

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

CHAPTER 19

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-2247 and 15.2-2290 of the Code of Virginia, relating to zoning; manufactured housing.

[H 655]

Approved March 31, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 15.2-2247 and 15.2-2290 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-2247. Applicability of subdivision ordinance to manufactured home parks.

Any locality may designate, by ordinance, the areas within its jurisdiction in which ~~manufactured homes may be located or~~ manufactured home parks may be established, notwithstanding the absence of a zoning ordinance in such locality. Such ordinance may also apply to any of the provisions of §§ 15.2-2241 through 15.2-2245 in the regulation and governing of the location, establishment, and operation of ~~manufactured homes or~~ manufactured home parks. The ordinance may apply to any park or portion thereof licensed as a campground pursuant to Title 35.1 ~~of this Code~~. In the event of irreconcilable conflict between the ordinance and state law, the state law shall supersede the ordinance.

§ 15.2-2290. Uniform regulations for manufactured housing.

A. *Localities adopting and enforcing zoning ordinances under the provisions of this article shall provide that in all agricultural zoning districts, or districts having similar classifications regardless of name or designation, where agricultural, horticultural, or forest uses such as those described in § 58.1-3230 are the dominant use and where site-built housing is allowed, the placement of manufactured homes shall be permitted.*

B. *Localities adopting and enforcing zoning ordinances under the provisions of this article shall provide that, in all ~~agricultural zoning districts or districts having similar classifications regardless of name or designation where agricultural, horticultural, or forest uses such as~~ but not limited to those described in § 58.1-3230 are the dominant use, other than zoning districts listed in subsection A, where site-built housing is allowed, the placement of manufactured ~~houses~~ homes shall be permitted for manufactured homes that are on a permanent foundation (i) converted to real property in accordance with § 46.2-653.1, (ii) constructed so that the certificate of occupancy is issued within five years following the date of manufacture listed on the home's data plate, and (iii) placed on individual lots shall be permitted, subject to development standards that are equivalent to those applicable to site-built single family dwellings within the same or equivalent zoning district. Localities shall not adopt or enforce any zoning, land-use, or development regulation that treats manufactured homes differently or more restrictively than a single-family site-built dwelling allowed in the same zoning district. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the authority of localities to adopt ordinances pursuant to §§ 10.1-2206.1 and 15.2-2306 designed to protect existing or future areas of historical or archaeological significance, historical sites, historical landmarks, and historical buildings and structures, or to establish local historical districts.*

~~B.~~ C. *Localities adopting and enforcing zoning regulations under the provisions of this article may, to provide for the general purposes of zoning ordinances, adopt uniform standards, so long as they apply to all residential structures erected within the ~~agricultural zoning district or other districts identified in subsection A of this section incorporating such standards~~. The standards shall not have the effect of excluding manufactured housing built in compliance with the Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Law (§ 36-85.2 et seq.).*

~~C.~~ D. *Local zoning ordinances adopting provisions consistent with this section shall not relieve lots or parcels from the obligations relating to manufactured housing units imposed by the terms of a restrictive covenant.*

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

CHAPTER 751

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2286.2, relating to small lot residential zoning district.

[H 1212]

Approved April 13, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-2286.2 as follows:

§ 15.2-2286.2. Small lot residential zoning district required.

A. Any locality with a population of 50,000 or more shall adopt, maintain, and apply to land within its boundaries at least one zoning district classification that permits a single-family dwelling on a lot with a minimum lot area not exceeding 3,000 square feet.

B. Such zoning district classifications shall not impose minimum lot widths exceeding 30 feet or setback, lot coverage, or density requirements that would preclude construction of eligible dwellings on conforming lots.

C. A locality shall satisfy the requirements of this section through either (i) the maintenance of one or more existing zoning district classifications already applying to land within the locality's boundaries and meeting the requirements of this section or (ii) the amendment of the requirements of one or more existing zoning district classifications already applying to land within the locality's boundaries to meet the requirements of this section.

D. This section shall not apply to areas within a historic district established pursuant to § 15.2-2306.

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

CHAPTER 895

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2292.3, relating to zoning; development and use of accessory dwelling units.

[S 531]

Approved April 13, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-2292.3 as follows:

§ 15.2-2292.3. Development and use of accessory dwelling units.

A. As used in this section, "accessory dwelling unit" or "ADU" means an attached or detached dwelling unit on a residential dwelling lot that:

1. Provides complete independent living facilities for one or more individuals;
2. Is located on the same lot as a proposed or existing primary residence; and
3. Includes facilities for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

B. Zoning ordinances for single-family residential zoning districts shall be deemed to include accessory dwelling units as a permitted accessory use, and no locality shall require compliance with any other requirements except as provided in this section.

C. Any person proposing an ADU shall first obtain an ADU permit from the locality, for which the locality may charge a fee of no more than \$500. Such fee shall be in addition to any other applicable fees, including inspection, site, or building permit fees, that may be required in connection with the ADU. A locality shall issue the permit if the applicant demonstrates that the ADU complies with the requirements of this section and the local codes and ordinances referenced herein.

D. Localities may require the following:

1. A lease term for the rental of an ADU of 30 consecutive days or longer;
2. Replacement of a primary dwelling's required parking if the construction of the ADU eliminates such parking;
3. Dedicated parking for the ADU;
4. Limits on floor area, lot coverage, and impervious area of an ADU of no less than (i) 350 square feet on lots less than 2,500 square feet and (ii) 500 square feet on lots 2,500 square feet or greater;
5. Compliance with (i) building codes, including the requirements of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (§ 36-97 et seq.), for an accessory dwelling unit if the ADU is attached or for a dwelling unit if the ADU is detached; (ii) water, sewer, septic, emergency access, flood zone, and stormwater requirements; (iii) historic and architectural districts and corridor protection restrictions; and (iv) Air Installations Compatible Use Zone restrictions;

6. Owner occupancy of the ADU or the primary dwelling, but not both, only at the time an application is submitted to construct or convert an accessory dwelling unit;

7. That the ADU shall be no more than 500 feet from the primary dwelling;

8. No ADUs on a residential lot that has more than one dwelling unit; and

9. No ADUs sold separately or subdivided from the primary dwelling.

E. Localities shall not require the following:

1. Rear or side setbacks for the ADU that are greater than the setback required for the primary dwelling or the setback required for accessory structures on the residential lot, whichever is less;

2. Restrictions for ADUs that are more restrictive than those for single-family dwellings within the same zoning area with regard to height, rear or side setbacks, lot size or coverage, or building frontage;

3. A restrictive covenant concerning an ADU on a lot or parcel zoned for residential use by a single-family dwelling;

4. Improvements to public streets as a condition of allowing an ADU, except as necessary to reconstruct or repair a public street that is disturbed as a result of the construction of the ADU; or

5. Consanguinity or affinity between the occupants of an ADU and the primary dwelling.

F. Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or limit contracts or agreements between or among individuals or private entities related to the use of real property, including recorded declarations and covenants, the provisions of condominium instruments of a condominium created pursuant to the Virginia Condominium Act (§ 55.1-1900 et seq.), the declaration of a common interest community as defined in § 54.1-2345, the cooperative instruments of a cooperative created pursuant to the Virginia Real Estate Cooperative Act (§ 55.1-2100 et seq.), or any declaration of a property owners' association created pursuant to the Property Owners' Association Act (§ 55.1-1800 et seq.).

G. Nothing in this section shall apply to any existing permits for an ADU approved by the locality prior to July 1, 2027.

H. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict a locality's passage prior to July 1, 2027, of an ADU ordinance, or a subsequent amendment thereof, that substantially complies with the requirements of this section.

I. Nothing in this section shall apply to a locality that adopted an ADU ordinance prior to January 1, 2026.

2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.