

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

CHAPTER 636

An Act to amend and reenact § 58.1-344.3 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 8 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-580, relating to Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund established; voluntary contributions; report.

[H 597]

Approved April 13, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 58.1-344.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 8 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-580 as follows:

§ 29.1-580. Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund; report.

A. As used in this section:

"Departments" means the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Wildlife Resources.

"Eligible applicants" means representatives from (i) state agencies, (ii) metropolitan planning organizations, (iii) localities, (iv) regional transportation authorities, (v) Indian tribes, and (vi) nonprofit entities and academic institutions.

"Fund" means the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund established in this section.

"Plan" means the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan established in § 29.1-579.

B. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. Any voluntary contributions made pursuant to § 58.1-344.3, and all funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose of providing grants for projects that conserve or enhance wildlife corridors prioritized by the Plan and associated wildlife crossing infrastructure projects. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director of the Department of Wildlife Resources.

C. The Director of the Department of Wildlife Resources shall administer the Fund and in consultation with the Departments shall determine how to disburse grants from the Fund to eligible applicants. Representatives of the Departments shall develop a timeline, scoring system, and criteria to disburse grants from the Fund in accordance with this section. Such criteria shall include the extent to which a project (i) furthers a priority identified in the Plan; (ii) reduces high-cost wildlife-vehicle collisions; (iii) extends the lifetime and reduces the maintenance costs of road-related infrastructure; (iv) connects certain types of protected areas, such as federal, state, or private lands with conservation easements; (v) benefits endangered or threatened species, species of greatest conservation need, or reintroduced wildlife populations; and (vi) leverages available federal grant funding.

D. In addition to projects that meet the criteria in subsection C, grants from the Fund may also be used for (i) nonconstruction projects that advance priorities in the Plan, such as data collection, infrastructure monitoring, feasibility studies, or the production of designs and plans; (ii) matching funds required to leverage federal grant funds for projects that would advance the Plan; (iii) exclusionary or funnel fencing to keep wildlife off of roads; (iv) maintenance costs associated with completed projects; and (v) administration and personnel expenses related to the purposes of the Fund.

E. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide a method by which an individual conducting a Department of Motor Vehicles transaction using electronic means may make a voluntary contribution to the Fund. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall inform such individual of the existence of the Fund and also that contributing to the Fund is voluntary.

F. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall collect all moneys contributed pursuant to subsection E and transmit the moneys on a regular basis to the State Treasurer, who shall credit the contributions to the Fund.

G. The Director of the Department of Wildlife Resources, on behalf of the Departments, shall submit a biennial report to the General Assembly by November 1 of each odd-numbered year, and such report shall be made available to the public. The report shall include the number and types of public and private funding opportunities sought for the Fund, the amount of public and private funding received by the Fund, the amount and number of awards from the Fund, and information regarding the progress of funded projects, including data on the use of project infrastructure by wildlife.

§ 58.1-344.3. Voluntary contributions of refunds requirements.

A. 1. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2005, all entities entitled to voluntary contributions of tax refunds listed in subsections B and C must have received at least \$10,000 in contributions in each of the three previous taxable years for which there is complete data and in which such entity was listed on the individual income tax return.

2. In the event that an entity listed in subsections B and C does not satisfy the requirement in subdivision 1, such entity shall no longer be listed on the individual income tax return.

3. a. The entities listed in subdivisions B 21 and B 22 as well as any other entities in subsections B and C added subsequent to the 2004 Session of the General Assembly shall not appear on the individual income tax return until their addition to the individual income tax return results in a maximum of 25 contributions listed on the return. Such contributions shall be added in the order that they are listed in subsections B and C.

b. Each entity added to the income tax return shall appear on the return for at least three consecutive taxable years before the requirement in subdivision 1 is applied to such entity.

4. The Department of Taxation shall report annually by the first day of each General Assembly Regular Session to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Finance and Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations the amounts collected for each entity listed under subsections B and C for the three most recent taxable years for which there is complete data. Such report shall also identify the entities, if any, that will be removed from the individual income tax return because they have failed the requirements in subdivision 1, the entities that will remain on the individual income tax return, and the entities, if any, that will be added to the individual income tax return.

B. Subject to the provisions of subsection A, the following entities entitled to voluntary contributions shall appear on the individual income tax return and are eligible to receive tax refund contributions of not less than \$1:

1. Nongame wildlife voluntary contribution.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used for the conservation and management of endangered species and other nongame wildlife. "Nongame wildlife" includes protected wildlife, endangered and threatened wildlife, aquatic wildlife, specialized habitat wildlife both terrestrial and aquatic, and mollusks, crustaceans, and other invertebrates under the jurisdiction of the Board of Wildlife Resources.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Game Protection Fund and which shall be accounted for as a separate part thereof to be designated as the Nongame Cash Fund. All moneys so deposited in the Nongame Cash Fund shall be used by the Board of Wildlife Resources for the purposes set forth herein.

2. Open space recreation and conservation voluntary contribution.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used by the Department of Conservation and Recreation to acquire land for recreational purposes and preserve natural areas; to develop, maintain, and improve state park sites and facilities; and to provide funds to local public bodies pursuant to the Virginia Outdoor Fund Grants Program.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund. The moneys in the fund shall be allocated one-half to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the purposes stated in subdivision 2 a and one-half to local public bodies pursuant to the Virginia Outdoor Fund Grants Program.

3. Voluntary contribution to political party.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the State Central Committee of any party that meets the definition of a political party under § 24.2-101 as of July 1 of the previous taxable year. The maximum contribution allowable under this subdivision shall be \$25. In the case of a joint return of married individuals, each spouse may designate that the maximum contribution allowable be paid.

4. United States Olympic Committee voluntary contribution.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the United States Olympic Committee.

5. Housing program voluntary contribution.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used by the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide assistance for emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for the homeless; and to provide assistance to housing for the low-income elderly for the physically or mentally disabled.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Virginia Tax Check-off for Housing Fund. All moneys deposited in the fund shall be used by the Department of Housing and Community Development for the purposes set forth in this subdivision. Funds made available to the Virginia Tax Check-off for Housing Fund may supplement but shall not supplant activities of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund established pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 36-141 et seq.) of Title 36 or those of the Virginia Housing Development Authority.

6. Voluntary contributions to the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services for the enhancement of transportation services for the elderly and disabled.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Transportation Services for the Elderly and Disabled Fund. All moneys so deposited in the fund shall be used by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services for the enhancement of transportation services for the elderly and disabled. The

Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services shall conduct an annual audit of the moneys received pursuant to this subdivision and shall provide an evaluation of all programs funded pursuant to this subdivision annually to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

7. Voluntary contribution to the Community Policing Fund.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used to provide grants to local law-enforcement agencies for the purchase of equipment or the support of services, as approved by the Criminal Justice Services Board, relating to community policing.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Community Policing Fund. All moneys deposited in such fund shall be used by the Department of Criminal Justice Services for the purposes set forth herein.

8. Voluntary contribution to promote the arts.

All moneys contributed shall be used by the Virginia Commission for the Arts in its statutory responsibility of promoting the arts in the Commonwealth. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Virginia Commission for the Arts Fund.

9. Voluntary contribution to the Historic Resources Fund.

All moneys contributed shall be deposited in the Historic Resources Fund established pursuant to § 10.1-2202.1.

10. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Virginia Humanities Fund.

11. Voluntary contribution to the Center for Governmental Studies.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Center for Governmental Studies, a public service and research center of the University of Virginia. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Governmental Studies Fund.

12. Voluntary contribution to the Law and Economics Center.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Law and Economics Center, a public service and research center of George Mason University. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Law and Economics Fund.

13. Voluntary contribution to Children of America Finding Hope.

All moneys contributed shall be used by Children of America Finding Hope (CAFH) in its programs which are designed to reach children with emotional and physical needs.

14. Voluntary contribution to 4-H Educational Centers.

All moneys contributed shall be used by the 4-H Educational Centers throughout the Commonwealth for their (i) educational, leadership, and camping programs and (ii) operational and capital costs. The State Treasurer shall pay the moneys to the Virginia 4-H Foundation in Blacksburg, Virginia.

15. Voluntary contribution to promote organ and tissue donation.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used by the Virginia Transplant Council to assist in its statutory responsibility of promoting and coordinating educational and informational activities as related to the organ, tissue, and eye donation process and transplantation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Virginia Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund. All moneys deposited in such fund shall be used by the Virginia Transplant Council for the purposes set forth herein.

16. Voluntary contributions to the Virginia War Memorial division of the Department of Veterans Services and the National D-Day Memorial Foundation.

All moneys contributed shall be used by the Virginia War Memorial division of the Department of Veterans Services and the National D-Day Memorial Foundation in their work through each of their respective memorials. The State Treasurer shall divide the moneys into two equal portions and pay one portion to the Virginia War Memorial division of the Department of Veterans Services and the other portion to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation.

17. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies to assist in its mission of saving, caring for, and finding homes for homeless animals.

18. Voluntary contribution to the Tuition Assistance Grant Fund.

a. All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Tuition Assistance Grant Fund for use in providing monetary assistance to residents of the Commonwealth who are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs in private Virginia colleges.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Tuition Assistance Grant Fund. All moneys so deposited in the Fund shall be administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in accordance with and for the purposes provided under the Tuition Assistance Grant Act (§ 23.1-628 et seq.).

19. Voluntary contribution to the Spay and Neuter Fund.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Spay and Neuter Fund for use by localities in the

Commonwealth for providing low-cost spay and neuter surgeries through direct provision or contract or each locality may make the funds available to any private, nonprofit sterilization program for dogs and cats in such locality. The Tax Commissioner shall determine annually the total amounts designated on all returns from each locality in the Commonwealth, based upon the locality that each filer who makes a voluntary contribution to the Fund lists as his permanent address. The State Treasurer shall pay the appropriate amount to each respective locality.

20. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

21. Voluntary contribution for the Department of Emergency Management.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Department of Emergency Management.

22. Voluntary contribution for the cancer centers in the Commonwealth.

All moneys contributed shall be paid equally to all entities in the Commonwealth that officially have been designated as cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute.

23. Voluntary contribution to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program Fund.

a. All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program Fund to support the work of and generate nonstate funds to maintain the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program Fund as established in § 30-231.4.

c. All moneys so deposited in the Fund shall be administered by the State Council of Higher Education in accordance with and for the purposes provided in Chapter 34.1 (§ 30-231.01 et seq.) of Title 30.

24. Voluntary contribution to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Living History and Public Policy Center.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Board of Trustees of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Living History and Public Policy Center.

25. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Caregivers Grant Fund.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Caregivers Grant Fund established pursuant to § 63.2-2202.

26. Voluntary contribution to public library foundations.

All moneys contributed pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited into the state treasury. The Tax Commissioner shall determine annually the total amounts designated on all returns for each public library foundation and shall report the same to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall pay the appropriate amount to the respective public library foundation.

27. Voluntary contribution to Celebrating Special Children, Inc.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to Celebrating Special Children, Inc. and shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Celebrating Special Children, Inc. Fund.

28. Voluntary contributions to the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services for providing Medicare Part D counseling to the elderly and disabled.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Medicare Part D Counseling Fund. All moneys so deposited shall be used by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to provide counseling for the elderly and disabled concerning Medicare Part D. The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services shall conduct an annual audit of the moneys received pursuant to this subdivision and shall provide an evaluation of all programs funded pursuant to the subdivision to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

29. Voluntary contribution to community foundations.

All moneys contributed pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited into the state treasury. The Tax Commissioner shall determine annually the total amounts designated on all returns for each community foundation and shall report the same to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall pay the appropriate amount to the respective community foundation. A "community foundation" shall be defined as any institution that meets the membership requirements for a community foundation established by the Council on Foundations.

30. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education.

a. All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education for use in providing monetary assistance to Virginia residents who are enrolled in comprehensive community colleges in Virginia.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education Fund. All moneys so deposited in the Fund shall be administered by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education in accordance with and for the purposes provided under the Community College Incentive Scholarship Program (former § 23-220.2 et seq.).

31. Voluntary contribution to the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority to be used for the purposes described in § 15.2-6601.

32. Voluntary contribution to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund established pursuant to § 32.1-368.

33. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center for use in its mission to increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of Virginia's marine environment and inspire commitment to preserve its existence.

34. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Capitol Preservation Foundation.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Capitol Preservation Foundation for use in its mission in supporting the ongoing restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the Virginia Capitol and Capitol Square.

35. Voluntary contribution for the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs for related programs and services.

C. Subject to the provisions of subsection A, the following voluntary contributions shall appear on the individual income tax return and are eligible to receive tax refund contributions or by making payment to the Department if the individual is not eligible to receive a tax refund pursuant to § 58.1-309 or if the amount of such tax refund is less than the amount of the voluntary contribution:

1. Voluntary contribution to the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia.

2. Voluntary Chesapeake Bay restoration contribution.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used to help fund Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries restoration activities in accordance with tributary plans developed pursuant to Article 7 (§ 2.2-215 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 or the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan submitted by the Commonwealth of Virginia to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 29, 2010, and any subsequent revisions thereof.

b. The Tax Commissioner shall annually determine the total amount of voluntary contributions and shall report the same to the State Treasurer, who shall credit that amount to a special nonreverting fund to be administered by the Office of the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. All moneys so deposited shall be used for the purposes of providing grants for the implementation of tributary plans developed pursuant to Article 7 (§ 2.2-215 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 or the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan submitted by the Commonwealth of Virginia to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 29, 2010, and any subsequent revisions thereof.

c. No later than November 1 of each year, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources shall submit a report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources; the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources; the House Committee on Appropriations; the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations; and the Virginia delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission, describing the grants awarded from moneys deposited in the fund. The report shall include a list of grant recipients, a description of the purpose of each grant, the amount received by each grant recipient, and an assessment of activities or initiatives supported by each grant. The report shall be posted on a website maintained by the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, along with a cumulative listing of previous grant awards beginning with awards granted on or after July 1, 2014.

3. Voluntary Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Contribution.

All moneys contributed shall be used by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation for the Jamestown 2007 quadricentennial celebration. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Jamestown Quadricentennial Fund. This subdivision shall be effective for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2008.

4. State forests voluntary contribution.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used for the development and implementation of conservation and education initiatives in the state forests system.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the State Forests System Fund, established pursuant to § 10.1-1119.1. All moneys so deposited in such fund shall be used by the State Forester for the purposes set forth herein.

5. Voluntary contributions to Uninsured Medical Catastrophe Fund.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Uninsured Medical Catastrophe Fund established pursuant to § 32.1-324.2, such funds to be used for the treatment of Virginians sustaining uninsured medical catastrophes.

6. Voluntary contribution to local school divisions.

a. All moneys contributed shall be used by a specified local public school foundation as created by and for the purposes stated in § 22.1-212.2:2.

b. All moneys collected pursuant to subdivision 6 a or through voluntary payments by taxpayers designated for a local public school foundation over refundable amounts shall be deposited into the state treasury. The Tax Commissioner shall determine annually the total amounts designated on all returns for each

public school foundation and shall report the same to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall pay the appropriate amount to the respective public school foundation.

c. In order for a public school foundation to be eligible to receive contributions under this section, school boards must notify the Department during the taxable year in which they want to participate prior to the deadlines and according to procedures established by the Tax Commissioner.

7. Voluntary contribution to Home Energy Assistance Fund.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Home Energy Assistance Fund established pursuant to § 63.2-805, such funds to be used to assist low-income Virginians in meeting seasonal residential energy needs.

8. Voluntary contribution to the Virginia Military Family Relief Fund.

a. All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Virginia Military Family Relief Fund for use in providing assistance to military service personnel on active duty and their families for living expenses including, but not limited to, food, housing, utilities, and medical services.

b. All moneys shall be deposited into a special fund known as the Virginia Military Family Relief Fund, established and administered pursuant to § 44-102.2.

9. Voluntary contribution to the Federation of Virginia Food Banks.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, a Partner State Association of Feeding America. The Federation of Virginia Food Banks shall as soon as practicable make an equitable distribution of all such moneys to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Capital Area Food Bank, Feeding America Southwest Virginia, FeedMore, Inc., Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, Fredericksburg Area Food Bank, or Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

The Secretary of Finance may request records or receipts of all distributions by the Federation of Virginia Food Banks of such moneys contributed for purposes of ensuring compliance with the requirements of this subdivision.

10. Voluntary contribution to the endowment fund of the Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the endowment fund of the Board for use in its mission in providing quality services to assist citizens of the Commonwealth who are blind, vision impaired, or deafblind in achieving their desired level of employment, education, and personal independence.

11. *Voluntary contribution to the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund.*

All moneys contributed shall be paid to the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund, established and administered pursuant to § 29.1-580, for use in providing grants for projects that conserve or enhance wildlife corridors and associated wildlife crossing infrastructure projects.

D. Unless otherwise specified and subject to the requirements in § 58.1-344.2, all moneys collected for each entity in subsections B and C shall be deposited into the state treasury. The Tax Commissioner shall determine annually the total amount designated for each entity in subsections B and C on all individual income tax returns and shall report the same to the State Treasurer, who shall credit that amount to each entity's respective special fund.