Legislative Updates (2025)

Manufacturing Development Commission Meeting

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I.Bill Drafts - MDC 2024

Recommended by the Commission on 11/4/2024

- VPPA; forced and child labor prohibition
 - o Sen. Stanley introduced a version of this as <u>SB913</u>, which passed (see III)

Considered by the Commission on 12/16/2024

- <u>LD25103808</u> DOLI; workplace safety regulations
- <u>LD25103809</u> Renewable energy portfolio standard; eligibility of technologies
- <u>LD25103810</u> Public school teachers; licensure requirements; subject matter expert teaching certificate
- LD25103811 Virginia Recycling Development Center established; report

II. 2025 Legislation RE: Manufacturing - Failed

- <u>SB302</u> (DeSteph) Virginia First Manufacturing Incentive Program. Directs the Manufacturing Development Commission (the Commission) to develop a budget and business plan to establish a Virginia First Manufacturing Incentive Program (the Program). The bill provides that the business plan shall identify existing manufacturers in the Commonwealth that are potential candidates for reshoring, near-shoring, or in-shoring manufacturing jobs and capital investments. The bill directs that the Program focus on expanding and recruiting manufacturing operations that produce products identified as critical infrastructure by providing discretionary incentive funding for trade adjustment assistance.
- <u>SB 1190</u> (Deeds) Virginia Energy Facility Review Board established; localities; comprehensive plan and local ordinances related to siting of critical interconnection projects; planning district commissions; regional energy plans; Virginia Clean Energy Technical Assistance Center established.

- <u>HB1616</u> (Feggans) Department of Energy; workforce development in offshore wind industry. Directs the Director of the Department of Energy to identify and develop training resources to advance workforce development in the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth.
- <u>HB 2510</u> (Taylor) Safety and Health Codes Board; THC impairment standard for certain work sites. Directs the Safety and Health Codes Board to promulgate regulations to establish a THC impairment standard and testing protocol to be used exclusively on manufacturing and utility work sites and to commence the rulemaking process no later than October 1, 2025.

III. 2025 Legislation RE: Manufacturing - Passed

- SB913 (Stanley) was enacted as 2025 Acts Ch. 439 Virginia Public Procurement Act; procurement of imported goods, forced and child labor prohibition. Provides that a public body that enters into a public contract for goods or services that exceeds \$10,000 shall include in such a public contract provisions (i) prohibiting the use of forced or indentured child labor in the performance of the contract and (ii) requiring that the contractor include such prohibition in every subcontract or purchase order that exceeds \$10,000, so that the prohibition will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Manufacturing Development Commission.
- <u>HB2024</u> (Seibold)/<u>SB1165</u> (Salim) was enacted as <u>2025 Acts Ch. 618</u> Virginia Public Procurement Act; solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities. Prohibits state and local agencies from including a provision in any request for proposal, procurement agreement, contract, ordinance, policy, permit, or accompanying document that directs the exclusion from use of any materials contained in or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that are manufactured in the United States.
- <u>HB2179</u> (Clark)/<u>SB1231</u> (Aird) was enacted as <u>2025 Acts Ch. 178</u> Virginia Investment Performance Grants. Authorizes Virginia Investment Performance Grants to be awarded under more lenient requirements if the recipient is located in a locality with an unemployment rate and poverty rate that exceeds the state average. Specifically, the bill would authorize payment of such grants if the average wage paid by the eligible manufacturer or research and development service, excluding fringe benefits, is no less than 85 percent of the prevailing average wage. Grants may be paid for projects in such localities that pay less than 85 percent of the prevailing average wage, upon a written finding by the Governor that the economic circumstances in the area are sufficiently distressed such that assistance to the locality to attract the project is justified. However, the minimum private investment and number of new jobs required to be created are still a condition of eligibility