

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 505
2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections
4 on February 24, 2026)
5 (Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate McAuliff)

6 *A BILL to suspend certain officers, require a study, adopt a remedial plan, and establish meeting*
7 *requirements of town councils in certain towns.*

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

9 **1. § 1.** *Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in the event of a criminal proceeding against*
10 *an officer of any town in Planning District 8 with a population between 8,000 and 10,000 according to the*
11 *latest United States decennial census alleging the commission of a felony offense, the court having*
12 *jurisdiction over such offense shall enter an order suspending such officer pending the resolution of such*
13 *proceeding and any related proceeding under § 24.2-231, 24.2-232, 24.2-233, 24.2-234, or 24.2-234.1 of*
14 *the Code of Virginia. If such offense originates in district court, such court shall have authority to issue an*
15 *order pursuant to this subsection. Upon transfer to circuit court or if such offense originates in circuit court,*
16 *such circuit court shall enter an order pursuant to this subsection on the record. The presiding court may*
17 *dissolve such order if the final outcome of the felony offense is an acquittal, nolle prosequi, or dismissal,*
18 *including if the offense was deferred and dismissed after a finding of facts sufficient to justify a finding of*
19 *guilt.*

20 *During a suspension pursuant to this enactment, the court may appoint some suitable person to act in the*
21 *officer's place. The officer's compensation shall be withheld and kept in a separate account and paid to him if*
22 *and when the judicial proceedings result in his favor. Otherwise, it shall be paid back to the county, city,*
23 *town, or State Treasurer who paid it.*

24 **§ 2.** *Any town in Planning District 8 with a population between 8,000 and 10,000 according to the latest*
25 *United States decennial census shall procure a study to evaluate the condition and status of the town's debt,*
26 *infrastructure, utilities, and other significant liability risks, to be performed by a public institution of higher*
27 *education with a student population of at least 15,000 students in consultation with a chief administrative*
28 *officer of a locality in Planning District 8 with a population of at least 500,000 according to the latest United*
29 *States decennial census. The study shall make recommendations about prioritizing and identifying the needs*
30 *of the town as well as any recommendations as to amendments to the town's charter. The study shall conclude*
31 *no later than July 1, 2027.*

32 **§ 3.** *Any town in Planning District 8 with a population between 8,000 and 10,000 according to the latest*

33 *United States decennial census for which a study is conducted pursuant to § 2 of this act shall adopt a plan*
34 *consistent with the study to address such town's needs in a fiscally appropriate manner that does not*
35 *jeopardize the town's bond rating.*

36 *§ 4. In any town in Planning District 8 with a population between 8,000 and 10,000 according the latest*
37 *United States decennial census, the town council shall only take votes on matters that have been (i) properly*
38 *published at least three days prior to the vote as part of a town council agenda or (ii) otherwise approved as*
39 *additional agenda items or as amendments to existing agenda items by a three-fourths vote of all the*
40 *members of the council at the start of the meeting. Any resident of the town shall have standing in the general*
41 *district court of the county in which the town is located to challenge a town council vote in conflict with this*
42 *section or the provisions of § 2.2-3112 of the Code of Virginia, and such case shall take precedence on the*
43 *docket. Any prevailing resident filing such case shall be entitled to attorney fees.*

44 ***2. The provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2028.***