2024 Session

Budget Bill - HB30 (Introduced)

Seat of Government Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

Item 4-5.11

§ 4-5.11 SEAT OF GOVERNMENT TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

a. To implement and maintain traffic and pedestrian operational safety and security enhancements and secure the seat of government, and pursuant to the responsibilities of the Department of General Services (DGS) (§ 2.2-1129) and the Division of Capitol Police (DCP) (§ 30-34.2:1), DGS and DCP shall control rights-of-way and pedestrian and vehicular traffic that are in the state's primary highway system located in the capitol complex.

b. All property controlled by the Department of General Services shall require a permit for use by persons, organizations, or groups for events. Such events are eligible for a permit when the use will not interfere with or disrupt a function sponsored by the Commonwealth of Virginia government entity in support of an agency's mission. The Department shall prepare and publish on its website the requirements for the submission, processing, review, and disposition of permit applications for events on property controlled by the Department to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public; coordinate multiple uses of the property; preserve the rights of individuals to free expression; and to protect the Commonwealth from financial and property losses.

For the purposes of this subsection, an “event” means the assemblage on property controlled by the Department of ten (10) or more persons for any demonstration, rally, march, performance, picketing, speechmaking, holding of vigils, sit-ins, or other activities that involve the communication or expression of views or ideas having the effect, intent, or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. An “event” does not include casual use of the property by visitors or tourists.

All existing regulations for the use of property controlled by the Department shall remain in effect unless amended or rescinded. The Virginia Division of Capitol Police and other law enforcement entities having jurisdiction shall enforce the Department's property use requirements.