AT AN ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 26TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

R-FY-15-73
RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GRANT MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PULASKI COUNTY THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE A LOCAL TAX ON CIGARETTES

On a motion by Matthew R. Gabriele, seconded by Mary W. Biggs and carried,

WHEREAS, Counties within the Commonwealth of Virginia share many of the same responsibilities as cities relative to the provision of services to their respective constituencies; and

WHEREAS, The Code of Virginia provides for more diversification in the types of local taxing authority afforded to cities and towns than for counties; and

WHEREAS, One of the areas of taxing disparity lies with the authority to impose local taxes on the sales of cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, Currently, only two counties in Virginia have the authority enact a cigarette tax; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Yost has submitted a bill that would expire on June 30, 2025, adding Montgomery and Pulaski Counties to the list of counties with the authority to impose local taxes on the sales of cigarettes, provided the monies from this source be used for public education; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Morrissey and Senator Lucas have submitted HB 1994 and SB 784 respectively to allow all counties to impose local taxes on the sales of cigarettes with no restrictions on the uses of the monies collected; and

WHEREAS, Equal taxing authority relative to the imposition of a local tax on the sales of cigarettes would work toward addressing the disparity in taxing authority among counties, and cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County has repeatedly requested the General Assembly to provide the county with the authority to impose local taxes on the sales of cigarettes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia requests that the Virginia General Assembly adopt enabling legislation to provide Montgomery and Pulaski counties the authority to impose a local tax on the sales of cigarettes.

The vote on the forgoing resolution was as follows:

AYE	NAY
Mary W. Biggs	M. Todd King
Annette S. Perkins	
Christopher A. Tuck	
Matthew R. Gabriele	
Gary D. Creed	
William H. Brown	

ATTEST: F. Craig Meadows

F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator

INTRODUCED

15102242D

HOUSE BILL NO. 2348

Offered January 23, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-3831 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local cigarette tax.

Patron—Yost

Referred to Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 58.1-3831 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 58.1-3831. Tax in certain counties.

A. ~~Fairfax and~~ Arlington, *Fairfax, Montgomery, and Pulaski* Counties shall have the power to levy tax upon the sale or use of cigarettes. Such tax shall be in such amount and on such terms as the governing body may by ordinances prescribe, not to exceed five cents per pack or the amount levied under state law, whichever is greater. The provisions of § 58.1-3830 shall apply to such counties, mutatis mutandis.

B. The revenues generated from the tax imposed pursuant to this section in Montgomery and Pulaski Counties shall be used solely for school maintenance and construction.

2. That Montgomery County and Pulaski County shall expend or disburse for public education purposes each year after imposition of the tax pursuant to this act, an amount that is at least equal to the average annual amount expended or disbursed for public education purposes by the county, excluding bond proceeds or debt service payments and federal or state funds, during the 36-month period immediately prior to the effective date of the imposition of such tax.

3. That the provisions of this act shall expire at midnight on June 30, 2025.

INTRODUCED

HB2348

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library
One stop, unlimited possibilities

August 25, 2015

Bill Brown, Chair
Montgomery County Board Of Supervisors
755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2E
Christiansburg, VA 24073-3181

Dear Mr. Brown and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

At the monthly meeting of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board of Trustees, held on August 19, 2015 at the Meadowbrook Library in Shawsville, the Library Board voiced their strong support for the legislative agenda of the Virginia Library Association (VLA). The Library Board would like to respectfully request the agenda be included in the legislative agenda for Montgomery County, recognizing that strong public libraries across the Commonwealth are vital to Virginia's continued success.

The Virginia Library Association is proposing an additional $2.5 million dollars for state aid for public libraries in each year of the next biennium. (Agenda item #1.) Most public libraries use state aid dollars for their book budgets so VLA is stating that an increase in state aid will be used to augment e-Book collections, particularly in the STEM area.

VLA is also requesting that the General Assembly do more to strengthen the financial foundation of the Library of Virginia, which has been devastated by nearly 8 years of budget cuts. (Agenda item #2.)

The Library Board appreciates your support for the agenda items and your work for the County all year long. If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paula Alston, Director

Attachments: VLA Agenda

Cc: Craig Meadows, County Administrator
Mary Biggs, Board member

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library
Paula K. Alston, Director
125 Sheltman Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 382-6969 / Fax (540) 382-6964
www.mfrl.org

Virginia Library Association
Legislative Program Goals
2015-2016

1. *Strengthen State funding for public libraries to improve childhood literacy and invigorate STEM-focused instruction in schools.*

VLA proposes that the Commonwealth strengthen State funding for public library materials and programs that target childhood literacy and STEM instruction before and during school-age years, using traditional library materials as well as contemporary digital library materials including ebooks, audiobooks, streaming media, and electronic databases.

FY2017	**$2.5 million**
FY2018	**$2.5 million**

Recent studies document significant improvement in childhood literacy that result from summer reading programs and strong access to print and digital materials provided by public libraries. Data from Virginia public libraries also show strong demand for and use of print and digital materials that extend STEM learning outside the classroom and support STEM-focused curriculums. This funding will help Virginia's public libraries provide the 21st century library materials needed by school programs focused on foundational literacy and STEM education throughout Virginia.

This funding also would represent a modest step forward in restoring the viability and vitality of the State Aid program, which the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) found in 2001 to be an effective investment that leverages local spending and achieves cost efficiencies and economies of scale. State Aid to Public Libraries has been deeply cut over the past 15 years, declining by over $5 million in constant dollars to a level last seen in FY 1999. State Aid now falls nearly $12 million short of the calculated funding level set forth in section 42.1-48 of the Code of Virginia.

2. *Support the Library of Virginia.*

VLA supports the Library of Virginia's legislative and budgetary priorities and proposes that the General Assembly continue the work begun in fiscal 2013 to strengthen its financial foundation.

Approved by VLA Executive Committee June 11, 2015
Approved by VLA Council June 12, 2015