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SENATE BILL NO. 541

Senate Amendments in [ ] - February 16, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact § 1-253 of the Code of Virginia, relating to time zone; permanent Eastern Standard Time in the Commonwealth.

Patrons Prior to Engrossment—Senators Stuart and Mulchi

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 1-253 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 1-253. Time zone.

The United States Eastern Standard Time shall be in effect in all parts of the Commonwealth ~~except during the period when the United States Eastern Daylight Time~~ at all times, as provided by federal law. This section shall not be construed to be in contravention of federal law, or duly authorized orders of the ~~United States~~ U.S. Secretary of Transportation with respect to the time zones of the United States and the application of standard time to interstate commerce and other matters within such zones.

In all laws, statutes, orders, decrees, rules, and regulations relating to the time of performance of any act by any officer or agency of the Commonwealth, or any political subdivision thereof, or relating to the time in which any rights shall accrue or determine, or within which any act shall or shall not be performed by any person subject to the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, and in all public schools, institutions of the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions, and contracts or choses in action made or to be performed in the Commonwealth, it shall be understood and intended that the time applicable thereto or referred to or implied therein shall be the United States Eastern Standard Time; ~~or the United States Eastern Daylight Time, when and during such is in effect.~~

For purposes of this section, "United States Eastern Standard Time" means the standard time, as described in 15 U.S.C. § 261.

2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective upon the [ ~~enactment of an amendment to 15 U.S.C. § 260, or another applicable law, that authorizes states to observe United States Eastern Standard Time~~ District of Columbia and the State of Maryland enacting legislation providing that United States Eastern Standard Time shall be observed in all parts of the respective district or state ] year-round.

ENGROSSED

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