



Legislative Report

2012 Virginia General Assembly Session

The 2012 General Assembly adjourned March 10th without agreement on the budget. The General Assembly immediately convened Special Session I and, on or about April 25th, the House of Delegates and Senate approved a budget. The House and Senate met on May 14th to discuss the Governor's amendments to the budget. The Governor signed the budget (Chapter 3 of the 2012 Special Session I Acts of Assembly) on June 11th.

During the 2012 legislative session, 2,876 bills were introduced in the General Assembly. VDOT tracked 214 bills that directly or indirectly impacted the Department. The following pages highlight some legislation of interest, enacted into law by the 2012 General Assembly. Unless otherwise noted, all bills enacted into law have an effective date of July 1, 2012. This document is intended to provide a very brief overview of the legislation referenced herein and should not be relied upon as an authoritative or official source of the legislation or the law.

If you have any questions concerning the 2012 General Assembly session, please contact Jo Anne Maxwell (Policy Division Administrator) 804-786-1830.

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Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Authorities/Commissions	HB 810: Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability. (May) Provides for staffing of the Commission by the Clerk's Office of the house of the General Assembly of which the Chairman is a member and the Division of Legislative Services, with technical support from the JLARC.	Chapter 329



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Budget	HB 1300: Budget Bill (Putney) Amending Chapter 890, 2011 Acts of Assembly.	Chapter 2 (2012 Special Session I)
	HB 1301: Budget Bill (Putney) Provides a portion of revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June, 2013, and the thirtieth day of June, 2014.	Chapter 3 (2012 Special Session I)
	HB 1300, Item 436 K.1-2 / HB 1301, Item 430 M.1-2: Labor Agreements. States that no project may be undertaken with any state funds if a scoring incentive is provided to entities entering into project labor agreements. There are exclusions for public-private agreements.	
	HB 1301, Item 430 L.: VDOT's Swam Program. Directs the Secretary of Transportation to work with the Transportation Accountability Commission to review the effectiveness of VDOT's SWaM program. If the Commission has recommendations, the findings shall be presented to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees at their regularly scheduled meeting in October 2012.	
	HB 1301, Item 446 F.: I-95 Park and Ride Components. Modifies language in the introduced budget to separate responsibility for subsidiary components of the I-95 HOT Lanes project between VDOT and DRPT according to the programs which each agency manages.	



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Budget (cont.)	HB 1301, Item 449 E.: Recover Costs of Legal Representation. Transfers \$100,000 of the amounts that would be allocated to Arlington County for roadway maintenance to the highway construction funding item. "These funds are being transferred to reimburse the Commonwealth for legal fees it expended defending a former Secretary of Transportation who was sued in his personal capacity by Arlington County during his term of office and who was not dismissed from the case by Arlington even after his term of office expired. It is the belief of the Commonwealth that it is inappropriate for Arlington County to sue the former Secretary in his personal capacity and that this error was compounded when it failed to dismiss him from the suit when he left office."	
	HB 1301, Item 468 M.: 3% Bonus. Provides for a one-time three percent bonus for all state employees on December 1, 2012, contingent upon certain conditions.	
	HB 1301, Item 468 P.1: 2% Salary Increase. Provides \$54.7 million from the general fund, contingent on specific revenue requirements, for a two percent salary increase for state classified employees on July 10, 2013.	
	HB 1301, Item 4-5.09: VDOT Surplus Property. Provides General Assembly consent to relocation of a road that was placed on VDOT property. Authorizes VDOT to convey a parcel of property in Culpeper County to the Town of Culpeper for utility improvements under terms and conditions established by the Department.	



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Condemnations/Eminent Domain	HB 5 / SB 240: Taking or Damaging of Private Property Public Use Constitutional Amendment (Voter Referendum). (Bell, Robt. / Obenshain) Provides for a referendum at the November 6, 2012, election to approve or reject an amendment to require that eminent domain only be exercised where the property taken or damaged is for public use and, except for utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance, not where the primary use is	HB 5: Chapter 684 SB 240: Chapter 564
	for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development; to define what is included in just compensation for such taking or damaging of property; and to prohibit the taking or damaging of more private property than is necessary for the public use.	
	HB 1035 / SB 437: Eminent Domain Lost Profits and Access. (Joannou, et al / Obenshain))	HB 1035: Chapter 699
	Defines the terms "lost profits" as "loss of business profits not to exceed three years" and "lost access" as "material impairment of direct access" and how to determine the amount of just compensation, which includes lost profits and lost access resulting from the taking, that must be paid for property taken. The bill has a contingent effective date of January 1, 2013, provided that the voters approve an amendment to Section 11 of Article I of the Constitution of Virginia at the 2012 November election.	SB 437: Chapter 719



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Condemnations/Eminent Domain (cont.)	HJR 3 / SJR 3: Taking or Damaging of Private Property Public Use Constitutional Amendment (second resolution). (Bell, Robt / Obenshain) Revises the prohibition on the enactment by the General Assembly of laws whereby private property may be taken or damaged. An existing provision authorizing the General Assembly to define what constitutes a public use is removed. The proposed amendment provides that private property can be taken or damaged only for a public use, only with just compensation to the owner, and only so much taken as is necessary for the public use. Just compensation must equal or exceed the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking. A public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services. In all	HJR 3: Chapter 736 SJR 3: Chapter 738
	other cases, a taking or damaging of private property is not for public use if the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development, except for the elimination of a public nuisance existing on the property. The condemnor bears the burden of proving that the use is public, without a presumption that it is.	



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Environmental	HB 805 / SB 502: On-Road Clean Screen Program and Vehicle Emissions Inspection. (May)	HB 805: Chapter 216
	Privatizes services now provided by DEQ related to vehicle emissions inspections. The bill also updates authorized testing equipment and allows use of wireless systems and on-road emissions testing. From each emissions inspection fee received by the on-road emissions inspector, a minimum of \$4.50 shall be appropriated to the Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund. Any remaining funds in the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program Fund shall be remitted for use in transportation maintenance projects so that funds generated from localities required to have emissions inspections shall have the remaining funds transferred on an annual basis to the Northern Virginia Transportation District. Such funds shall be used for transportation maintenance in the respective locality. The bill has a delayed effective date	SB 502: Chapter 824
	HB 1065 / SB 407: Integration of Agencies' Programs. (Sherwood /	HB 1065: Chapter 785
	Hanger) Integrates elements of the Erosion and Sediment Control Act, the Stormwater Act, and Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act so that these regulatory programs can be implemented in a consolidated and consistent manner, resulting in greater efficiencies (one-stop shopping) for those being regulated. The bill also eliminates the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board and places its responsibilities with the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board.	SB 407: Chapter 819
	HB 1076: Special Use Permit for Storage or Disposal of Certain Non-Agricultural Waste. (Hugo) Provides that agencies of the Commonwealth or its contractors are not required to obtain a special exception or a special use permit for storage or disposal of nonagricultural excavation material, waste, and debris, under section 15.2-2288.	Chapter 455



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Funding/Revenues/Taxes	HB 324: Tax-Supported Debt of the Commonwealth. (Massie) Establishes the method of calculating the total principal amount of debt issued by any state agency, institution, board, or authority when the authority to issue the debt restricts the maximum principal amount of debt that may be issued.	Chapter 324
	HB 1248 / SB 639: Transportation Construction, Operation and	HB 1248: Chapter 729
	Maintenance, and Funding. (Lingamfelter, Rust/Wagner) Provides that the 67% transportation share of year end surpluses is to be deposited in to the TTF or a subfund thereof and adds transportation expenditures to the definition of non-recurring expenditures. The bill also authorizes the CTB to name highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities for private entities if an annual naming rights fee is paid, with the revenue dedicated to highway maintenance and operation. The bill also charges the CTB with greater responsibilities involving integration of land use and transportation planning and authorizes the CTB to withhold funds for certain local or regional capital improvement projects if those projects are inconsistent with the Statewide Transportation Plan or the Six-Year Improvement Program. Provision is made for use of "revenue-sharing" funds for secondary highway system maintenance projects carried out by local governments. Amends the formula through which the CTB allocates construction funding by directing the first \$500 million to be allocated for specified purposes. (The specified purposes include bridge construction/rehab, high priority projects statewide, reconstruction of deteriorated interstate and primary pavements, PPTA projects, unpaved roads carrying more than 200 vehicles per day, and smart roadway technology.) Imposes a \$50 annual license fee on electric motor vehicles registered in Virginia. (Governor's Bill)	SB 639: Chapter 733



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status

Highways/Bridges/Signs	HB 72: Highway Work Zones. (Bell, Richard) Requires highway work zones to be marked by appropriate warning signs and, for projects covered by contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2012, with attached flashing lights or other traffic control devices indicating that work is in progress.	Chapter 397
	HB 119: Operation of Golf Carts on Highways. (Hodges) Allows the governing body of the Town of Urbanna to authorize the operation of golf carts on the highways of the Town, subject to the limits of general law.	Chapter 9
	HB 545 / SB 315: VDOT Incident Management. (Comstock / Black) Allows VDOT to drive on a portion of the highway other than a roadway at,	HB 545: Chapter 27
	en route to, or from the scene of a traffic accident, without direction from law-enforcement officers. (Agency Bill)	SB 315: Chapter 108
	HB 626: Highway Noise Certain Reports by VDOT. (LeMunyon) Allows the governing body of any county, city, or town, at its own expense, to evaluate noise from highways it may designate for analysis. Such evaluation shall be accepted and relied upon by the Department if such evaluation is prepared in accordance with and complies with applicable federal law, regulations, and requirements, as well as guidelines and policies issued by the CTB, relating to noise abatement and evaluation. This provision shall not apply to projects for which VDOT is required to perform a noise analysis.	Chapter 171
	HB 914: Children at Play Signs. (Minchew) Allows counties and towns, pursuant to an agreement with the Commissioner of Highways, to install Children at Play signs on highways within their boundaries. The cost of the signs and installation will be borne by the county or town.	Chapter 179



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Highways/Bridges/Signs (cont.)	HB 1185: The Road to Revolution. (Peace) Expands the potential for sites on The Road to Revolution state heritage trail from those celebrating Patrick Henry and his role in liberating Virginia from Colonial rule to all those sites significant to men and women who played a role in liberating Virginia and establishing the United States of America.	Chapter 154
	HB 1217: Sergeant David Lambert Highway; Sergeant Brandon Asbury Highway. (Morefield) Designates a portion of Virginia Route 19 the "Sergeant Brandon Asbury Highway" and all of Virginia Route 609 in Tazewell County the "Sergeant David Lambert Highway."	Chapter 310
	HB 1296: Speed limit on Huguenot Bridge in Richmond. (Loupassi) VDOT committed to set the speed limit just east of the Huguenot Bridge in Richmond (from Kanawha Drive to River Road) permanently at 35 mph after the construction is complete.	Stricken at Patron's request.
	VDOT will post the speed limit at 35 mph and notify the delegate when complete. SB 530: Public Hearings Prior to Certain VDOT Projects. (Marsden) Requires the institution of higher education to hold at least one public hearing before VDOT undertakes any safety-related or congestion management-related highway project requested by any college, university,	Chapter 848
	or institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. SB 593: Virginia Route 16 Back of the Dragon. (Puckett, Morefield) Designates Virginia Route 16 between Frog Level in Tazewell County and the Town of Marion in Smyth County the "Back of the Dragon."	Chapter 648



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
HOV/HOT Lanes	HB 85 / SB 209: HOV Lanes. (Greason / Barker) Removes the July 1, 2012 sunset on use of the HOV lanes by vehicles bearing clean special fuel license plates, regardless of the number or occupants provided such use is in compliance with federal law. Requires	HB 85: Chapter 743 SB 209: Chapter 681
	the VDOT Commissioner to provide annually to the Chairmen of the Senate and House of Delegates Transportation Committees traffic volumes on the HOV facilities that result in a degraded condition as identified in SAFETEA-LU or other applicable federal law and reported to the FHWA. This report shall be used by the Chairmen of their respective committees to recommend further restriction on use of HOV facilities by clean special fuel vehicles.	
Land Records	HB 761: Recording Deeds Statement of Preparation. (Lewis)	Chapter 74
	Authorizes the clerk to reject any deed for filing or recordation, except for deeds in which a public service company, railroad, or cable system operator is either a grantor or grantee, unless the deed states on the first page of the document that it was prepared by the owner of the real	
	property or by an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth where such statement by an attorney shall include the name and Virginia State Bar number of the attorney who prepared the deed. However, it shall be sufficient that deeds prepared under the supervision of the Virginia OAG so state without the name of an attorney or bar number.	



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Land Use	HB 869 / SB 274: Urban Development Areas. (Rust / Smith) Makes incorporation of urban development areas in local comprehensive plans (UDAs) optional rather than mandatory. The higher UDA density of development requirement for localities 130,000 population or greater is removed, retaining the lower density level for localities choosing to designate UDAs. The requirements for localities to report their UDA adoption progress to the Commission on Local Government and for the Commission to make an annual report on local actions are deleted.	HB 869: Chapter 518 SB 274: Chapter 192
Local Roads	HB 1164: Improvements to Secondary and Urban System Highways. (Bulova) Requires the Secretary of Transportation, at least once every four years, to examine the process by which secondary and urban highway system maintenance and improvement projects are approved.	Chapter 41
	SB 230: Administration of Local Highway Projects. (Herring) Requires VDOT to provide for the training and certification of local governments so that they are capable of administering local maintenance and construction projects that involve the secondary or urban highway system. Requires such training and certification to enable the local governments to carry out locally administered projects in compliance with federal and state law and regulations with minimal oversight by VDOT personnel.	Chapter 470



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Outdoor Advertising	HB 34: Advertising Within Highway Limits. (Albo) Allows the Commissioner of Highways to enter into agreements with any local governing body authorizing local law-enforcement agencies or other local governmental entities to act as agents of the Commissioner regarding unlawful signs and advertising on highways and collection of penalties and costs. Provides that signs and advertising promoting and/or providing directions to a special event erected from Saturday through the following Monday shall not be subject to such an agreement between the Commissioner of Highways and the local governing body of Fairfax County.	Chapter 739
	HB 466 / SB 408: Alcoholic Beverage Control Outdoor Advertising. (Albo/Hanger) Provides that all lawfully erected outdoor alcoholic beverage signs shall comply with ABC laws, as well as, provisions of law and CTB regulations relating to advertising in sight of highways. Further, any outdoor alcoholic beverage directional sign located or to be located on highway rights of way shall also be governed by and comply with the Integrated Directional Sign Program administered by VDOT or its agents. (Agency Bill)	HB 466: Chapter 326 SB 408: Chapter 618
	HB 471 / SB 398: Alcoholic Beverage Control Outdoor Advertising. (Albo/Hanger) Resolves conflicts between ABC statute and Chapter 7 Title 33.1 and the Integrated Directional Sign Program. The bill adds language concerning location and zoning of outdoor alcoholic beverage advertising and other limitations. The bill adds penalties for violators of the outdoor advertising statutes. The bill revises the conditions under which the Commissioner of Highways may remove illegal signs and the manner in which appeals shall be handled. The bill contains an emergency enactment clause.	HB 471: Chapter 760 SB 398: Chapter 818



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Outdoor Advertising (cont.)	HB 646: Permit Applications for Outdoor Advertising. (Habeeb) Defines "billboard sign" and eliminates the Certification Acceptance Program which allowed an entity with five or more signs to self-inspect and certify its compliance with the law and regulations in lieu of paying a permit fee. The bill also modifies the fee structure for permits, reducing the number of permitting categories and increasing the fees. Provides for a \$5 discount if the permit applicant uses the electronic application process. (Agency Bill)	Chapter 145
Overweight Vehicles	HB 806: Overweight Vehicle Permits and Fees. (May) Provides a uniform method of assigning cost-based fees based on the amount that a vehicle is overweight. The bill also allocates payment of fees into specific funds. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2013.	Chapter 443
	SB 335: Weight Limits. (Carrico) Extends the temporary increased weight limit for trucks hauling sand, gravel, or crushed stone in coal counties to January 1, 2013. Contains an enactment clause providing that the provisions of the act shall expire on January 1, 2013.	Chapter 569
Photo-Red Monitoring	HB 1295 / SB 679: Elimination of State Mandates. (Byron/Newman) Eliminates several statewide mandates on local and regional government entities relating to procurement procedures, education, and land use. Specifically, removes the requirement that a locality submit a list of intersections for photo-red monitoring to VDOT for final approval.	HB 1295: Chapter 805 SB 679: Chapter 836



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Procurement/Contracting	HB 945: Performance and Payment Bonds on Transportation-Related Projects. (Villanueva) Increases the threshold for transportation-related construction contracts requiring performance and payment bonds from \$250,000 to \$350,000. However, such bond requirements, for contracts between \$250,000 and \$350,000, may only be waived if the bid is accompanied by evidence that a surety company has declined an application for a performance and payment bond. The bill further provides that prospective bidders for transportation-related construction projects that are valued in excess of \$250,000 but less than \$350,000 who have submitted evidence of denial of a performance and payment bond shall participate in the prequalification program agreed to by the Commissioner of Highways and the Department of the Treasury. The bill requires the Virginia Department of Transportation to report by December 1 of each year to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on Transportation (i) the number of companies that were unable to procure a performance or payment bond for contracts valued between \$250,000 and \$350,000, (ii) the number of performance/payment bond waivers granted by the Department for contracts valued between \$250,000 and \$350,000, and (iii) the number of companies that were enrolled in any Department of the Treasury, Division of Risk Management self-bonding program for Department projects. (Agency Bill)	Chapter 783



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Property Conveyance	HB 1113: Biscuit Run in Albemarle County, Virginia. (Toscano) Authorizes the Department of Conservation and Recreation to negotiate a land exchange of certain parcels in an area known as Biscuit Run in Albemarle County.	Chapter 663
	HB 1224: Transfer of Property by VDOT. (Morefield) Authorizes VDOT, with the approval of the Governor, to convey that portion of a parcel of land bounded by Virginia Route 19, Virginia Route 1015, and Virginia Route 610 in Tazewell County no longer needed for highway rights-of-way or purposes incidental to the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, or improvement of public highways in exchange for real property and such other consideration as determined by the Department is necessary to render the property received by the Department suitable for use as an equipment shop facility. The total consideration received shall be of comparable value to the property conveyed by the Department in exchange. The exchange and all documentation pursuant thereto, shall be in a form approved by the	Chapter 460

Attorney General. The appropriate officials of the Commonwealth are hereby authorized to prepare, execute, and deliver such deed and other

documents as may be necessary to accomplish the exchange.



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Reports/Studies	HB 599: / SB 531 Northern Virginia Transportation District.	HB 599: Chapter 768
	(LeMunyon/Marsden) Requires VDOT, in coordination with the CTB, DRPT, and the NOVA Transportation Authority, to evaluate all significant transportation projects, including highway, mass transit, and technology projects, in and near the Northern Virginia Transportation District, to the extent that funds are available for such purpose. The evaluation shall provide an objective, quantitative rating for each project according to the degree that congestion is expected to be reduced by the project and, to the extent feasible, the degree to which regional mobility is expected to be improved by the project in the event of a homeland security emergency. Such evaluation shall rely on analytical techniques and transportation modeling, including those that employ computer simulations currently and customarily employed in transportation planning. VDOT shall publicize the quantitative ratings determined for each project on its website and complete the evaluation at least once every four years, with interim progress reports provided on the website at least once every six months starting January 1, 2013. Significant transportation projects to be evaluated shall comprise at least 25 projects selected according to priorities determined by the CTB, in coordination with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.	SB 531: Chapter 825
	HB 660: Lease of Highway Space for Solar Electric Production. (Surovell) Would "allow" VDOT to lease space within highway rights-of-way for solar photovoltaic power production projects. VDOT will study the feasibility of leasing/utilizing space within highway rights-of-way for solar photovoltaic power production projects and provide results of the study to the Delegate.	Continued to 2013.



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Reports/Studies (cont.)	HB 864: CTB Composition. (Rust) Calls for changing the composition of the CTB so that one member would be appointed from each of Virginia's congressional districts and three remaining appointed members would be at-large appointees. The three ex officio members, as well as the total number of members (17) would remain unchanged.	Continued to 2013.
	SB 392/SB 161: CTB Composition. (Marsden/Petersen) Calls for increasing the number of members of the CTB to 18 and would change the areas of representation to the congressional districts. Also assigns the at-large members to specific transportation modes. Three bills were carried over or continued to allow for study of the CTB's	
	composition/membership.	
	HB 1263: VDOT Integrated Directional Sign Program. (Marshall, D.) Directs the Commissioner to evaluate the Supplemental Guide Sign portion of the Integrated Directional Sign Program based on specific criteria listed in the bill. A report of such findings shall be submitted to the Chairmen of House and Senate Transportation Committees by February 1, 2014.	Chapter 799
	HJR 134: Bi-County Tri-County Parkway (Anderson) Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the potential economic impact of the proposed Bi-County Parkway and Tri-County Parkway transportation infrastructure projects.	Left in Rules.
	Discussions in committee stated that the patron may send a letter to VDOT requesting the study be completed.	



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
Reports/Studies (cont.)	SB 358: Infrared Traffic Signal Light Changes. (Deeds) Would allow local governments by ordinance to permit use of infrared traffic light signal changers by firefighting vehicles in nonemergency situations.	Continued to 2013.
	VDOT will conduct an informal review.	
Speed Limits	HB 800: Nonsurface Treated Highways Speed Limits. (Webert) Provides that the speed limit on nonsurface treated roads shall be 35 miles per hour. The provisions of this section shall apply in the Counties of Albemarle, Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Montgomery, Nelson, Page, Rappahannock, Warren, and Wythe and in any other county wherein the governing body adopts an ordinance pursuant to the provisions of this section.	Chapter 207



Category	Bill Number/Bill Points	Status
State Employees	HB 1130 / SB 498: Hybrid Retirement Program. (Howell / Watkins) Creates a new hybrid retirement program, administered by the Virginia Retirement System, that contains a defined contribution and a defined benefit component. All new state employees, local employees, and judges commencing employment on or after January 1, 2014, would be required to participate in the hybrid plan. Employees in service on December 31, 2013, would be given the opportunity to make a one-time, irrevocable election to participate in the new hybrid program. Creates a disability program for local employees participating in the hybrid plan. Makes adjustments to the existing defined benefit plan for nonvested employees, including lowering	HB 1130: Chapter 701 SB 498: Chapter 823
	the retirement benefit multiplier from 1.7 to 1.65, basing average final compensation on 60 months of service instead of 36, and capping the cost-of-living adjustment at three percent. Any person with less than 20 years service who takes early retirement would not receive a cost-of-living adjustment until one year after he reaches normal retirement age.	
Transportation Planning	HB 625: Transportation Planning Comprehensive Plan. (LeMunyon) Provides that when a locality in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia) submits to VDOT for review a proposed comprehensive plan or amendment that will substantially affect transportation on state controlled highways, VDOT will determine the extent to which the proposal will increase traffic congestion or, to the extent feasible, reduce the mobility of citizens in the event of a homeland security emergency and include such information in its comments to the locality on the proposed plan or amendment.	Chapter 770