

On January 12, 2010, the joint subcommittee studying development and land use tools in Virginia's localities (House Joint Resolution 178/Senate Joint Resolution 70 - 2008) held its seventh meeting at 1:00 p.m. in House Room C of the General Assembly Building in Richmond, VA.

According to House Joint Resolution 178 and Senate Joint Resolution 70, the joint subcommittee is charged with examining and monitoring "the transition to channeling development into Urban Development Areas, and" determining "if additional legislation is needed to help localities as they transition to Urban Development Areas." Moreover, the aforementioned resolutions require the joint subcommittee to "make a comprehensive evaluation of all existing land use planning tools and infrastructure financing options and make any recommendations deemed appropriate." The relevant statutory provision of the Code of Virginia governing urban development is § 15.2-2223; also, the tenth enactment of Chapter 896 (2007)/House Bill 3202, as reenrolled, prescribes a deadline by which counties must adopt urban development areas.

Five legislative proposals were presented to the joint subcommittee. Two proposals were companion resolutions that continued the joint subcommittee for an additional year. The joint subcommittee voted to endorse both resolutions as recommendations of the joint subcommittee. A third proposal was a draft bill that created the Virginia Infrastructure in Urban Development Areas Loan Fund. The Fund would be administered by the Virginia Resources Authority. Money in the Fund would be used exclusively for the financing of road, small water facility, and wastewater treatment facility projects located or to be located within an urban development area in the Commonwealth and undertaken by a local government. The joint subcommittee voted to endorse both the draft bill as recommendations of the joint subcommittee. The other two proposals revised the statute governing urban development areas. No motion was made with respect to these two proposals revising the statute governing urban development areas.

The joint subcommittee heard public comment on the legislative proposals.