

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Bill Number/Status	Bill Title	Bill Summary	Patron	Committee	Bill Impacts on Loggers	PLA Position
2	HB 7 - DEAD	Sick leave; certain private employers to provide employees with paid benefits	<p>or more full-time employee equivalents to provide those employees working at least 18 hours per week with paid sick leave benefits. A covered employee would earn one hour of paid sick leave benefit for every 50 hours he works for an employer during 2017 or the first year of the employer's businesses operations if employment commences after January 1, 2018. Thereafter, such employees would accrue one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours of work. An employer could offer an employee seeking to take paid sick leave the opportunity to work additional hours or to switch shifts with another employee as an alternative to using accrued paid sick leave. An employee may not unreasonably refuse the offer of additional hours in lieu of taking the paid sick leave. An employer may elect to provide benefits more generous than those required by this measure. An employer that knowingly fails to provide such paid sick leave to its employees is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per violation. The Commissioner of Labor and Industry may institute proceedings on behalf of an employee to enforce</p> <p><b>Tampering, etc., with firefighting equipment; penalty.</b> Provides that a person who injures, destroys, removes, tampers with, or otherwise interferes with the operation of any firefighting equipment or apparatus is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.</p>	Marcus Simon	Commerce/Labor	Requires you to provide paid sick leave to employees and maintain records of the hours worked to calculate the amount of sick leave earned.	Oppose
3	HB 25 HOUSE APPROVED AND REFERRED TO SENATE COURTS OF JUSTICE	Firefighting equipment; penalty for tampering with, etc.	<p><b>Workers' compensation; injuries presumed to be in course of employment.</b> Revises the provision creating a presumption, in the absence of a preponderance of evidence to the contrary, that an injury is work related if an employee is physically or mentally unable to testify and there is un rebutted prima facie evidence that the injury was work related. This measure clarifies that the employee's inability to testify refers to testimony about how the accident occurred and limits the measure's application to circumstances where the employee's inability to testify is because of injuries from the accident.</p>	Greg Habeeb	COURTS OF JUSTICE	No impact on loggers. Favorable to Department of Forestry.	Support
4	HB 44	Workers' compensation; injuries presumed to be in course of employment.	<p><b>Workers' compensation; injuries presumed to be in course of employment.</b> Revises the provision creating a presumption, in the absence of a preponderance of evidence to the contrary, that an injury is work related if an employee is physically or mentally unable to testify and there is un rebutted prima facie evidence that the injury was work related. This measure clarifies that the employee's inability to testify refers to testimony about how the accident occurred and limits the measure's application to circumstances where the employee's inability to testify is because of injuries from the accident.</p>	Greg Habeeb	Commerce/Labor	Gives employees who cannot speak or act on their behalf following an accident the presumption that their accident occurred on the job, unless significant medical or other evidence to the contrary.	Neutral

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
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5	HB 110 -DEAD	Income tax, state; deductions for H-1B visa employees.	<b>Income tax; deductions for H-1B visa employees.</b> Requires that corporations and individuals add back to income subject to tax any deduction or subtraction claimed for the taxable year by the corporation or individual for wages, salaries, and other benefits paid or incurred on behalf of employees employed pursuant to an H-1B visa granted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. In addition, in the case of a pass-through entity owned by an individual or corporation, there will also be added to income an amount that is (i) equal to a proportional amount of such wages, salaries, and other benefits paid or incurred by the pass-through entity based on the individual's or corporation's ownership share or interest in the pass-through entity or (ii) in accordance with a written agreement of the owners of the pass-through entity, provided that the aggregate amount of such wages, salaries, and other benefits deducted or subtracted for the taxable year by the pass-through entity is added back to income for Virginia income tax	Mark Cole	Finance	Wages and other compensation business pays to someone under the H-1B has to be declared income as well as deductions.	Neutral
6	HB 117 PASSED BY HOUSE AND NOW IN SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	Oversize vehicles; removes authority of localities to issue permit & authorizes Commissioner of DMV	<b>Permits for excessive size.</b> Removes the authority of localities to issue permits for oversize vehicles and authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue such permits. The bill does not affect localities' current authorization to issue permits for vehicles that are overweight or both overweight and oversize.	Barry Knight	Transportation	Could positively impact loggers when hauling overwidth loads.	Support
7	HB 178 - DEAD	Commercial motor vehicles; limited to use of certain lanes of Interstate 64, penalty.	<b>Commercial motor vehicles limited to use of certain lanes of Interstate 64; penalty.</b> Allows commercial motor vehicles to travel in the left-most lane of Interstate 64 in the Counties of Albemarle, Augusta, and Nelson except while traveling the area commonly known as Afton Mountain. The bill provides that any operator of a commercial motor vehicle who travels in the left-most lane while in the area commonly known as Afton Mountain is guilty of reckless driving punishable by a fine of \$500.	Richard P. Bell	Transportation	Requires commercial trucks to remain in the right lane always when in the Afton Mountain area making violators guilty of reckless driving and \$500 fine.	Oppose
8	HB 201 -DEAD	Commercial motor vehicles; limited to use of certain lanes of certain highways.	<b>Commercial motor vehicles limited to use of certain lanes of certain highways.</b> Allows localities, after holding a public hearing, to prohibit commercial motor vehicles from traveling in the left-most lane of highways with four or more lanes.	Daniel Marshall III	Transportation	Localities after holding a public hearing could prohibit commercial trucks from the left lanes. Logging Trucks would not be able to legally and safely pass vehicles in the right lane even though speed limits would not be violated.	Oppose

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9	HB 217 -DEAD	Machinery and tools, merchants' capital, and BPOL taxes; maximum rates established.	<b>Machinery and tools, merchants' capital, and BPOL taxes; maximum rates established.</b> Prohibits a locality from increasing its business machinery and tools tax, merchants' capital tax, and local license (BPOL) fees and taxes above the locality's rates in effect as of January 1, 2016	James LeMunyon	Finance	Favorable to our businesses	Support
10	HB 597 - DEAD	Minimum wage; increases minimum wage from its current federally mandated level	<b>Minimum wage.</b> Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$13 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$15 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA.	Ken Plum	Commerce/Labor	Raises the required minimum wage.	Oppose
11	HB 623 - DEAD	Minimum wage; increases minimum wage from its current federally mandated level.	<b>Minimum wage.</b> increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour effective July 1, 2016, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). This increase applies only to any employee who is (i) age 25 years or older and (ii) employed by an employer with more than 15 employees.	Paul Krizek	Commerce/Labor	Raises the required minimum wage.	Oppose
12	HB 743 -DEAD	Payment of wages; provision of employment records.	<b>Payment of wages;</b> provision of employment records. Requires employers to provide to the Commissioner of Labor, upon request, employment records that the employer is required to keep under state or federal law. The bill provides that failure to provide the records results in a presumption in favor of a party making an allegation and subjects an employer who fails to provide the requested records to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.	Jeion Ward	Commerce/Labor	Penalizes employers who fail to provide employment records to State.	Neutral
13	HB 995 -DEAD	Local alternative minimum wage.	<b>Local alternative minimum wage.</b> Establishes a procedure by which a local alternative minimum wage may be imposed in any locality. If imposed by ordinance of the local governing body, the alternative minimum wage requirement shall become effective on the July 1 that follows delivery of a certified copy of the ordinance to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. A local alternative minimum wage requires every employer to pay to each of his employees, for work performed by them within the locality, wages at a rate to be determined by local ordinance up to and including \$10 per hour beginning July 1, 2016; thereafter, the maximum local alternative minimum wage shall be adjusted based on the CPI. If the federal minimum wage exceeds the levels specified	Mark Levine	COMMERCE & LABOR	Gives local authorities the right to set minimum wage in their jurisdictions.	Oppose

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14	HB 1010 -DEAD	Tire chains; Department of Transportation to require semitrailers to use from Oct. 15 to April 15.	<b>Use of tire chains.</b> Allows the Department of Transportation to require semitrailers to use tire chains from October 15 to April 15 whenever such requirement is posted using smart roadway technology.	Nick Rush	Transportation	Authorizes VDOT to require use of tire chains from October 15 - April 15 when necessary for safety.	
15	HB 1127 HOUSE PASSED AND NOW IN SENATE ACNR COMMITTEE	Forest fire protection compacts; codification.	<b>Forest fire protection compacts; codification.</b> Codifies the text of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact (the SIFFPC) and the Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, originally incorporated into the Code of Virginia by reference in 1956 and 1966, respectively. In the section that codifies the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, the names of state entities in the Commonwealth are updated. The bill also repeals an obsolete section of the 1956 act that originally provided for the appointment of members to a compact advisory committee; the committee no longer exists. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Code Commission.	Greg Habeeb	SENATE ACNR	No impact on loggers. Favorable to Department of Forestry.	Neutral
16	HB 1133 CONTINUED TO 2017 IN COMMERCE & LABOR COMMITTEE	Paid sick leave pilot program.	<b>Paid sick leave pilot program.</b> Establishes a pilot program under which employers with 50 or fewer employees may volunteer to participate. Participating employers agree to provide to full-time employees paid sick days, to be accrued at a rate of no less than one hour for every 50 hours worked. An employee would be entitled to use accrued sick days beginning after the ninetieth calendar day of employment. Participating employers would provide paid sick days, upon the request of the employee, for diagnosis, care, or treatment of health conditions of the employee or the employee's family member. No more than 5,000 employers may participate in the program. Participating employers are eligible for a refundable income tax credit for 30 percent of the costs of hours of paid sick leave provided, over 80 hours in a taxable year, and subject to a limit of \$100 per employee. The total annual amount of tax credits is capped at \$12.5 million.	Kaye Kory	COMMERCE & LABOR	Voluntary program for employers with less than 50 employees.	Neutral

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17	HB 1258	Minimum wage; increases wage from federally mandated level to \$8.50 per hour.	<b>Minimum wage.</b> Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.50 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$11.84 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Effective July 1, 2019, and for years thereafter, the \$11.84 rate shall be adjusted to reflect annual increases in the consumer price index. The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA.	Sam Rasoul	COMMERCE & LABOR	Increase minimum wage initially to \$7.50/hr. up to \$11.84/hr by 7/1/2018.	Oppose
18	HB 1290 HOUSE PASSED	Timber cutting; determination of damages;	<b>Timber cutting; determination of damages; attorney fees.</b> Clarifies that any person found liable for the unauthorized removal of, or the direction of unauthorized removal of, timber from another's land must also pay reasonable attorney fees incurred by the owner of the timber to such owner. The bill is in response to the decision in <i>Chacey v. Garvey</i> , 2015 Va. LEXIS 185.	Greg Habeeb	COURTS OF JUSTICE	Authorizes the owner whose timber has been cut without authorization to seek attorney fees in addition to other remedies provided by law.	Neutral with Concerns
19	HB 1385 LEFT IN FINANCE	Land preservation tax credit; application for credits prior to any donation.	<del>Land preservation tax credit; application for</del> <b>credits prior to any donation.</b> Provides that beginning January 1, 2017, a donor will be given the option to apply to the Department of Taxation for land preservation tax credits prior to making any donation of land. The Tax Commissioner, in general, will be required to provide such donor with a determination letter within 120 days of a complete application that (i) reserves such tax credits, in whole or in part, for subsequent issuance to the donor or (ii) denies the donor's application for tax credit. After the Tax Commissioner's determination letter, the donor may complete the conveyance of the donation and in such case will provide the Department with certified copies of the recorded deeds and instruments conveying the donation. The Department will then provide the donor with a written certification issuing the tax credits that were previously reserved. If the Tax Commissioner issues land preservation tax credits to a donor who elected to apply for the credits prior to making any donation, the fair market value of the donation will thereafter not be subject to dispute, except upon a showing of fraud or the	Michael Webert	FINANCE	Allows owners contemplating the donation of land for preservation to apply to Tax Commissioner to set aside tax credits before the completion of the land transfer.	Support

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20	SB 88 DEAD	Minimum wage; increases wage from its current federally mandated level to \$8 per hour.	<b>Minimum wage.</b> Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$9.00 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$10.10 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The measure also provides that the cash wage paid to a tipped employee shall not be less than 50 percent of the minimum wage and that the tip credit shall equal the difference between the cash wage required to be paid to a tipped employee and the minimum wage.	David Marsden	Commerce/Labor	Increases minimum wage initially to \$8.00/hr. up to \$10.10/hr. by 7/1/2018	Oppose
21	SB 129 DEAD	Minimum wage; increases minimum wage from its current federally mandated level to \$8 per hour.	<b>Minimum wage.</b> Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$9.00 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$10.10 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act FLSA). The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA.	John Edwards	Commerce/Labor	Increases minimum wage initially to \$8.00/hr. up to \$10.10/hr. by 7/1/2018. Includes those covered by FLSA.	Oppose
22	SB 252 PASSED BY SENATE & HOUSE, WAITING GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL	Century forest program; State Forester to establish a program to honor certain families.	<b>State Forester; century forest program.</b> Directs the State Forester to establish a program to honor families whose property has been in the same family for 100 years or more, includes at least 20 contiguous acres of managed forest, and meets certain requirements. The bill also removes the option for the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to include a farm that does not gross more than \$2,500 annually but is being used for a bona fide silvicultural purpose from being recognized under the century farm program.	Frank Ruff	Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources	Establishes a program to recognize families who have continuously managed their forestlands for at least 100 years.	Support

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
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23	SB 274 -DEAD	Paid sick days for employees; civil penalties.	Requires private employers to give to each full-time employee paid sick days, to be accrued at a rate of no less than one hour for every 30 hours worked. An employee would be entitled to use accrued sick days beginning on the ninetieth calendar day of employment. An employer may limit an employee's use of paid sick days to 24 hours or three days in each calendar year. The bill would require an employer to provide paid sick days, upon the request of the employee, for diagnosis, care, or treatment of health conditions of the employee or the employee's family member. The bill would prohibit an employer from discriminating or retaliating against an employee who requests paid sick days. The bill would require employers to satisfy specified posting and notice and recordkeeping requirements and would require the Commissioner of Labor and Industry (the Commissioner) to administer and enforce these requirements and to investigate alleged violations of these requirements. The bill would authorize the Commissioner to impose specified civil penalties for violations. The Commissioner or Attorney General would be authorized to bring an action to recover	Jennifer Wexton	Commerce/Labor	Requires private employees to provide employees with paid sick days. Contains penalties for non-compliance.	Oppose
24	SB 345 -DEAD	Workers' compensation; employer's duty when employee incapable of work.	<b>Workers' compensation; cost of automobile.</b> Authorizes the Workers' Compensation Commission, in awards entered for incapacity for work and upon determination by the treating physician and the Commission that it is medically necessary, to require an employer to provide up to \$42,000 for the purchase by the employee of a suitably equipped automobile. Such payment may be required if modifications to or equipment for the employee's automobile are not appropriate. The provision of funds for an automobile under this measure is separate from the \$42,000 aggregate cap on expenses for modifications to or equipment for the employee's automobile and for bedside lifts, adjustable beds, and modification of the employee's principal home consisting of ramps, handrails, doorway alterations, or any appliances prescribed by the treating physician	Lynwood Lewis	Commerce/Labor	In a W. C. incident and employer may be required to provide up to \$42,000 for the purchase of a suitable vehicle when the employee is deemed incapacitated.	Oppose
25	SB 522 -DEAD	Motor vehicle safety inspection; exemption	<b>Motor vehicle safety inspection; exemption.</b> Exempts new motor vehicles from motor vehicle safety inspection for the first two years of ownership or operation after purchase	Jeremy McPike	Transportation	Eliminates motor vehicle safety inspections for first two years of new vehicles.	Support

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
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26	SB 647 DEAD	Renewable energy; efficient biomass.	<b>Renewable energy; efficient biomass.</b> Excludes inefficient biomass from the definition of renewable energy. The measure provides that renewable energy includes any biomass energy capacity, efficient or otherwise, in operation prior to January 1, 2016, and that on and after that date renewable energy may include the proportion of the thermal or electric energy from a facility that results from the co-firing of efficient biomass on or after January 1, 2016. "Efficient biomass" is defined as thermal or electric energy or combined heat and power from biomass generating units with an overall efficiency of 50 percent or greater on an annual basis. The measure directs how a unit's overall efficiency shall be determined on the basis of outputs of electrical generation and useful thermal energy output, which is defined in the bill as (i) including direct heat and other valid thermal end-use energy requirements for which fuel or electricity would otherwise be consumed and (ii) excluding thermal energy used for the purpose of drying or refining biomass fuel	Barbara Favola	Commerce/Labor	This bill may adversely impact those companies who engaged in biomass production for electrical generation. Based on the information received to date, equipment which converts biomass energy into electrical energy cannot meet the proposed efficient biomass efficiency requirement of 50%. This bill amends the definitions under renewable energy and electric generation.	Oppose
27	SB 668 DEAD	Minimum wage.	Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, to \$13 per hour effective July 1, 2017, and to \$15 per hour effective July 1, 2018, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The measure also provides that the Virginia minimum wage applies to persons whose employment is covered by the FLSA.	Barbara Favola	Commerce/Labor	Increases minimum wage initially to \$10/hr up to \$15/hr by 7/1/2018. Includes those employees covered by FLSA.	Oppose
28	SB 687 SENATE APPROVED AND PASSED TO HOUSE	Timber cutting; determination of damages;	<b>Timber cutting; determination of damages; attorney fees.</b> Clarifies that any person found liable for the unauthorized removal of, or the direction of unauthorized removal of, timber from another's land must also pay reasonable attorney fees incurred by the owner of the timber to such owner. The bill is in response to the decision in <i>Chacey v. Garvey</i> , 2015 Va. LEXIS 185.	Chapman Pedersen	House Courts of Justice	Authorizes the owner whose timber has been cut without authorization to seek attorney fees in addition to other remedies provided by law.	Neutral with Concerns