

2015 SESSION

LEGISLATION NOT PREPARED BY DLS
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SB1455

15104193D

SENATE BILL NO. 1455

Offered January 23, 2015

A BILL authorizing the issuance of Commonwealth of Virginia General Obligation Bonds in an amount not exceeding \$67,000,000 for the purpose of financing the cost of certain capital projects; authorizing the Treasury Board, by and with the consent of the Governor, to fix the details of the bonds and to provide for the sale of the bonds; authorizing the Treasury Board, by and with the consent of the Governor, to borrow money in anticipation of the issuance of the bonds; authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds, by and with the consent of the Governor; providing for the pledge of the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth for the payment of such obligations; providing that the interest income on such obligations shall be exempt from all taxation by the Commonwealth and any political subdivision thereof; and providing that this act shall not become effective and that no bonds shall be issued hereunder unless this act is approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the Commonwealth voting thereon at an election, as required by Article X, Section 9 (b) of the Constitution of Virginia.

Patron—Watkins

Referred to Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. Title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Commonwealth Bond Act of 2015."

§ 2. Authorization of Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs). The authorization to issue bonds hereunder is subject to a favorable vote of a majority of the qualified voters voting on this act at the November 3, 2015, general election as hereinafter provided.

Thereafter, the Treasury Board is hereby authorized, by and with the consent of the Governor, to sell and issue, at one time or from time to time, bonds of the Commonwealth, to be designated "Commonwealth of Virginia General Obligation Bonds, Series...", in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$67,000,000. The Treasury Board is further authorized, by and with the consent of the Governor, to borrow money in anticipation of the issuance of the bonds by the issuance of bond anticipation notes (BANs), including BANs issued as commercial paper.

§ 3. Purpose; Projects. The proceeds of the bonds and BANs, excluding amounts needed to pay issuance costs and other financing expenses, shall be used as provided in § 4 hereof for capital projects as follows:

| Facility | Project Description | Amount |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center | Construct Care Center | \$32,640,481 |
| Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center | Construct Care Center | 33,912,198 |

The General Assembly hereby finds and determines that the estimated useful life of the capital projects listed above is in excess of twenty-five years.

To the extent that the cost of any capital project listed above is less than the amount allocated to such project, the Governor or the Governor's designee may increase the amount allocated to any other capital project listed above. No such allocation to a capital project may be increased, however, until it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Governor or the Governor's designee that (a) the cost of the capital project has been reduced to the extent reasonable, (b) the capital project has not been expanded or enhanced beyond that originally approved, and (c) the capital project is suitable and adequate for the scope originally intended. No increase in the amount allocated to any capital project shall constitute an authorization for the issuance of bonds in an amount in excess of the aggregate amount authorized hereunder.

§ 4. Application of Proceeds. Proceeds (including any premium) of the bonds and any BANs (except the proceeds of (i) bonds the issuance of which has been anticipated by BANs, (ii) refunding bonds and (iii) refunding BANs) shall be deposited by the State Treasurer in a special capital outlay fund in the State Treasury and shall be disbursed only for the purpose for which the bonds or any BANs have been issued. In the event that the proceeds of the bonds or BANs exceed the cost of the projects specified in § 3, the Treasury Board shall cause such excess proceeds to be applied to the retirement of the bonds or BANs. The proceeds of (i) bonds the issuance of which has been anticipated by BANs, (ii) refunding

58 bonds and (iii) refunding BANs and any funds provided by the General Assembly, or available from any
59 other source, for the purpose, shall be used to pay such BANs, refunded bonds and refunded BANs.

60 The proceeds of the bonds and any refunding bonds or BANs are hereby appropriated for
61 disbursement from the state treasury for the current biennium pursuant to Article X, Section 7 of the
62 Constitution of Virginia, and § 2.2-1819 of the Code of Virginia. The general conditions and general
63 provisions of the general appropriation act enacted pursuant to Chapter 15 (§ 2.2-1500 et seq.) of Title
64 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, in effect from time to time, and all of the terms and conditions contained
65 therein shall apply to the capital projects listed in § 3. The Governor or his designee is hereby
66 authorized to increase the appropriation for any project listed in § 3 by the amount of the proceeds of
67 donations, gifts, grants or other nongeneral funds paid into the state treasury in excess of such
68 appropriation.

69 § 5. Details, sale of bonds and BANs. The bonds shall be dated, shall mature at such time or times
70 not exceeding twenty-five years from their date or dates and may be made redeemable before their
71 maturity or maturities at such price or prices or within such price parameters, all as may be determined
72 by the Treasury Board, by and with the consent of the Governor. The principal of the bonds shall be
73 amortized by payment into a sinking fund or otherwise, in annual installments. The first annual
74 installment of principal of the bonds shall become due not later than one-tenth of the term of the bonds,
75 and no installment of principal of the bonds shall be more than twice the smallest previous installment.
76 Any such sinking fund shall not be appropriated for any other purpose.

77 The bonds shall be in such form, shall bear interest at such rate or rates, either at fixed rates or at
78 rates established by formula or other method, and may contain such other provisions, all as the
79 Treasury Board or the State Treasurer, when authorized by the Treasury Board, may determine. The
80 principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the bonds and BANs shall be payable in lawful money
81 of the United States of America. Bonds and BANs may be certificated or uncertificated as determined by
82 the Treasury Board. The Treasury Board may contract for services of such registrars, transfer agents,
83 or other authenticating agents as it deems appropriate to maintain a record of the persons entitled to
84 the bonds and BANs. Bonds and BANs may be issued under a system of book entry for recording the
85 ownership and transfer of ownership rights to receive payments on the bonds and BANs. The Treasury
86 Board shall fix the denomination or denominations of the bonds and the place or places of payment of
87 principal, premium, if any, and interest, which may be at the office of the State Treasurer or at any one
88 or more banks or trust companies within or without the Commonwealth.

89 The Treasury Board may sell the bonds and any BANs in such manner, either by competitive
90 bidding, negotiated sale or private placement, and for such price as it may determine, by and with
91 consent of the Governor, to be in the interest of the Commonwealth.

92 At the discretion of the Treasury Board, bonds and BANs may be issued at one time or in part from
93 time to time and may be issued and sold at the same time with other general obligation bonds and bond
94 anticipation notes, respectively, of the Commonwealth authorized pursuant to Article X, Section 9(a)(3),
95 (b) or (c) of the Constitution of Virginia, either as separate issues, as a combined issue designated
96 "Commonwealth of Virginia General Obligation Bonds [Bond Anticipation Notes], Series 20.," or as a
97 combination of both. The bonds and BANs shall be signed on behalf of the Commonwealth by the
98 Governor and by the State Treasurer, or shall bear their facsimile signatures, and shall bear the lesser
99 seal of the Commonwealth or a facsimile thereof. In the event that the bonds or BANs bear the facsimile
100 signature of the State Treasurer, they shall be signed by such administrative assistant as the State
101 Treasurer shall determine or by such registrar or paying agent as may be designated to sign them by
102 the Treasury Board. If any officer whose signature or facsimile signature shall appear on any bonds or
103 BANs shall cease to be such officer before the delivery, such signature or such facsimile shall
104 nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes the same as if such officer had remained in office
105 until such delivery, and any bond or BAN may bear the facsimile signature of, or may be signed by,
106 such persons as at the actual time of the execution are the proper officers to sign such bond or BAN
107 although, at the date of such bond or BAN, such persons may not have been such officers.

108 § 6. Refunding. The Treasury Board is hereby authorized, by and with the consent of the Governor,
109 to sell and issue, at one time or from time to time, refunding bonds and BANs of the Commonwealth, to
110 refund any or all of the bonds and BANs, respectively, issued under this act or otherwise pursuant to
111 Article X, Section 9(b), of the Constitution of Virginia. Refunding bonds and BANs may be issued in a
112 principal amount up to the amount necessary to pay at maturity or redeem the bonds and BANs to be
113 refunded and pay all issuance costs and other financing expenses of the refunding. Such refunding
114 bonds and BANs may be issued whether or not the bonds or BANs to be refunded are then subject to
115 redemption. Any escrow or trust fund established with the proceeds from the sale of refunding bonds
116 shall be irrevocably pledged to the payment of the bonds or BANs to be refunded, and shall be used
117 solely to pay such bonds or BANs at maturity or upon redemption or for the purchase of not less than
118 all of the bonds or BANs to be refunded. Any such escrow or trust fund shall constitute a special fund
119 for the payment of such refunded bonds or BANs, and such refunded bonds or BANs, to the extent of

amounts, including the maturity amounts of investments, set aside for the payment thereof in such escrow or trust fund, shall not be included for the purposes of determining any limitations upon the amount of bonded indebtedness of the Commonwealth that may be incurred pursuant to Article X, Section 9(b), of the Constitution of Virginia. The Treasury Board may, however, direct that the interest received from the investment of the proceeds of the bonds or BANs be transferred to the general fund of the State Treasury.

§ 7. Authorized Investments. Pending the application of the proceeds of the bonds or BANs (including refunding bonds and BANs) to the purpose for which they have been authorized and the application of funds set aside for the purpose to the payment of bonds or BANs, they may be invested by the State Treasurer in securities that are legal investments under the laws of the Commonwealth for public funds and sinking funds, as the case may be. Whenever the State Treasurer receives interest from the investment of the proceeds of bonds or any BANs, such interest shall become a part of the principal of the bonds or any BANs and shall be used in the same manner as required for principal of the bonds or BANs. The Treasury Board may, however, direct that the interest received from the investment of the proceeds of the bonds or BANs be transferred to the general fund of the State Treasury.

§ 8. Security for bonds and BANs. The full faith and credit of the Commonwealth is hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and the interest on bonds, refunding bonds, and (unless the Treasury Board, by and with the consent of the Governor, shall provide otherwise) BANs issued under this act. The proceeds of (i) bonds the issuance of which has been anticipated by BANs, (ii) refunding bonds and (iii) refunding BANs are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of principal of and interest and any premium on such bonds or BANs to be refunded thereby. In addition, the Treasury Board may pledge the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth for the payment of the principal of and interest on any BANs. If sufficient funds are not appropriated in the general appropriations act for any fiscal year for the timely payment of the principal of and the interest on the bonds, any refunding bonds or any BANs where the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth has been pledged, there shall be set apart by direction of the Governor, from the first general fund revenues received during such fiscal year and thereafter, a sum sufficient to pay such principal and interest.

§ 9. Expenses. All expenses incurred under this act shall be paid from the proceeds of the bonds, or any refunding bonds or BANs, or from any other available funds as the Treasury Board shall determine.

§ 10. Exemption of interest from tax. The bonds and BANs issued under the provisions of this Act, their transfer, and the income therefrom, including any profit made on the sale thereof, shall at all times be exempt from taxation by the Commonwealth and by any political subdivision thereof. The interest on the bonds and any refunding bonds or BANs may be subject to inclusion in gross income of the holders thereof for federal income tax purposes.

§ 11. Referendum. The question of the effectiveness of this act and the authorization of the bonds shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Commonwealth at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. The referendum shall be supervised and held, notice thereof given, ballots prepared, returns made and certified, votes canvassed and results ascertained and made known, as provided by law. The ballots to be used at the election shall pose the question in substantially the following form:

QUESTION: Shall Chapter ____, Acts of the General Assembly of 2015, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the maximum amount of \$67,000,000 pursuant to Article X, Section 9(b) of the Constitution of Virginia for capital projects, take effect?

After the general election, the State Board of Elections shall without delay make out, certify, and transmit to the Governor and to the Treasury Board an official copy of the report of the whole number of votes cast at the election for and against the act.

If a majority of those voting thereon shall vote in favor of this act, this act shall take effect and the bonds may be issued as hereinabove provided. If a majority of those voting thereon shall vote against this act, this act shall not take effect and the bonds shall not be issued.

The expenses incurred in conducting this election shall be defrayed as in the case of election of members of the General Assembly.

§ 12. Severability. The provisions of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance that are held invalid shall not affect the validity of other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications.