

General Assembly Agenda for 2005

All bills have to be registered by January 21. APVA's Public Policy Committee will determine which bills APVA will actively pursue on or about January 24-25. After that time, through alerts and on the website, we will keep members aware of developments.

During the legislative session APVA will be monitoring and advising on key issues that impact Virginia's preservation community. Early in this session, these are the issues that we will be tracking. To learn more check this website for updates or sign up for the legislative alerts to know when action or support is needed.

- Increased funding for the Department of Historic Resources (DHR). With its primary mission of fostering, encouraging, and supporting the stewardship of Virginia's significant historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources, the work of the Department of Historic Resources is invaluable to the preservation community. In recent years, reductions in the budget have challenged DHR in the fulfillment of its mission and obligations. During the 2005 General Assembly, APVA will be active in supporting a budget amendment in the amount of \$267,000 to fund essential services of the Department. The funds would support the continuing management of easement program, and maintenance and expansion of its nationally recognized data sharing system. These funds would also support the position of State Archaeologist. More about both programs can be found at <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov>
- Downtown Richmond preservation – APVA is working with a number of other historic preservation groups to attempt to save a number of state-owned buildings in the downtown Richmond area in the vicinity of Capitol Square, and APVA will be supportive of an effort to convince the General Assembly to authorize a study of possible alternative uses for these buildings in lieu of their demolition.
- Amending the tax credit program. APVA will be actively monitoring efforts to make substantial alterations in the state land preservation tax credit program, which provides substantial incentives for private investment in preservation, resulting in enormous advantages to the public. It is our understanding that legislation will be offered during this session that would substantially alter the tax credit program either by setting a cap or limiting involvement in the program.
- Support of grants. APVA will be actively monitoring grants to museum, historic sites and land acquisitions for historic purposes. These funds are important to the preservation and operation of programs statewide.
- **APVA Preservation Virginia** will be monitoring the above, as well as any other relevant legislation that may be introduced, and updating its membership as to actions or recommendations during the session.

For example:

- **HB 2048 Virginia Public Building Authority; museums and cultural and arts facilities.**

A BILL to provide for certain projects to be financed by the Virginia Public Building Authority.

- **HB 2078 Virginia Antiquities Act; penalties.**

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 10.1-2300, 10.1-2301, and 10.1-2305 of the Code of Virginia, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 23 of Title 10.1 sections numbered 10.1-2307 and 10.1-2308, relating to excavations at archeological sites and the removal and sale of antiquities; penalties.

- **HB 2079 Virginia Historic Preservation and Museum Assistance Grant Program and Fund.**

A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-2202 of the Code of Virginia, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 10.1-2208.1 and 10.1-2208.2, relating to the Virginia Historic Preservation and Museum Assistance Grant Program and Fund.

- **HB 2080 Appropriation of state funds for historic preservation.**

A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-2213 of the Code of Virginia, relating to appropriation of state funds for historic preservation.