

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 2024 General Assembly Bill Positions

This bill list is made up of our priority bills that succeeded the legislature. See below for which bills are on the governor's desk, with updates on those that have been vetoed – and those that have been signed into law (updated 3/29/24). For a full list of all bills that we tracked throughout the 2024 session, see our crossover day bill list here. To track all environmental bills still alive on the Governor's desk, use [VCN's bill tracker](#).

SUPPORT LAND CONSERVATION AND HABITAT

- **SIGNED INTO LAW: HB309:** Requires the Department of Forestry, in coordination with a stakeholder advisory group, to develop a Forest Conservation Plan no later than November 1, 2025, and update such plan every five years
 - <https://vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HB309-support.pdf>
- **SIGNED INTO LAW: SB461:** Requires the Department of Forestry, in coordination with a stakeholder advisory group, to develop a Forest Conservation Plan no later than November 1, 2025, and update such plan every five years thereafter.
- **SIGNED INTO LAW: HB459 (HB170):** Allows any locality to adopt an ordinance providing for the conservation of trees during the land development process.
- **SIGNED INTO LAW: SB121:** Allows any locality to adopt an ordinance providing for the conservation of trees during the land development process.
 - <https://vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HB459-and-SB121-support.docx.pdf>
- **VETOED: HB1100:** Conservation of trees during land development process. Expands current provisions that provide that certain localities in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia) may, by ordinance, require conservation of trees during the land development process by making such provisions available to localities statewide
- **VETOED: HB47:** Requires, for the retail sale of any invasive plant species on a list established by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, such plant be accompanied by conspicuous signage that identifies the plant as invasive
 - <https://vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HB47-SB306-support.pdf>
- **VETOED: SB306:** Requires, for the retail sale of any invasive plant species for outdoor use on a list established by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, such plant be accompanied by conspicuous signage that identifies the plant as invasive.
 - <https://vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HB47-SB306-support.pdf>
- **VETOED: HB529:** Expands existing local government authority to conserve or replace trees during the development process by allowing localities to establish higher tree canopy replacement percentages, based on density per acre, lot size, or any other measurement relevant to the practices of the locality to achieve MS4 stormwater nutrient reductions, mitigate urban heat islands, increase resilience to climate change, including reducing coastal and inland flooding, and mitigate air pollution.
 - <https://vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HB529-support.docx.pdf>
- **VETOED: HB1167:** Authorizes any locality to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the sale of English ivy, with violations punishable by a civil penalty

SUPPORT GOOD GOVERNANCE

- **AMENDED: HB1157:** Requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Historic Resources, and the Virginia

Marine Resources Commission to establish policies and procedures for consulting with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth when evaluating certain permits and reviews

- <https://vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HB1157-support.docx.pdf>

SUPPORT WATER

- ***SIGNED INTO LAW: HB1085***: Requires the owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works to monitor PFAS levels, as defined in the bill, in effluent, influent, and biosolids at least quarterly and report all such monitoring data on an applicable discharge monitoring report required by federal regulations. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality (the Department), in certain circumstances, to develop a PFAS action plan to identify and address sources of certain PFAS detected in a public water system's raw water source, perform outreach efforts regarding PFAS contamination, report annually on its activities, and work with certain entities in developing its PFAS action plans. The bill requires certain facilities that manufacture or use PFAS to report the use of such chemicals to the Department and to monitor such PFAS at least quarterly unless at another frequency at the direction of the Director of the Department. The bill also directs the Department and the Virginia Department of Health to jointly establish a PFAS Advisory Committee to assist with PFAS-related activities and appoint such committee's members to include legislative members and a wide range of nonlegislative citizen members and to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Committee's activities and recommendations.
- ***SIGNED INTO LAW: SB243***: Requires the owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works to monitor PFAS levels, as defined in the bill, in effluent, influent, and biosolids at least quarterly and report all such monitoring data on an applicable discharge monitoring report required by federal regulations. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality (the Department), in certain circumstances, to develop a PFAS action plan to identify and address sources of certain PFAS detected in a public water system's raw water source, perform outreach efforts regarding PFAS contamination, report annually on its activities, and work with certain entities in developing its PFAS action plans. The bill requires certain facilities that manufacture or use PFAS to report the use of such chemicals to the Department and to monitor such PFAS at least quarterly unless at another frequency at the direction of the Director of the Department. The bill also directs the Department and the Virginia Department of Health to jointly establish a PFAS Advisory Committee to assist with PFAS-related activities and appoint such committee's members to include legislative members and a wide range of nonlegislative citizen members and to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Committee's activities and recommendations.
- ***SIGNED INTO LAW: SB581***: Authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality to utilize and incorporate comprehensive groundwater, surface water, and aquifer data in its decision-making processes related to the issuance and renewal of groundwater withdrawal permits and surface water withdrawal permits

SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTIONS:

- ***HJ74***: Designates the week of the new moon in April, in 2024 and in each succeeding year, as International Dark Sky Week in Virginia.
- ***HJR30***: Requests the State Corporation Commission, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to study performance-based regulatory tools for investor-owned electric utilities in the Commonwealth.
 - <https://vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/VCN-TPs-HJ30-SJ47-Reg-Reform-Study-1.pdf>*