consumers or for wholesale distribution. "Manufacturer" does not include a person that adds an industrial hemp extract to food for immediate consumption by consumers in a retail food establishment or at a farmers' market, if that person did not produce the industrial hemp extract.~~

"Phytochemical" means any naturally occurring chemical compound in a plant.

~~"Processor" means a person registered pursuant to subsection A of § 3.2-4115 of the Code of Virginia to process industrial hemp.~~

~~"Production field" means the land or area on which a grower is growing or intends to grow industrial hemp.~~

~~"Retail food establishment" means a food business regulated under and operating in compliance with the Retail Food Establishment Regulations (2VAC5-585) and Chapter 51 (§ 3.2-5100 et seq.) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia.~~

"Retail sale" means the sale of a product directly to a consumer, including electronic commerce.

"Sale," "sell," or "offering for sale" means selling, offering to sell, holding, preparing for sale, trading, bartering, offering as a gift as an inducement for sale, or advertising for sale in any media.

"Statement of identity" means the common or usual name of the food or, in the absence thereof, an appropriately descriptive term.

"Tetrahydrocannabinol" means the same as that term is defined in § 3.2-4112 of the Code of Virginia.

"Total ~~delta-9~~ tetrahydrocannabinol concentration" means the ~~post-decarboxylation delta-9~~ tetrahydrocannabinol concentration, which can be determined using the following equation: $[\text{delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol}] + (0.877 \times [\text{tetrahydrocannabinolic acid}])$ same as that term is defined in § 3.2-4112 of the Code of Virginia. "Total tetrahydrocannabinol" is determined using the following equation, which includes the necessary conversion factor: (sum of the weights of all tetrahydrocannabinol and all other isomers of tetrahydrocannabinol) + (0.877 x the weight of tetrahydrocannabinolic acid).

"Wholesale distribution" means the sale of a product to an intermediate entity that intends to further distribute that product for retail sale.

2VAC5-595-20. Regulated articles.

~~Industrial hemp extracts and foods containing an industrial hemp extract~~ Edible hemp products are subject to the provisions of this chapter.

2VAC5-595-30. ~~Inspection~~ Permit required.

~~A. A person that manufactures an industrial hemp extract in Virginia and introduces that industrial hemp extract into commerce shall first be inspected by the department for compliance with the requirements in 2VAC5-595-50.~~

~~B. To apply for an inspection to manufacture an industrial hemp extract or to introduce an industrial hemp extract into commerce, a person must:~~

- ~~1. Submit an application on a form provided by the department; and~~
- ~~2. Provide documentation of an unexpired Industrial Hemp Processor Registration issued pursuant to subsection A of § 3.2-4115 of the Code of Virginia.~~

A person who manufactures, packages, holds in storage, offers for sale, or sells an edible hemp product in Virginia must obtain a food safety permit in accordance with subsection C of § 3.2-5100 of the Code of Virginia for each location where manufacturing, packaging, holding, offering for sale, or selling occurs, unless exempt from a permit pursuant to subdivision (C)(6) of § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia.

2VAC5-595-40. General requirements.

A. A manufacturer shall produce an ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product in compliance with ~~Chapter 51 (§ 3.2-5100 et seq.) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia~~ the Food and Drink Law and Regulations Pertaining to Food for Human Consumption (2VAC5-600), including 21 CFR Part 117.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, a manufacturer shall produce an ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product in compliance with 21 CFR Part 111 if the ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ product is:

1. Produced in a tablet, capsule, ~~powder~~, softgel, or gel cap form;
2. Labeled with a panel titled "Supplement Facts" the phrase "Dietary Supplement" or a similar phrase indicating the product is intended to be a dietary supplement; or

3. Labeled with a statement that describes the role of a nutrient or ingredient intended to affect the structure or function in humans or that characterizes the documented mechanism by which a nutrient or ingredient acts to maintain such structure or function.

C. ~~The manufacture or sale of food that contains an industrial hemp extract~~ wholesale distribution of an edible hemp product is not eligible for the exemption from inspection or permitting requirement provided in § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia.

D. ~~A person offering for sale a food containing an industrial hemp extract shall obtain the industrial hemp extract from an approved source~~ An edible hemp product offered for sale must be manufactured by an approved source.

E. An edible hemp product shall not have distinct components or a physical composition that varies in cannabinoid content.

F. An edible hemp product when offered for retail sale shall (a) contain a total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of no greater than 0.3 percent and (b) contain either no more than two milligrams of total tetrahydrocannabinol per package or an amount of cannabidiol that is no less than 25 times greater than the amount of total tetrahydrocannabinol per package.

G. An edible hemp product when offered for sale shall be accompanied by a certificate of analysis that:

1. Is produced by an independent laboratory that meets the requirements in subsection E of 2VAC5-595-50;

2. States the laboratory's analysis results for all testing required in 2VAC5-595-50;

3. Is in printed or electronic format and readily accessible to consumers. If provided electronically through a QR code, the QR code must either link directly to the certificate of analysis or provide a simple method to access the certificate of analysis; and

4. Is modified in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards, when modifications are necessary. Any modification to a certificate of analysis not made in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards shall render the certificate of analysis invalid for the purpose of determining compliance with this chapter or the Code of Virginia.

H. The certificate of accreditation pursuant to standard ISO/IEC 17025 issued by a third-party accrediting body to the independent laboratory conducting the testing required in 2VAC5-595-50 shall be available for review at the location at which the edible hemp product is offered for sale.

2VAC5-595-50. Laboratory testing required for contaminants and phytochemicals of an ~~industrial hemp extract or a food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product.

~~A. If an industrial hemp extract is used as an ingredient in a food and that industrial hemp extract was produced by a manufacturer that is an approved source pursuant to § 3.2-5145.3 of the Code of Virginia, that food containing an industrial hemp extract is not subject to the testing requirements prescribed in this section. However, a food containing an industrial hemp extract that contains any contaminant in an amount that exceeds an acceptable criteria or tolerance established in this section is adulterated.~~

~~B. A manufacturer of an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product shall submit for laboratory analysis a sample from each batch of industrial hemp extract the manufacturer produces. ~~Such laboratory analysis shall only be performed by a laboratory that meets the requirements prescribed in subsection E of this section~~ edible hemp product for laboratory analysis. However, if each industrial hemp extract used as an ingredient in a batch of food (i) was manufactured by an approved source that maintains and makes available for review documentation of the laboratory analysis conducted on the industrial hemp extract and (ii) does not exceed the acceptable criteria or tolerance for any substance established in this section, the manufacturer of the batch of food that includes this industrial hemp extract is not required to

submit a sample of the batch for laboratory analysis of its microbiological content, mycotoxin content, heavy metal content, residual solvent content, or pesticide chemical residue content.

~~C. B.~~ A batch of edible hemp product whose sample contains ~~any contaminant a~~ microbiological content, mycotoxin content, heavy metal content, residual solvent content, or pesticide chemical residue content in an amount that exceeds an acceptable criteria or tolerance established in this section is adulterated and may not be offered for sale. ~~A manufacturer of an industrial hemp extract may not offer for sale or sell any industrial hemp extract from a batch whose sample contains any contaminant in an amount that exceeds an acceptable criteria or tolerance established in this section.~~

~~D. C.~~ A manufacturer of an industrial hemp extract may not offer for sale or sell any industrial hemp extract from a batch of edible hemp product whose sample does not contain the a cannabinoid or other phytochemical ~~concentration claimed~~ declared on the product label ~~for the industrial hemp extract~~ is misbranded and may not be offered for sale.

~~E. D.~~ The laboratory analysis required in ~~subsection B~~ of this section shall be performed by a laboratory that:

1. Has no direct or indirect financial interest in a manufacturer of an ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product or in any other entity that may benefit from the production, manufacture, sale, purchase, or use of an ~~industrial hemp extract or product containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product. Additionally, no person with a direct or indirect financial interest in the laboratory shall have a direct or indirect financial interest in a manufacturer of an ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product or in any other entity that may benefit from the production, manufacture, sale, purchase, or use of an ~~industrial hemp extract or product containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product.

~~2. Employs at least one person to oversee and be responsible for the laboratory testing who has earned from a college or university accredited by a national or regional certifying authority at least (i) a master's degree in chemical or biological sciences and a minimum of two years of post-degree laboratory experience or (ii) a bachelor's degree in chemical or biological sciences and a minimum of four years of post-degree laboratory experience~~
Is accredited pursuant to standard ISO/IEC 17025 of the International Organization for Standardization by a third-party accrediting body. The scope of the laboratory's accreditation shall include the testing required in this section.

E. A laboratory that performs the laboratory analysis required in this section shall produce a certificate of analysis that:

1. States the identification code of the batch of edible hemp product represented by the sample analyzed;
2. States the laboratory's analysis results for all testing required in this section;
3. Complies with the requirements for laboratory reports as specified in the ISO/IEC 17025 standard; and
4. If modified, is modified in compliance with the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

F. Laboratory analysis shall determine the content of the following phytochemicals in a sample from a batch of an edible hemp product, by weight and by percentage:

1. Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (CAS RN: 1972-08-03);
2. Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (CAS RN: 23978-85-0);
3. Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (CAS RN: 5957-75-5);
4. Cannabidiol (CAS RN: 13956-29-1); and
5. Any other cannabinoid or phytochemical declared on the product label.

~~G.~~ The microbiological content in one gram or one milliliter of a sample from a batch of ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product shall ~~meet the standard for the microbiological test established in 18VAC110-60-300~~ comply with the following limits:

1. Total aerobic microbial count: $\leq 10,000$.
2. Absence of E. Coli.
3. Absence of Salmonella spp.
4. Total combined yeast and mold count: $\leq 1,000$.

~~G. H.~~ The mycotoxin content in a sample from a batch of ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product shall ~~meet the standard for the mycotoxin test established in 18VAC110-60-300.~~ comply with the following limits:

<u>Mycotoxins</u>	
<u>Aflatoxin B1</u>	<u><20 ug/kg of Substance</u>
<u>Aflatoxin B2</u>	<u><20 ug/kg of Substance</u>
<u>Aflatoxin G1</u>	<u><20 ug/kg of Substance</u>
<u>Aflatoxin G2</u>	<u><20 ug/kg of Substance</u>
<u>Ochratoxin A</u>	<u><20 ug/kg of Substance</u>

~~H. I.~~ The heavy metal content in a sample from a batch of ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product shall ~~meet the standard for the heavy metal test established in 18VAC110-60-300.~~ comply with the following limits:

<u>Heavy metals</u>	
<u>Arsenic</u>	<u><10 parts per million (ppm)</u>
<u>Cadmium</u>	<u><4.1 ppm</u>
<u>Lead</u>	<u><10 ppm</u>

<u>Mercury</u>	<u><2 ppm</u>
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4. J. The residual solvent content in a sample from a batch of industrial hemp extract ~~edible hemp product~~ shall not exceed the following acceptable criteria: established in this subsection. If an industrial hemp extract is manufactured by a method that does not utilize solvents, laboratory analysis of the residual solvent content of the batch of this industrial hemp extract is not required. "Residual solvent" does not include a solvent that is (i) a component of the product formulation, (ii) listed as an ingredient, and (iii) generally recognized as safe for use in food.

Residual solvent	Acceptable criteria
1,2-Dichloroethene	5 ppm
1,1-Dichloroethene	8 ppm
Acetone	5,000 ppm
Acetonitrile	410 ppm
Benzene	2 ppm
Butane	2,000 ppm
Chloroform	60 ppm
Ethanol	5,000 ppm
Ethyl Acetate	5,000 ppm
Ethyl Ether	5,000 ppm
Ethylene Oxide	5 ppm
Heptane	5,000 ppm
Hexane	290 ppm
Isopropyl Alcohol	500 ppm
Methanol	3,000 ppm
Methylene Chloride	600 ppm
Pentane	5,000 ppm
Propane	2,100 ppm
Toluene	890 ppm

Trichloroethylene (1,1,2-Trichloroethene)	80 ppm
Xylenes, Total (ortho-, meta-, para-)	2,170 ppm
<u>Any other solvent not listed in this table</u>	<u>None detected</u>

~~J. Any pesticide applied to industrial hemp or during the processing of industrial hemp must be done so in accordance with the label of that pesticide and in compliance with the Virginia Pesticide Control Act (§ 3.2-3900 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) and regulations adopted thereunder. For at least three years, the manufacturer of an industrial hemp extract shall maintain pesticide application records for the industrial hemp from which it produces the industrial hemp extract.~~

K. The pesticide chemical residue content in a sample from a batch of ~~industrial hemp extract~~ an edible hemp product shall ~~meet~~ not exceed the most stringent acceptable standard for the a pesticide chemical residue ~~test established in 18VAC110-60-300~~ any food item as set forth in subpart C of 40 CFR Part 180. Pesticide chemical residue testing shall include testing for carbamates, organochlorines, and organophosphates.

L. The total ~~delta-9~~ tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of a sample from a batch of ~~industrial hemp extract~~ shall not exceed 0.3% an edible hemp product when offered for retail sale shall:

1. Not exceed 0.3%, and

2. Not exceed two milligrams per package unless the package contains an amount of cannabidiol that is no less than 25 times greater than the amount of total tetrahydrocannabinol.

~~M. If a manufacturer labels an industrial hemp extract as having any amount of a cannabinoid, a sample from a batch of the industrial hemp extract shall be tested and shall have the claimed amount of the cannabinoid. If a manufacturer labels an industrial hemp extract as having any~~

~~amount of phytochemical, including a terpene or flavonoid, a sample from a batch of the industrial hemp extract shall be tested and shall have the claimed amount of the phytochemical.~~

~~N. If batch testing of industrial hemp extracts from industrial hemp grown in a specific production field consistently shows that levels of contaminants do not exceed the limits established in this chapter, the frequency of batch testing by the manufacturer may be adjusted after consultation with the department. The manufacturer shall retain documentation of the reasoning for adjustment of batch testing frequency and the recommendation of the department and make such available to the department on request.~~

~~O. The manufacturer shall maintain industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product ~~testing records for at least three~~ five years.

~~2VAC5-595-60. Labeling of industrial hemp extracts and foods containing an industrial hemp extract~~ and packaging requirements.

A. For the purpose of this chapter, label or labeling includes the label on the packaging of an ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product as well as any brochure, advertisement, information on social media or on any website, or any other form of product marketing.

B. An ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product that contains tetrahydrocannabinol, when offered for sale, shall be contained in child-resistant packaging. The packaging shall:

1. Be specially designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for a typical child under five years of age to open and not to be significantly difficult for a typical adult to open and, if required, reseal;
2. Meet the general requirements and effectiveness specifications established in 16 CFR § 1700.15(a) and (b); and

3. For any product intended for more than a single use or that contains multiple servings, resealable.

C. An edible hemp product shall be labeled in accordance with 21 CFR Part 101, ~~and Chapter 51 (§ 3.2-5100 et seq.) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia~~ the Food and Drink Law, and this chapter.

~~C. D.~~ D. Notwithstanding subsection ~~B. C~~ of this section, a manufacturer shall label an ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product in compliance with the labeling provisions for dietary supplements in 21 CFR Part 101, ~~and Chapter 51 (§ 3.2-5100 et seq.) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia~~ the Food and Drink Law, and this chapter if the ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product is:

1. Produced in a tablet, capsule, ~~powder~~, softgel, or gel cap form;
2. Labeled with ~~a panel titled "Supplement Facts"~~ the phrase "Dietary Supplement" or a similar phrase indicating the product is intended to be a dietary supplement; or
3. Labeled with a statement that describes the role of a nutrient or ingredient intended to affect the structure or function in humans or that characterizes the documented mechanism by which a nutrient or ingredient acts to maintain such structure or function.

~~D. E.~~ E. If a manufacturer labels an ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product as containing a specific cannabinoid or ~~concentration thereof~~ other phytochemical, the number of milligrams of ~~such~~ each cannabinoid or phytochemical must be declared on the product label. The manufacturer must ~~make and~~ maintain records verifying the declared amount of cannabinoid. Such records ~~may~~ shall include ~~a recipes, formulation, or formulations,~~ batch record records, and certificates of analysis.

~~E. F.~~ F. The label of an ~~industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product shall not contain a claim indicating the product is intended for diagnosis,

cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, which shall render the product a drug, as that term is defined in 21 USC § 321(g)(1). ~~An industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product with a label that contains a claim indicating the product is intended for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease is not a food and shall be considered misbranded.

~~F. G.~~ A manufacturer shall identify each batch of an ~~industrial hemp extract or a food containing an industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product with a unique code for traceability. Julian date coding or any other system developed and documented by the manufacturer for assigning a unique code to a batch may be used. The batch identification shall appear and be legible on the ~~industrial hemp extract~~ edible hemp product label.

~~G. The label of an industrial hemp extract that contains tetrahydrocannabinol or a food containing an industrial hemp extract that contains tetrahydrocannabinol~~ H. An edible hemp product must be equipped with a label that states:

- ~~1. That the industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract contains tetrahydrocannabinol and may not be sold to a person younger than 21 years of age~~ The product's statement of identity;
- ~~2. All ingredients contained in the industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract;~~ product listed by the common or usual name for the ingredient. The ingredients list shall include:
 - a. The sub-ingredients for any ingredient that consists of two or more substances; and
 - b. The name of the food source for each major food allergen contained in the product unless the food source is already stated in the common or usual name of the ingredient.

3. ~~The amount of such industrial hemp extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract~~
edible hemp product that constitutes a single serving, stated in terms of weight or volume
in either metric or U.S. customary measures; and

4. If the product contains tetrahydrocannabinol:

a. The ~~total~~ percentage of total tetrahydrocannabinol included in the package;

b. ~~and The~~ milligrams of ~~total~~ tetrahydrocannabinol included in the industrial hemp
extract or food containing an industrial hemp extract and the number of package;

c. The milligrams of ~~total~~ tetrahydrocannabinol that are contained in each a single
serving; and

d. That the product contains tetrahydrocannabinol and may not be sold to a person
younger than 21 years of age.

FORMS (2VAC5-595)

~~Application for Manufacturer of an Industrial Hemp-Derived Extract Intended for Human~~
~~Consumption, VDACS-FSP-APPIH (rev. 6/2022)~~

[Application for Manufacturer of an Industrial Hemp-Derived Extract Intended for Human](#)
[Consumption, VDACS-FSP-APPIH \(rev. 08/22\)](#)

[Permit Application for Manufacturing/Warehouse Food Establishment, VDACS-FSP-APPMW](#)
[\(rev. 06/22\)](#)

[Permit Application for Retail Food Establishment, VDACS-FSP-APPRE \(rev. 06/23\)](#)

Documents Incorporated by Reference (2VAC5-595)

General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, ISO/IEC
17025, Third edition, 2017, International Organization for Standardization

Project 8241 - Exempt Proposed

Department of Agriculture And Consumer Services

2023 legislation regarding edible hemp products

Chapter 595

Regulations Governing the Manufacturing and Sale of Edible Hemp Products

2VAC5-595-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this regulation shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Approved source" means a manufacturer of an edible hemp product that operates (i) under inspection by the responsible food regulatory agency in the location in which such manufacturing occurs and (ii) in compliance with the laws, regulations, or criteria that pertain to the manufacturer of an edible hemp product in the location in which such manufacturing occurs. If the location in which a manufacturer operates does not have a law, regulation, or criteria that pertains to the manufacture of an edible hemp product, then the manufacturer shall not be an "approved source."

"Batch" means a specific quantity of an edible hemp product that is uniform and is produced during a specified period of time under similar conditions and identified by a specific code that allows traceability.

"Cannabinoid" means (i) a naturally occurring bioactive phytochemical in *Cannabis sativa* that is or is a derivative of cannabigerolic acid (CAS RN: 25555-57-1) or (ii) any bioactive phytochemical that is both structurally and chemically similar to a derivative of cannabigerolic acid.

"CAS RN" means Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number.

"Certificate of analysis" means a document issued by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory that details the results of an analysis conducted by that laboratory.

"Consumer" means a person who (i) purchases an edible hemp product for personal use, (ii) is not functioning in the capacity of an operator of a food establishment or food processing plant, and (iii) does not offer the edible hemp product for resale.

"Consumption" means oral ingestion.

"Contaminant" means any substance not intended to be an ingredient in a food and that is potentially harmful to the consumer.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Dietary supplement" means the same as that term is defined in 21 USC § 321.

"Edible hemp product" means any hemp product that is or includes an industrial hemp extract, as defined in § 3.2-5145.1 of the Code of Virginia, and that is intended to be consumed orally.

"Food" means any article that is intended for human consumption and introduction into commerce, whether the article is simple, mixed, or compound, and all substances or ingredients used in the preparation thereof. "Food" includes a dietary supplement. "Food" does not mean a drug as defined in § 54.1-3401 of the Code of Virginia.

"Food and Drink Law" means Chapter 51 (§ 3.2-5100 et seq.) of Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia.

"Industrial hemp extract" means the same as that term is defined in § 3.2-5145.1 of the Code of Virginia.

"Manufacturer" means a person who (i) produces a packaged food or a food intended to be used as an ingredient in a food or packages a food for retail sale and (ii) offers the food or ingredient to be used in a food for sale directly to consumers or for wholesale distribution.

"Phytochemical" means any naturally occurring chemical compound in a plant.

"Retail sale" means the sale of a product directly to a consumer, including electronic commerce.

"Sale," "sell," or "offering for sale" means selling, offering to sell, holding, preparing for sale, trading, bartering, offering as a gift as an inducement for sale, or advertising for sale in any media.

"Statement of identity" means the common or usual name of the food or, in the absence thereof, an appropriately descriptive term.

"Tetrahydrocannabinol" means the same as that term is defined in § 3.2-4112 of the Code of Virginia.

"Total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration" means the same as that term is defined in § 3.2-4112 of the Code of Virginia. "Total tetrahydrocannabinol" is determined using the following equation, which includes the necessary conversion factor: (sum of the weights of all tetrahydrocannabinol and all other isomers of tetrahydrocannabinol) + (0.877 x the weight of tetrahydrocannabinolic acid).

"Wholesale distribution" means the sale of a product to an intermediate entity that intends to further distribute that product for retail sale.

2VAC5-595-20. Regulated articles.

Edible hemp products are subject to the provisions of this chapter.

2VAC5-595-30. Permit required.

A person who manufactures, packages, holds in storage, offers for sale, or sells an edible hemp product in Virginia must obtain a food safety permit in accordance with subsection C of § 3.2-5100 of the Code of Virginia for each location where manufacturing, packaging, holding, offering for sale, or selling occurs, unless exempt from a permit pursuant to subdivision (C)(6) of § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia.

2VAC5-595-40. General requirements.

A. A manufacturer shall produce an edible hemp product in compliance with the Food and Drink Law and Regulations Pertaining to Food for Human Consumption (2VAC5-600), including 21 CFR Part 117.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, a manufacturer shall produce an edible hemp product in compliance with 21 CFR Part 111 if the product is:

1. Produced in a tablet, capsule, softgel, or gel cap form;
2. Labeled with the phrase "Dietary Supplement" or a similar phrase indicating the product is intended to be a dietary supplement; or
3. Labeled with a statement that describes the role of a nutrient or ingredient intended to affect the structure or function in humans or that characterizes the documented mechanism by which a nutrient or ingredient acts to maintain such structure or function.

C. The manufacture or wholesale distribution of an edible hemp product is not eligible for the exemption from inspection or permitting requirement provided in § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia.

D. An edible hemp product offered for sale must be manufactured by an approved source.

E. An edible hemp product shall not have distinct components or a physical composition that varies in cannabinoid content.

F. An edible hemp product when offered for retail sale shall (a) contain a total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of no greater than 0.3 percent and (b) contain either no more than two milligrams of total tetrahydrocannabinol per package or an amount of cannabidiol that is no less than 25 times greater than the amount of total tetrahydrocannabinol per package.

G. An edible hemp product when offered for sale shall be accompanied by a certificate of analysis that:

1. Is produced by an independent laboratory that meets the requirements in subsection E of 2VAC5-595-50;
2. States the laboratory's analysis results for all testing required in 2VAC5-595-50;
3. Is in printed or electronic format and readily accessible to consumers. If provided electronically through a QR code, the QR code must either link directly to the certificate of analysis or provide a simple method to access the certificate of analysis; and
4. Is modified in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards, when modifications are necessary. Any modification to a certificate of analysis not made in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 standards shall render the certificate of analysis invalid for the purpose of determining compliance with this chapter or the Code of Virginia.

H. The certificate of accreditation pursuant to standard ISO/IEC 17025 issued by a third-party accrediting body to the independent laboratory conducting the testing required in 2VAC5-595-50 shall be available for review at the location at which the edible hemp product is offered for sale.

2VAC5-595-50. Laboratory testing required for contaminants and phytochemicals of an edible hemp product.

A. A manufacturer of an edible hemp product shall submit a sample from each batch of edible hemp product for laboratory analysis. However, if each industrial hemp extract used as an ingredient in a batch of food (i) was manufactured by an approved source that maintains and makes available for review documentation of the laboratory analysis conducted on the industrial hemp extract and (ii) does not exceed the acceptable criteria or tolerance for any substance established in this section, the manufacturer of the batch of food that includes this industrial hemp extract is not required to submit a sample of the batch for laboratory analysis of its microbiological content, mycotoxin content, heavy metal content, residual solvent content, or pesticide chemical residue content.

B. A batch of edible hemp product whose sample contains a microbiological content, mycotoxin content, heavy metal content, residual solvent content, or pesticide chemical residue content in an amount that exceeds an acceptable criteria or tolerance established in this section is adulterated and may not be offered for sale.

C. A batch of edible hemp product whose sample does not contain a cannabinoid or other phytochemical declared on the product label is misbranded and may not be offered for sale.

D. The laboratory analysis required in this section shall be performed by a laboratory that:

1. Has no direct or indirect financial interest in a manufacturer of an edible hemp product or in any other entity that may benefit from the production, manufacture, sale, purchase, or use of an edible hemp product. Additionally, no person with a direct or indirect financial interest in the laboratory shall have a direct or indirect financial interest in a manufacturer of an edible hemp product or in any other entity that may benefit from the production, manufacture, sale, purchase, or use of an edible hemp product.
2. Is accredited pursuant to standard ISO/IEC 17025 of the International Organization for Standardization by a third-party accrediting body. The scope of the laboratory's accreditation shall include the testing required in this section.

E. A laboratory that performs the laboratory analysis required in this section shall produce a certificate of analysis that:

1. States the identification code of the batch of edible hemp product represented by the sample analyzed;
2. States the laboratory's analysis results for all testing required in this section;
3. Complies with the requirements for laboratory reports as specified in the ISO/IEC 17025 standard; and
4. If modified, is modified in compliance with the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

F. Laboratory analysis shall determine the content of the following phytochemicals in a sample from a batch of an edible hemp product, by weight and by percentage:

1. Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (CAS RN: 1972-08-03);
2. Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (CAS RN: 23978-85-0);
3. Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (CAS RN: 5957-75-5);
4. Cannabidiol (CAS RN: 13956-29-1); and
5. Any other cannabinoid or phytochemical declared on the product label.

G. The microbiological content in one gram or one milliliter of a sample from a batch of edible hemp product shall comply with the following limits:

1. Total aerobic microbial count: $\leq 10,000$.
2. Absence of E. Coli.
3. Absence of Salmonella spp.
4. Total combined yeast and mold count: $\leq 1,000$.

H. The mycotoxin content in a sample from a batch of edible hemp product shall comply with the following limits:

Mycotoxins	
Aflatoxin B1	<20 ug/kg of Substance
Aflatoxin B2	<20 ug/kg of Substance
Aflatoxin G1	<20 ug/kg of Substance
Aflatoxin G2	<20 ug/kg of Substance
Ochratoxin A	<20 ug/kg of Substance

I. The heavy metal content in a sample from a batch of edible hemp product shall comply with the following limits:

Heavy metals	
Arsenic	<10 parts per million (ppm)
Cadmium	<4.1 ppm
Lead	<10 ppm
Mercury	<2 ppm

J. The residual solvent content in a sample from a batch of edible hemp product shall not exceed the acceptable criteria established in this subsection. If an industrial hemp extract is manufactured by a method that does not utilize solvents, laboratory analysis of the residual

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solvent content of the batch of this industrial hemp extract is not required. "Residual solvent" does not include a solvent that is (i) a component of the product formulation, (ii) listed as an ingredient, and (iii) generally recognized as safe for use in food.

Residual solvent	Acceptable criteria
1,2-Dichloroethene	5 ppm
1,1-Dichloroethene	8 ppm
Acetone	5,000 ppm
Acetonitrile	410 ppm
Benzene	2 ppm
Butane	2,000 ppm
Chloroform	60 ppm
Ethanol	5,000 ppm
Ethyl Acetate	5,000 ppm
Ethyl Ether	5,000 ppm
Ethylene Oxide	5 ppm
Heptane	5,000 ppm
Hexane	290 ppm
Isopropyl Alcohol	500 ppm
Methanol	3,000 ppm
Methylene Chloride	600 ppm
Pentane	5,000 ppm
Propane	2,100 ppm
Toluene	890 ppm
Trichloroethylene (1,1,2-Trichloroethene)	80 ppm
Xylenes, Total (ortho-, meta-, para-)	2,170 ppm
Any other solvent not listed in this table	None detected

K. The pesticide chemical residue content in a sample from a batch of an edible hemp product shall not exceed the most stringent acceptable standard for a pesticide chemical residue in any

food item as set forth in subpart C of 40 CFR Part 180. Pesticide chemical residue testing shall include testing for carbamates, organochlorines, and organophosphates.

L. The total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of a sample from a batch of an edible hemp product when offered for retail sale shall:

1. Not exceed 0.3%, and
2. Not exceed two milligrams per package unless the package contains an amount of cannabidiol that is no less than 25 times greater than the amount of total tetrahydrocannabinol.

M. The manufacturer shall maintain edible hemp product testing records for at least five years.

2VAC5-595-60. Labeling and packaging requirements.

A. For the purpose of this chapter, label or labeling includes the label on the packaging of an edible hemp product as well as any brochure, advertisement, information on social media or on any website, or any other form of product marketing.

B. An edible hemp product that contains tetrahydrocannabinol, when offered for sale, shall be contained in child-resistant packaging. The packaging shall:

1. Be specially designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for a typical child under five years of age to open and not to be significantly difficult for a typical adult to open and, if required, reseal;
2. Meet the general requirements and effectiveness specifications established in 16 CFR § 1700.15(a) and (b); and
3. For any product intended for more than a single use or that contains multiple servings, resealable.

C. An edible hemp product shall be labeled in accordance with 21 CFR Part 101, the Food and Drug Law, and this chapter.

D. Notwithstanding subsection C of this section, a manufacturer shall label an edible hemp product in compliance with the labeling provisions for dietary supplements in 21 CFR Part 101, the Food and Drug Law, and this chapter if the edible hemp product is:

1. Produced in a tablet, capsule, softgel, or gel cap form;
2. Labeled with the phrase "Dietary Supplement" or a similar phrase indicating the product is intended to be a dietary supplement; or
3. Labeled with a statement that describes the role of a nutrient or ingredient intended to affect the structure or function in humans or that characterizes the documented mechanism by which a nutrient or ingredient acts to maintain such structure or function.

E. If a manufacturer labels an edible hemp product as containing a specific cannabinoid or other phytochemical, the number of milligrams of each cannabinoid or phytochemical must be declared on the product label. The manufacturer must maintain records verifying the declared amount of cannabinoid. Such records shall include formulations, batch records, and certificates of analysis.

F. The label of an edible hemp product shall not contain a claim indicating the product is intended for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, which shall render the product a drug, as that term is defined in 21 USC § 321(g)(1). An edible hemp product with a label that contains a claim indicating the product is intended for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease is not a food and shall be considered misbranded.

G. A manufacturer shall identify each batch of an edible hemp product with a unique code for traceability. Julian date coding or any other system developed and documented by the

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manufacturer for assigning a unique code to a batch may be used. The batch identification shall appear and be legible on the edible hemp product label.

H. An edible hemp product must be equipped with a label that states:

1. The product's statement of identity;
2. All ingredients contained in the product listed by the common or usual name for the ingredient. The ingredients list shall include:
 - a. The sub-ingredients for any ingredient that consists of two or more substances; and
 - b. The name of the food source for each major food allergen contained in the product unless the food source is already stated in the common or usual name of the ingredient.
3. The amount of edible hemp product that constitutes a single serving, stated in terms of weight or volume in either metric or U.S. customary measures; and
4. If the product contains tetrahydrocannabinol:
 - a. The percentage of total tetrahydrocannabinol included in the package;
 - b. The milligrams of total tetrahydrocannabinol included in the package;
 - c. The milligrams of total tetrahydrocannabinol in a single serving; and
 - d. That the product contains tetrahydrocannabinol and may not be sold to a person younger than 21 years of age.

FORMS (2VAC5-595)

[Application for Manufacturer of an Industrial Hemp-Derived Extract Intended for Human Consumption, VDACS-FSP-APPIH \(rev. 08/22\)](#)

[Permit Application for Manufacturing/Warehouse Food Establishment, VDACS-FSP-APPMW \(rev. 06/22\)](#)

[Permit Application for Retail Food Establishment, VDACS-FSP-APPRE \(rev. 06/23\)](#)

Documents Incorporated by Reference (2VAC5-595)

General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, ISO/IEC 17025, Third edition, 2017, International Organization for Standardization

From: [George Hodson](#)
To: [Saunders, Staci \(VDACS\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Recommendation from VWA
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:18:22 PM



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **George Hodson** <george@veritaswines.com>
Date: Mon, May 5, 2025 at 11:20
Subject: Letter of Recommendation from VWA
To: Joseph Guthrie <joseph.guthrie@vdacs.virginia.gov>, Christina Sandridge
<Christina.Sandridge@easterassociates.com>

Commissioner Guthrie,

On behalf of the Virginia Wineries Association, I am pleased to offer this letter of recommendation for Mr. Dave Drillock. Dave has consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism, dedication, and insight into the wine industry, and we believe he would be a valuable asset to your wholesale distribution operations.

Over the past several years, Dave has been a strong advocate and partner within the Virginia wine community. His extensive knowledge of both viticulture and the business of wine sales has made him a trusted collaborator among wineries across the state. He has played a vital role in helping bridge the gap between producers and the market, ensuring that Virginia wines are effectively represented, distributed, and appreciated.

Dave brings not only industry expertise but also a deep respect for the craft of winemaking and the importance of maintaining strong relationships throughout the supply chain. He is known for his integrity, strategic thinking, and proactive approach to problem-solving — qualities that we believe will translate exceptionally well to a role within a leading distribution company like yours.

We fully support Dave Drillock in his endeavors and are confident that he will make a positive and lasting impact within your organization. Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact our office directly.

George Hodson

President Virginia Wineries Association





March 11, 2025

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Joseph Guthrie, Commissioner
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Commissioner Guthrie,

On behalf of the Virginia Wine Wholesalers Association (VWWA) I am writing to endorse, Jay W. Colston, III of Virginia Imports as a Board member of the Virginia Wineries Distribution Company (VWDC).

Jay currently serves as a member of that Board. I think you will find that he has equated himself well and tried to represent the best interest of Virginia's wineries, distributors and consumers.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call the VWWA offices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tripp Perrin
Executive Director, VWWA