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**SENATE BILL NO. 588**

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-204 and 15.2-1200 of the Code of Virginia, relating to tax authority of localities; parity between cities and counties.*

Patrons—Hanger, Favola, Lewis, Locke and Mason

Referred to Committee on Local Government

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

1. That §§ 15.2-204 and 15.2-1200 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

**§ 15.2-204. Uniform charter powers.**

Cities and towns shall have all powers set forth in Article 1 (§ 15.2-1100 et seq.) of Chapter 11, known as the uniform charter powers. Such powers do not need to be set out or incorporated by reference in a city or town charter.

~~Counties shall have all powers set forth in Article 1 (§ 15.2-1100 et seq.) of Chapter 11 only when such powers are specifically conferred upon the county.~~

**§ 15.2-1200. General powers of counties.**

A. Any county may adopt such measures as it deems expedient to secure and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its inhabitants which are not inconsistent with the general laws of the Commonwealth. Such power shall include, but shall not be limited to, the adoption of quarantine regulations affecting both persons and animals, the adoption of necessary regulations to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among persons or animals, and the adoption of regulations for the prevention of the pollution of water which is dangerous to the health or lives of persons residing in the county.

*B. Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of law, counties shall have the powers of taxation granted to municipal corporations pursuant to § 15.2-1104.*

2. That the Division of Legislative Services (the Division) shall convene a work group of stakeholders to identify and make recommendations as to other amendments necessary, including repealing obsolete provisions and making technical amendments to existing provisions, to the Code of Virginia to effectuate the provisions of this act. The Division shall submit a summary of its recommendations and a draft of any recommended changes to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Finance and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than December 1, 2020.

INTRODUCED

SB588