

VIRGINIA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street,
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin,

On behalf of the Virginia banking industry, we want to extend our thanks for your leadership of the Commonwealth and reiterate our willingness and desire to work collectively on economic growth in Virginia over the remainder of your term in office. As you and your Administration undertake the bill review process for the 2025 General Assembly Session, I wanted to provide you with some information and background on legislation relating to the banking industry on behalf of the Virginia Bankers Association. The listed bills supported by the VBA have received significant support and we hope you will sign them into law. We also note a few bills we have an interest in or worked on with patrons and stakeholders should you have questions or consider proposing amendments.

We encourage you to sign into law the following bills:

- [HB 1715](#) (Watts) / [SB 939](#) (Salim) – Mail Theft: This legislation creates a state level Class 6 felony crime for mail theft. Banks are experiencing a significant increase in check fraud where the original check was stolen from mail. Criminals are then “washing” the check, committing fraud, and stealing both consumer funds and critical financial information. While a federal crime, this legislation is needed to allow local law enforcement and prosecutors to combat, investigate and punish criminal mail theft. The legislation also includes the theft of postal keys and packages from delivery services such as FedEx, UPS and Amazon. We worked closely with the U.S. Postal Inspector’s office in Virginia and other stakeholders to secure near unanimous approval by the General Assembly.
- [HB 2120](#) (Maldonado) – Elder Financial Abuse Asset Seizure: This legislation expands the existing process for asset seizure to include cases of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. With the increase of elder financial abuse, this would allow Commonwealth Attorneys and vulnerable adult victims to seek seizure of assets related to the exploitation, protecting the stolen funds from disappearing before final criminal adjudication. We look forward to continuing to work in developing ways to prevent, combat and prosecute this scourge on older Virginians.

In addition, we have worked with patrons and stakeholders on several bills advanced during this session. [HB 2094](#) (Maldonado) creates standards and requirements on the development and deployment of high-risk artificial intelligence. There is language in the bill that recognizes the existing laws, regulations and guidance governing financial institutions to avoid imposing conflicting or additional obligations on an already heavily regulated industry. [HB 2565](#) (Leftwich) / [SB 1010](#) (Surovell) deals

with the parties who can request the quashing of a subpoena for financial records and the payment of charges for providing the records. [SB 1218](#) (Stuart) provides for a small, targeted expansion of the existing prohibition on non-compete employment covenants on low-wage workers that we encourage you to sign. [SB 1252](#) (Bagby) proposes expanding the application of the evasion of usury law. While the impact on service providers working with banks is unclear, the bill does not affect the existing usury laws pertaining to loans made by banks under Article 4 of §6.2. [SB 1430](#) (Rouse) makes changes to the circumstances and length of time an impacted federal government employee or contractor may request a foreclosure stay due to a federal government shutdown. Due to our close contact and work with legislators and stakeholders on all these bills, should you have questions or choose to propose amendments, we hope to be included in those discussions.

As you review amendments to the Commonwealth's budget in HB 1600, we ask that you join us in support of the recapitalization of the Virginia Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund ([Item 103 #6c](#)). The \$2.5 million included in the conference report, while less than the \$10 million requested, would support these mission-focused organizations' efforts to deliver affordable housing, small business credit, and community development projects throughout Virginia. We know this funding through the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) will continue the impact of the Fund and hope future budgets will build further on this progress. We also support the five-year extension of the successful Virginia Housing Opportunity Tax Credit ([Item 4-14 #4c](#)) as an important component to address financing for the needed supply of affordable housing stock across Virginia.

We appreciate your consideration as you review these pieces of legislation. On these and other pending bills before you, we welcome the opportunity to provide additional information and stand ready to be a resource. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 804-819-4704.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Bruning
Executive Vice President, Government & Member Relations
Virginia Bankers Association

cc: Ms. Lindsay Fisher
Mr. Josh Humphries