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Virginia State Firefighters Association Bill Report 2-6-2026

As the 2026 session moves firmly into February, the General Assembly's pace has accelerated with committee hearings, budget negotiations, and rising political stakes. Lawmakers are increasingly focused on shaping substantive legislation ahead of the mid-February crossover deadline (February 17), when each chamber must act on most of its own bills before they can proceed in the opposite chamber. Committees in both the House and Senate convened regularly this week to consider education, public safety, tax, transportation, and health-related measures as legislators balance constituent priorities with broader statewide concerns.

A prominent political theme this week has been the ongoing effort to resolve procedural and constitutional questions around the mid-decade congressional redistricting amendment and related litigation. The Virginia Attorney General has filed to intervene in a court battle over the process by which the Legislature reapproved and recalibrated a constitutional amendment intended to authorize mid-cycle redistricting, underscoring how legal and political strategy continues to intersect with legislative business. This backdrop reflects the larger political dynamics in Richmond as Democrats maintain trifecta control of the legislative and executive branches, even as internal and inter-party debates play out in public.

Legislative committees continued robust activity on policy themes that have carried through the session but are now becoming more pronounced in hearings and floor debate. Education and student well-being remain high priorities, with House and Senate education panels actively considering bills that address school funding, mental health resources, graduation pathways, and workforce development. Environment and public health-focused proposals are also gaining traction, including discussions around testing for environmental contaminants like PFAS and broader Chesapeake Bay watershed commitments that link environmental outcomes with public health and community resilience.

Transportation and infrastructure funding continues to be on the agenda across multiple committees, including measures targeting traffic safety enhancements and long-term funding partnerships, particularly in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. Delegates and senators have discussed dedicating capital funds toward stabilizing transit service.

Budget discussions started to become more concrete this week as well. Subcommittees within the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations committees have been meeting to vet agency budget requests, including funding for schools, social services, and public safety. While the final budget will not be agreed upon until much later in the session, these early briefings set the stage for negotiations that will shape fiscal priorities for the 2026-2028 biennium. With crossover approaching and conference committee work looming, lawmakers are working to winnow proposals and align on funding that matches legislative priorities with revenue realities.



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Bill	Catch line	Legislation Status	Chief Patron
HB7	Law-enforcement officers; restrictions on wearing of facial coverings, exceptions, civil liability.	In Committee	Jones
HB11	Emergency custody orders; transportation to treatment center, etc.	Continued	McNamara
HB38	Public schools; mental health awareness training and instruction, requirements.	In Committee	Henson
HB43	Suicide; abolishes common-law crime.	In House	Simon
HB48	Suicide prevention; VDH to convene work group to develop plan to reduce among at-risk populations.	In Committee	Reid
HB169	Va. Emergency Management Preparedness and Capabilities Grant Program and Fund; established, report.	In Committee	Askew
HB204	Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; extends membership to emergency dispatchers.	In Committee	Cherry
HB205	Va. Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers, delayed effective date.	In Committee	Cherry
HB209	Peer recovery specialists; VDH & DOC to develop guidelines for hiring.	In Subcommittee	Price
HB227	Line of Duty Act; transitional coverage.	In Subcommittee	Cornett
HB230	Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems, certain emergency medical services personnel exempted.	In Committee	McQuinn
HB233	Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems, exempts certain emergency medical services personnel.	In Committee	Wachsmann
HB240	Admission to bail; fixing terms of bail, mental health considerations.	In Subcommittee	Gardner
HB246	Mental illness, neurocognitive disorder, etc.; affirmative defense or reduced penalty.	In Subcommittee	Watts
HB248	Interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements; development of behavioral health co-response teams.	In Committee	Watts
HB249	Marcus alert system; external database information removal.	In Committee	Watts
HB273	Law-enforcement officers; duty to render aid upon danger to life or limb, civil immunity.	In Committee	Helmer
HB289	Electric utilities; small portable solar generation devices.	Incorporated	Anderson
HB325	Fire Programs, Department of; development of mental health awareness training.	Passed House	Sullivan
HB393	First Responders Cancer Screening Fund; created.	In Subcommittee	Askew
HB394	Fire Programs Fund; increases assessment.	In Committee	Askew
HB457	Land development; solar canopies in parking areas, definition.	Incorporated	Krizek
HB585	Va. Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for animal control officers and 911 dispatchers.	In Committee	Ballard
HB682	Fire Programs Fund; aid to localities, redistribution of funds.	Failed	Zehr
HB735	Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code; temporary tents used for agritourism purposes.	In Subcommittee	Leftwich
HB1054	Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.	In Committee	Phillips



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HB1269	Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; extends membership to emergency dispatchers.	In Committee	Nivar
HB1314	Civil action for deprivation of rights; liability of persons acting under color of law.	Continued	Maldonado
HB1333	Paid firefighters; hours of work.	In Subcommittee	Feggans
SB80	Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.	In Committee	Mulchi
SB87	Local government sporting events and sporting facilities; automated external defibrillators.	In Committee	Stanley
SB98	Virginia Emergency Management Preparedness & Capabilities Grant Program & Fund; established, report.	In Committee	Stanley
SB100	Volunteer emergency responders, protection of employees; civil action.	Passed Senate	Stanley
SB101	Med. assistance serv.; supplemental payment for ground emerg. medical serv. vehicle transportation.	Continued	Stanley
SB102	School boards; high school courses or dual enrollment programs for certain certifications.	Continued	Stanley
SB111	Trespassing on Emergency vehicles; prohibition, penalty.	In Committee	Craig
SB132	Uniform Statewide Building Code; exemptions for agritourism structures.	In Committee	Craig
SB140	Fire Programs, Department of; development of mental health awareness training.	In Subcommittee	McPike
SB156	Emergency medical services personnel; requirements for personnel without commercial drivers license.	Failed	McDougle
SB197	Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; loan and grant program, deferment of interest accrual.	In Committee	Williams Graves
SB233	Fire Programs Fund; distribution of fund.	In Committee	Head
SB523	Line of Duty Act; payments to beneficiaries.	In Committee	Deeds
SB635	Emergency Services and Disaster Law; declaration of a state of preparedness.	In Committee	McDougle
SB775	Insurance; increases fees for vehicles, etc.	In Committee	Hackworth