



## News Release Contact

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## Virginia General Assembly Passes Historic “Made in VA” Legislation

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Virginia General Assembly voted 96-0 (Virginia House of Delegates) and 31-9 (Senate of Virginia) to pass [HB1361](#) changing Virginia’s Public Procurement Act to provide for a Virginia manufactured goods preference. [Delegate Michael Feggans](#) (HD-97, Virginia Beach) was the Chief-Patron of the legislation that passed on the last day of the legislative session. This was the first time the Commonwealth has modified its procurement statute to provide for a preference for all Virginia manufactured goods.

*“HB1361, Made in Virginia, sends a strong bipartisan message that we are committed to ensuring that Virginia remains competitive with our neighboring states. With this legislation, Virginia manufactured goods are given priority for state procurement, followed by US-made goods. Simply put, if products made in-state can be procured at competitive prices, why should the Commonwealth’s dollars go elsewhere for its goods? Reinvesting tax dollars into the economy promotes growth, expands the tax base, and enhances job opportunities,” said Delegate Michael Feggans. “As a freshman delegate representing some of the most innovative manufacturers in the Commonwealth, I am incredibly proud that we’ve passed this signature piece of legislation and remain optimistic that the Governor will sign it into law.”*

Over the last twenty-five years, Virginia has amended its procurement statute affecting manufactured goods (§ 2.2-4324) just four times. Two of those amendments were led by the Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) - in 2005 (optional reciprocal preference) and 2022 (Virginia personal protective equipment preference). During this entire period, every Southern, Mid-Atlantic state, most Canadian Provinces instituted some form of specific manufactured goods or state resident preference except Virginia. The bill was necessary to improve the Commonwealth’s manufactured goods procurement competitiveness without increasing costs to taxpayers.

*“The VMA and its members support free and fair markets, but Virginia manufacturers were never going to win the race without driving on the same course as our competition,” said Brett A. Vassey, VMA President & CEO. “The Virginia General Assembly chose the right path by embracing the core ‘bid-matching’ element of the legislation rather than some anti-competitive absolute preference or arbitrary percentage preference scheme.”*

HB1361 and its companion legislation SB260 ([Senator DeSteph](#), SD-20, Virginia Beach) were the recommendation of the Virginia Department of General Services [Public Body Procurement Workgroup](#) and the Virginia Manufacturing Development Commission. SB260 passed earlier in the session in a different form while the House and Senate continued to debate the specifics of the legislation to reach consensus. SB260 is awaiting amendment by Governor Youngkin to conform it to HB1361.

The Virginia Manufacturers Association and its member companies wish to thank the legislative leaders that made this historic bill possible: chief patron Delegate Michael B. Feggans; chief co-patron Delegates Alex Q. Askew and Joshua E. Thomas; co-patron Delegates Bonita G. Anthony, Terry L. Austin, Destiny LeVere Bolling, Katrina Callsen, Laura Jane Cohen, Michael J. Jones, Karen Keys-Gamarra, Marty Martinez, and Mark Sickles; conference committee members Senator Bill DeSteph, Senator Schuyler VanValkenburg, Delegate David Bulova and Delegate Chris Runion; and leaders that played a major role in the passage of the bill such as Speaker Don Scott, House Majority Caucus Chair Kathy Tran, House Minority Leader Todd Gilbert, and Delegate Dan Helmer. The VMA also wishes to thank the Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council for their support and advocacy, and recognize the extraordinary contributions of Mr. Rennie Wilkinson, Legislative Aide to Delegate Michael Feggans.