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2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The General Assembly passed a \$38.5B **budget (with \$37M in tax cuts) that adds \$225M to the state's rainy-day fund, \$200M for economic investment/development, \$100M in salary increases for teachers and correctional officers, \$30M to expand Medicaid, and funding to fight the opioid crisis.

Legislation that repeals the **Professional Privilege Tax for real estate brokers (among other professions) passed in both Chambers.

A bill was signed requiring **contractors licensed on or after January 1, 2009, to complete at least eight hours of continuing education biennially by a board-approved provider.

A new law requires the Commissioner of environment and conservation to issue a permit for the **installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system to any person unable to connect to the public sewer system from a moratorium and requires the permit holder to discontinue service to the subsurface system and connect to the public sewer system within 90 days of the moratorium being lifted.

Legislation limiting **recovery of a real property owner who prevails in an action challenging the validity of a lien to only liens filed against certain residential units was signed.

A bill that allows a tenant with a disability who requires the **use of a service or support animal an exception to a landlord's policy that prohibits pets or requires payment for pets on the premises was passed.

Legislation adding a **private process server to the list of individuals authorized to personally serve a copy of a warrant or summons on behalf of a landlord in an action for forcible entry and detainer to regain possession of such landlord's real property was passed and signed.

An amended bill expanding the definition of agricultural land for purposes of **greenbelt property tax program to include two noncontiguous tracts of land within same county totaling at least 15 acres and split only by public or private road passed.

A bill clarifying that **time-share transferring contracts are voidable by the purchaser for 10 days from the date of the signing of the contract, if the purchaser made an on-site inspection of the time-share property, was signed into law.

**A bill requiring a residential landlord or a residential home seller to provide a lessee or buyer with the location and

contact information for the office of the **county election commission and a voter registration form** at the time of the execution of the lease or sale did not pass.

A bill which allows the **reinstatement of a professional or occupational license if there is submission of an application acceptable to the licensing entity, payment of the full renewal fee for an active license, and payment of any reinstatement penalty that may be required by the licensing entity was defeated.

A bill affecting **HOA provisions was defeated in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee. We were able to work with the sponsors to remove a provision requiring approval from all residents to ban a long-term lease within the HOA.

A bill that creates a **homestead exemption for agricultural land, increases aggregate value of real property homestead exemptions while establishing that, in 3-year intervals, the fiscal review committee will recommend to the general assembly increases in the homestead exemption, is pending to be heard next year.

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