

2018 Legislative Report Virginia

Note: In the 2017 elections Democrats swept all three statewide offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General) and gained 16 seats in the House of Delegates. Republicans now control 51-49 after having previously enjoyed a 67-33 majority (had been 60 plus seats for nearly a decade and have controlled the chamber since 1999). The Senate, with four-year terms lasting through next year, remains 21-19.

Electric Issues

- Passage of the landmark Grid Transformation and Security Act (see attached one-pager)
- Passage of consensus RFP legislation for coal ash recycling (requires utility in the Bay watershed to conduct an RFP for recycling coal ash and to report the results to the General Assembly)
- Solar for schools pilot legislation (10 MW pilot)

Gas Issues

- Consensus legislation allowing state environmental regulators emergency stop work authority on pipelines
- Clarifies process going forward for state water quality certification on FERC-regulated gas transmission projects
- Added natural gas to bill allowing electric utility vehicles used for purposes of repairing, installing, or maintaining equipment or service, to use high-intensity amber warning lights, advancing safety of workers and customers
- Reformed tests used by the State Corporation Commission in evaluating energy efficiency programs, as part of Grid Transformation and Security Act noted above
- State budget funding for Virginia Business Ready Sites Program to increase number of infrastructure and development-ready sites, enhancing business competitiveness

- Defeated moratorium on state and local government approval of projects generating fossil fuel energy, as well as bills prohibiting candidates for public office from soliciting or accepting contributions from public service corporations or their political action committees, and enlarging ability of public interest organizations and retail customers to intervene in utility cases through compensation