



Support the Faith in Housing Bill - Keep it active for the 2026 Session

HB1279 Faith in Housing

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB1279>

Del. Joshua Cole

January 29, 2026

Early this morning, the House Counties, Cities and Towns Subcommittee #2 placed a re-enactment clause on this bill thereby pushing it to 2027. If you are a constituent of one of the members of the full House CCT Committee, email them today and ask them to remove the re-enactment clause and pass HB1279.

These members - their emails and phone numbers are listed below!

Call or email now!

If you need to find your legislator use this link

<https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

The bill does the following:

- ✓ Allows faith institutions to build housing **by right** on land they own
- ✓ Reduces unnecessary zoning hurdles and delays
- ✓ Enables partnerships with nonprofit and affordable housing developers
- ✓ Keeps building and safety standards in place
- ✓ Complies with Virginia Fair Housing law

This bill is important because:

 **Faith institutions want to build housing.** Churches, synagogues, mosques, and other congregations across Virginia are eager to provide affordable homes on land they already own.

 **Zoning rules are stopping them.** Costly rezoning, special permits, and discretionary approvals often kill projects before they start.

 **Affordable housing is delayed or denied.** These barriers slow down construction and raise costs—meaning fewer homes for people who need them most.

 **The clock is ticking.** Without action from the General Assembly, many faith communities will be forced to shut down and permanently lose the opportunity to build affordable homes.

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