

2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

26102357D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 457**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 12, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-961.4, relating to land*
5 *development; solar canopies in surface parking areas.*

6 Patron—Krizek

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-961.4 as follows:**

10 **§ 15.2-961.4. Solar canopies in surface parking areas.**

11 *A. For purposes of this section, "solar canopy" means an area with a raised structure that contains solar*
12 *photovoltaic panels.*

13 *B. Any locality may include in its land development ordinances a provision that requires as a condition of*
14 *land development approval that an applicant shall install a solar canopy over designated surface parking*
15 *areas. Such provisions shall apply only to nonresidential surface parking areas with 100 parking spaces or*
16 *more and may require coverage of up to 50 percent of the surface parking area.*

17 *C. An ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall allow for deviations, in whole or in part, from the*
18 *requirements of such ordinance when its strict application would prevent the development of uses and*
19 *densities otherwise allowed by the locality's zoning or development ordinance.*

20 *D. The applicant or developer may use the electric energy generated from such solar canopy for its own*
21 *consumption. Any such solar canopy shall be interconnected pursuant to 20VAC5-314 or 20VAC5-315 of the*
22 *Virginia Administrative Code at the election of the developer.*

23 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.**

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