

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA**

Principal Characteristics

Commission on Local Government

April 2009

(Incorporates changes through 2009 General Assembly)

INTRODUCTION

Local government functions in Virginia are carried out primarily by counties, cities, and towns. These are general purpose governmental units, authorized by statute to provide a wide range of services to their residents. However, Virginia law also permits the establishment of a significant number of limited governments, which also provide services at the local level.

These special governments are limited in the types of services they may provide and the activities in which they may engage. They are most often called “districts” or “authorities,” but other labels are occasionally used. This document summarizes the principal characteristics of those limited government structures available to Virginia’s counties, cities, and towns.

The Code of Virginia and special Acts of the General Assembly authorize the creation of numerous special districts and authorities. The following criteria were used to select the governmental structures listed in this document:

1. Legally separate – The special government exists as a legally separate and distinct entity apart from any county, city, or town. Whether a specific governmental structure met this criteria was determined in several ways. In many instances, the statutes establishing the governmental structure explicitly denote it as a “political subdivision.” In other cases, the law is not as specific. The major consideration used in those cases was whether the special government, after being established, is able to exercise its powers or perform its functions largely independent of any county, city, or town.
2. Local government functions – State statutes create several political subdivisions that function on a statewide basis; for example, the Virginia Housing Development Authority and the Virginia Resources Authority. Such statewide authorities are not discretionary entities available to localities and, accordingly, are not included in this compilation. This report is limited to those special governments which deliver local governmental services, operate at the local or regional level, and may be established through discretionary action by the counties, cities, and towns.

3. General law provisions – The listing in this report is limited to those special governments authorized by general law. In addition to these that are listed, special Acts of the General Assembly authorize the establishment of numerous specific districts, authorities, and commissions. These latter special governments are not included in this report for several reasons. First, their sheer number would render the report extremely unwieldy. Second, because many of these special governments are governed by provisions very similar to those applicable to comparable special governments established under general law, their inclusion would result in widespread redundancy. Finally, the purpose of this report is to provide a description and comparison of those limited government structures available generally to counties, cities, and towns.

ORGANIZATION

This report is organized so as to enable the user to compare readily salient features across the spectrum of special governments. The specific provisions relevant to a principal characteristic are laid out for each type of district or authority in a columnar fashion. Because of the number of types of districts and authorities, four pages are needed to list the relevant provisions for each type. The pages are labeled with a combination of numbers and letters. The numbers relate to the characteristics and the letters to the types of governments. Thus, if one wanted to compare the taxing powers of the various types of governments, the reader would turn to the section containing all the pages labeled 7. If on the other hand, the reader were interested only in the taxing powers of airport authorities, for example, he/she would turn to page 7-B.

The principal characteristics used to describe each governmental form are outlined below (the number in parenthesis after each characteristic refers to the section in which it is found):

- I. General Provisions
 - A. General Purposes (1)
 - B. Eligible Jurisdictions (1)
 - C. Legal Classification (2)
- II. Structural Provisions
 - A. Service Area (2)
 - B. Establishment/Activation (3)
 - C. Referendum Provisions (4)
 - D. Required Filing with the State Corporation Commission or the Secretary of the Commonwealth (4)
- III. Governing Body
 - A. Selection (5)
 - B. Composition (5)
- IV. Scope of Powers
 - A. General Powers (6)
 - B. Taxing Authority (7)
 - C. Bonding Authority (7)
 - D. Condemnation Authority (8)
 - E. Special Powers or Restrictions (8)
- V. Alteration/Termination
 - A. Change in Jurisdictional Membership/Service Area (9)

- B. Prescribed Duration (10)
- C. Dissolution Provisions (10)

The types of limited governments included in this report are listed below (the letter in parenthesis refer to the page within each section on which a specific governmental form is found):

- I. Community Development
 - A. Sanitary District (A)
 - B. Public Service Authority (A)
 - C. Community Development Authority (A)
 - D. Electric Authority (A)
 - E. Redevelopment and Housing Authority (A)
- II. Transportation
 - A. Transportation District (A)
 - B. Transportation Improvement District (B)
 - C. Transportation Service District (B)
 - D. Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (B)
 - E. Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (B)
 - F. Airport Authority (B)
- III. Economic Development
 - A. Industrial Development Authority (B)
 - B. Regional Industrial Facility Authority (B)
- IV. Parks/Recreation
 - A. Public Recreational Facilities Authority (C)
 - B. Park Authority

V. Medical/Health

- A. Hospital Authority (C)
- B. Hospital or Health Center Commission (C)
- C. Behavioral Health Authority (C)
- D. Mosquito Control Authority (C)

VI. Environmental

- A. Soil and Water Conservation District (D)
- B. Drainage District (D)
- C. Sanitation District – Tidal Waters (D)
- D. Sanitation District – Non-Tidal Waters (D)

V. Criminal Justice

- A. Jail Authority (D)
- B. Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (D)
- C. Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (D)

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Principal Characteristics**

	<i>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</i>					<i>TRANSPORTATION</i>
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
<u>GENERAL PROVISIONS</u>						
<i>General Purposes</i>	To develop and deliver in specified areas a large variety of local services that are not available county-wide	To develop, operate, and maintain water, sewage, stormwater control, solid waste treatment and disposal systems, and to lease, or contract for, a streetlight system in certain counties.	To develop and operate, within the public service authority framework, additional infrastructure improvements and special services.	To provide facilities for the generation and transmission of electric power.	To establish redevelopment and conservation areas in blighted areas to promote their revitalization. To acquire and rehabilitate or demolish unsafe housing and blighted properties in these areas, to make such land available for redevelopment, and to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for persons with low incomes.	To prepare a transportation plan for areas and to construct, expand, improve, assist, and operate transportation improvements in the district.
<i>Eligible Jurisdictions</i>	Counties (town may be included if agreed to by county and town). (§21-113)	Counties, cities and towns, singly or jointly. (§15.2-5102)	Cities; counties and towns may become eligible by adopting appropriate ordinance. Districts may cross jurisdictional lines if agreed to by concurrent ordinances. (§§15.2-5152 and 15.2-5155)	(i) Any city or town engaged, as of Jan. 1, 1979, in the generation of electricity, (ii) any city with a population of 200,000 or more on Jan. 1, 1979, and (iii) any county, city or town authorized after Jan. 1, 1979, by the General Assembly to participate in an authority; or by agreement of two or more such eligible localities. (§§15.2-5402 - 15.2-5403)	Counties, cities and towns; two or more contiguous counties may form regional authority or two or more municipalities, whether or not contiguous, may form a consolidated authority. (§§36-3, 36-4, 36-40 and 36-47)	Two or more counties or cities or combinations thereof. Single county or city may constitute itself a district if not contiguous jurisdiction wishes to join with it. (§15.2-4504)
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**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
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	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>					<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
GENERAL PROVISIONS							
<i>General Purposes</i>	To construct, expand, improve, assist, and operate transportation improvements in the district.	To construct, expand and operate any public highway or mass transit system within district.	To construct, expand or operate mass transit system or primary highway located in both jurisdictions.	To construct, expand or operate mass transit system or primary highway located in the district.	To acquire and operate airport facilities.	To promote and develop industry and trade by inducing manufacturing, commercial and other types of enterprises to locate or remain in the locality.	To develop, own and operate industrial parks.
<i>Eligible Jurisdictions</i>	Counties or cities, or two or more contiguous counties and cities. (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-410)	Any county with the urban county executive form of government (i.e., Fairfax); any county adjoining such a county; and any county with a population range of 32,000-36,000 (i.e., James City, Pulaski, and Smyth). (§15.2-4801) (No district allowed to be created under these provisions after June 30, 1993.)	Any county with a population of more than 500,000 persons (i.e., Fairfax) in conjunction with any adjoining county. (§§15.2-4602 - 15.2-4603) (No district allowed to be created under these provisions after June 30, 1993.)	Prince William and Chesterfield Counties and the City of Richmond. The definitions in the Code of Virginia are general, but effectively are limited to these jurisdictions. (§§15.2-4701 - 15.2-4702) (No district allowed to be created under these provisions after June 30, 1993.)	Counties, cities and towns, singly or jointly. (§§5.1-31 and 5.1-35 - 5.1-36)	Counties, cities and towns, singly or jointly. Two or more authorities may act jointly. (§§15.2-4903 and 15.2-4916)	Three or more counties, cities or towns in Planning Districts 4, 5, 13, 14, and 19; two or more localities in Planning Districts 3, 10, 11 and 12; Bland, Smyth and Wythe Counties; and any county with a population between 36,000 and 39,565 persons. (§§15.2-6400 and 15.2-6402)
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	PARKS/RECREATIONAL Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	MEDICAL/HEALTH Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
GENERAL PROVISIONS						
<i>General Purposes</i>	To acquire, construct, and operate any of several types of public recreational facilities.	To develop, operate and maintain parks.	To provide hospital services in areas where none exist.	To construct and operate a hospital, health center, or other facility for the treatment of the sick.	To provide mental health, mental retardation, development disabilities, and substance abuse services.	To control and eliminate mosquitoes.
<i>Eligible Jurisdictions</i>	Counties, cities, and towns, singly or jointly. (§15.2-5602)	Counties, cities, and towns, singly or jointly. (§15.2-5702)	Cities; no provision for regional or multijurisdictional authority. (§15.2-5302)	Counties, cities, and towns, singly or jointly. (§15.2-5200)	Any city with a population greater than 350,000 persons (i.e., Virginia Beach), or between 200,000 and 250,000 persons (i.e., Richmond), and any county with a population between 200,000 and 210,000 (i.e., Chesterfield). (§37.1-244)	Counties, cities, or towns, singly or jointly; district may comprise all or part of the jurisdiction creating it. (§32.1-187)
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Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
GENERAL PROVISIONS							
<i>General Purposes</i>	To establish and implement local soil erosion and sedimentation control program consistent with State requirements; to promote soil erosion and flood control methods.	To develop and implement a plan for the construction of ditches, levees, or other facilities to improve the drainage of the district.	To protect tidal waters, public health, and natural oyster beds, rocks, and shoals from pollution through the construction and operation of sewage disposal facilities.	To protect non-tidal waters, public health, and natural oyster beds, rocks, and shoals from pollution through the construction and operation of sewage disposal facilities.	To construct and operate jails.	To establish and conduct training for public law-enforcement and correctional officers.	To establish and operate a regional detention home, group home, or other residential care facility for juveniles arrested and waiting court action or placement by the court.
<i>Eligible Jurisdictions</i>	Counties and cities. (§10.1-507)	Counties and cities. (§21-292)	Counties, cities, and towns, singly or jointly, but may consist only of integral body of territory within which are situated waters affected by the ebb and flow of the tide and not included in any other sanitation district. (§21-145)	Counties, cities, and towns, singly or jointly, but may consist only of integral body of territory within which are situated waters not affected by the ebb and flow of the tide and not included in any other sanitation district. (§21-228)	Any two or more counties, cities, or towns. (§53.1-95.2)	Any two or more counties, cities, towns, or other political subdivisions or other public bodies. (§15.2-1747)	Any three or more counties, cities, or towns. (§16.1-315)
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	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					TRANSPORTATION
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
Legal Classification	Special taxing district (§21-119); limited purpose corporation (<i>Marsh v. Gainesville-Haymarket San. Dist.</i> , 214 Va. 83)	"Public body politic and corporate" and "instrumentality exercising public and essential governmental functions." (§§15.2-5102 and 15.2-5114)	Not specified.	Political subdivision; "body politic and corporate." (§15.2-5403)	Political subdivision. (§36-4 and §36-19)	"Body corporate and politic." (§15.2-4505)
STRUCTURAL PROVISIONS						
Service Area	Restricted to one county; service area defined by court order establishing district, but may contract to extend services into territory outside district. (§§21-113, 21-118.4)	May provide services outside boundaries of member jurisdictions. (§15.2-5114)	Boundaries of district established by ordinance; however, statute sets out minimum sizes for districts in certain counties. (§§15.2-5153 15.2-5155)	Principal service area is member jurisdiction, but may also sell to non-member jurisdictions, although not to non-governmental end users of electricity. (§§15.2-5408 - 15.2-5409)	Territorial boundaries of locality in which established. However, also may exercise powers and undertake projects in municipalities other than one for which originally created, of both governing body of the other municipality and the housing authority of the municipality, if there is one, consent. (§§36-3, 36-19, and 36-23)	Boundaries of district may encompass all or parts of member counties or cities. May contract with cities and counties adjoining district, and within planning district, to provide transit services. (§§15.2-4504 and 15.2-4515)

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	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>			Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²			Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
<i>Legal Classification</i>	Not specified.	Not specified.	Not specified.	Not specified	Not explicitly delineated; authorized to exercise same powers as counties, cities and towns. (§5.1-36)	Political subdivision; "body politic and corporate." (§15.2-4902 - 15.2-4903)	Political subdivision; "body corporate." (§15.2-6402 and 15.2-6405)
<u>STRUCTURAL PROVISIONS</u>							
<i>Service Area</i>	Boundaries specified in order creating district. May enter into agreement with political subdivisions for joint or cooperative action. (§§33.1- 410 and 33.1-420)	Boundaries to be set by order creating district. May contract for extension and use of any transportation facility outside district. (§§15.2-4802 and 15.2- 4805)	District must include land in each county and could include land in any town of more than 1,000 persons and located in either county. May contract for extension and use of any mass transit facility or highway outside district. (§§15.2-4603 and 15.2-4606)	Boundaries to be set by order creating district. May contract for extension and use of any transit facility or highway outside district. (§§15.2-4702 and 15.2- 4705)	May establish airport within or without boundaries of jurisdictions comprising authority. (§§5.1-31 and 5.1- 35 - 5.1-36)	May finance facilities outside boundaries of jurisdiction creating authority, unless the locality in which the facility is to be located also has an authority; in which case must have consent of governing body of locality where facility is to be located. (§§15.2-4902 and 15.2-4905)	No specific provisions.

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	PARKS/RECREATIONAL		MEDICAL/HEALTH			
	Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
Legal Classification	Political subdivision; "instrumentality exercising public and essential governmental functions." (§15.2-5604)	"Public body politic and corporate;" "performing essential governmental functions." (§§15.2-5702 and 15.2-5704)	Political subdivision; "body corporate and politic." (§§15.2-5302 and 15.2-5322)	"Public body corporate;" "body politic and corporate." (§§15.2-5200 and 15.2-5203)	"Body corporate and politic;" "public instrumentality." (§§37.1-243 and 37.1-248)	"Body politic and corporate." (§32-190)
STRUCTURAL PROVISIONS						
Service Area	May acquire and operate recreational facilities outside boundaries of member jurisdictions. (§15.2-5604)	May establish parks partly outside the boundaries of member jurisdictions, but may not exercise power of eminent domain outside the boundaries of member jurisdictions. (§15.2-5704)	May exercise powers in city or county other than the one in which the authority established, except in jurisdiction in which another hospital authority has been established. (§15.2-5324)	May acquire property only within boundaries of the political subdivisions the comprise the commission. (§15.2-5205)	No specific provisions.	No provision for providing services beyond boundaries of member jurisdictions.
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	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
Legal Classification	Political subdivision. (§§10.1-518 and 10.1-538)	Not a municipal corporation, but "a governmental agency, an unincorporated community." (<i>Strawberry Hill Land Corp. v. Starbuck</i> , 124 Va. 71)	Political subdivision. (§21-155)	"Body corporate or politic." (§21-237)	"Instrumentality exercising public and essential governmental functions." (§53.1-95.7)	"Public body politic and corporate"; "governmental entity exercising essential governmental powers." (§§15.2-1747 and 15.2-1752)	"Public body corporate." (§16.1-315)
STRUCTURAL PROVISIONS							
Service Area	Boundaries established when district created, need not be coterminous with boundaries of county or city. (§10.1-512)	Has jurisdiction over all land within boundaries affected by drainage projects; conversely, boundaries to be established to include all land affected by drainage projects. District restricted to drainage approved by court. (§§21-292, 21-292.1, 21-312, 21-317, 21-322, and 21-339)	May include more than one county, city, or town, but each part of district boundary must either (i) coincide with jurisdictional boundary, (ii) bisect a county, city, or town, (iii) be located within one mile of a county, city, or town, or (iv) connect two points lying on a county, city, or town boundary. May contract to provide services to a county, city, or town outside district. (§§21-145 and 21-216)	May include more than one county, city, or town, but each part of district boundary must either (i) coincide with jurisdictional boundary, (ii) bisect a county, city, or town, (iii) be located within one mile of a county, city, or town, or (iv) connect two points lying on a county, city, or town boundary. May contract to provide services to a county, city, or town outside district. (§§21-228 and 21-285)	May not locate a jail facility in a locality that is not a member of the authority unless governing body of non member locality consents. (§53.1-106.1)	Not restricted to training only personnel employed only by members of the academy. (§15.2-1748)	No specific provisions.
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	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
<i>Establishment/Activation</i>	Circuit court--upon petition of 50 or more qualified voters of proposed district (50% of qualified voters if district contains less than 100 voters) to create district. If court feels that property in proposed district would benefit, may issue order creating district. (§§21-113 - 21-114)	Governing body--by ordinance or resolution. Must hold public hearing before adoption. (§§15.2-5102) Also may be initiated by citizen petition. If 10% of the voters of jurisdiction file petition with court asking that governing body establish authority, governing body has three months to development agreement or ordinance; if it fails to do so, judge appoints citizen committee to act in place of governing body. (§15.2-5106)	Governing body--by ordinance or resolution, after receipt of petition requesting the creation of the district and after public hearing on the issue. The petition must be from the owners of at least 51% of either the land area or the assessed value of the land proposed to be included in the district. The petition must set forth the boundaries, describe the facilities and services proposed, and describe a plan for providing and financing such facilities and services. (§§15.2-5153 - 15.2-5156)	Governing body or bodies--by ordinance. Participation must be approved in referendum. (§15.2-5403)	Referendum--initiated either by resolution of the governing body of the locality, or by petition of 100 qualified voters registered in the locality. (§36-4)	Governing bodies--by ordinance. If only one locality desires to establish district, it may do so by following the same procedure. (§15.2-4504)
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	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>					<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
<i>Establishment/Activation</i>	Governing body--by resolution, after receipt of petition requesting the creation of the district and after public hearing on the issue. The petition must be from the owners of at least 51% of either the land area or assessed value of land proposed to be included in the district and which has been zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or is used for such. The petition must set forth the boundaries, describe the transportation facilities proposed, and describe a plan from providing such facilities, including proposed zoning classifications. (§33.1-410)	Governing body--by resolution, after receipt of petition requesting the creation of the district and after public hearing on the issue. The petition must be from the owners of at least 51% of either the land area or assessed value of land proposed to be included in the district and which is unimproved, or which has been zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or is used for such. The petition must set forth the boundaries, describe the transportation facilities proposed, and describe a plan from providing such facilities, including proposed zoning classifications. (§15.2-4802)	Governing body--by resolution, after receipt of petition requesting the creation of the district and after public hearing on the issue. The petition must be from the owners of at least 51% of either the land area or assessed value of land proposed to be included in the district and which has been zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or is used for such. The petition must set forth the boundaries, describe the transportation facilities proposed, and describe a plan from providing such facilities, including proposed zoning classifications. (§15.2-4603)	Governing body--by resolution, after receipt of petition requesting the creation of the district and after public hearing on the issue. The petition must be from the owners of at least 51% of either the land area or assessed value of land proposed to be included in the district and which has been zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or is used for such, or, in Chesterfield County, from 51% of the owners of land designated for such purposes in the County's land use and transportation plans and not zoned residential. The petition must set forth the boundaries, describe the transportation facilities proposed, and describe a plan from providing such facilities, including proposed zoning classifications. (§15.2-4702)	Governing bodies--by joint agreement. (§5.1-35 - 5.1-36)	Governing body--by ordinance. (§15.2-4903)	Governing bodies--by ordinance. (§15.2-6402)

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Principal Characteristics**

	<i>PARKS/RECREATIONAL</i> Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	<i>MEDICAL/HEALTH</i> Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
<i>Establishment/Activation</i>	Governing body--by ordinance or resolution, or concurrent ordinances or resolutions, in the case of a regional authority, after a public hearing for which advance notice has been given. The governing body may call for a referendum. (§15.2-5602)	Governing body--by ordinance or resolution, or concurrent ordinances or resolutions, in the case of a regional authority, after a public hearing for which advance notice has been given. If there is substantial opposition, the governing body may call for a referendum. (§15.2-5702)	Governing body--on its own motion or upon petition of 100 voters. Need declared through resolution stating (i) there is a lack of adequate hospital facilities and (ii) public welfare requires construction and operation of public hospital. (§§15.2-5302 - 15.2-5305)	Governing body--by declaring need for authority. Need declared through resolution stating that public welfare requires construction and operation of public hospital. (§§15.2-5200 and 15.2-5202)	Governing body--by resolution. (§37.1-244)	Governing body. (§32.1-187)
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**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<i>Establishment/Activation</i>	Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board--upon petition from city or county governing bodies or on petition signed by registered voters equal in number to 25% of the votes cast in the last general election. Before creating district, Board must hold public hearing, for which advance notice has been given. (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-513)	Circuit court--upon petition of at least a majority of the owners of a majority of the land in the proposed district. The court shall appoint board of three viewers, selected by a majority of the landowners, to prepare report for court. Viewers shall report to court on whether the proposed drainage projects are practicable and would benefit the general welfare of the community. If the court is satisfied, it shall order viewers to prepare a drainage plan, including maps and costs estimates. Court shall assess the plan and cost and benefits, hear objections to the plan, and shall establish district if satisfied that benefits not outweighed by costs. (§§21-292 - 21-342)	Circuit court--after hearing on citizen petition and referendum. Petition must be signed by at least 200 voters (at least 50 from each county, city, and town included in proposed district). State Health Commissioner must approve creation of district. Also, each county, city, and town included, in whole or in part, in the district must approve creation of district. At hearing, court considers whether all property will be benefited, public interest will be served, and public health protected. If court is satisfied, then it must order referendum, and if voters approve, enter order establishing district. (§§21-146 - 21-150)	Circuit court--after hearing on citizen petition and referendum. Petition must be signed by at least 100 voters (at least 25 from each county, city, and town included in proposed district). State Health Commissioner must approve creation of district. Also, each county, city, and town included, in whole or in part, in the district must approve creation of district. At hearing, court considers whether all property will be benefited, public interest will be served, and public health protected. If court is satisfied, then it must order referendum, and if voters approve, enter order establishing district. (§§21-229 - 21-233)	Governing bodies--by concurrent ordinance ordinances or resolutions, or by agreement. (§53.1-95.2)	Governing bodies--by concurrent agreement entered into by resolution or ordinance. (§15.2-1747)	Governing bodies--by concurrent resolutions or ordinances. (§16.1-315)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT			Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	TRANSPORTATION Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹			
<i>Referendum Provisions</i>	None.	Governing body may call for referendum; or, if 10% of qualified voters file petition for referendum, it must be held. (§15.2-5105) If ordinance or agreement establishing authority originated from citizens' petition, there must be a referendum. (§15.2-5106)	None.	Referendum required for jurisdiction to participate in authority. (§15.2-5403)	Required for establishment of authority. May be initiated by either governing body resolution or by petition of 100 qualified voters registered in the locality. (§36-4)	None.
<i>Required Filing with State Corporation Commission (SCC) or Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC)</i>	None.	After ordinance or resolution adopted, governing body must file articles of incorporation with SCC. If SCC is satisfied that proposed service rates are fair and equitable, it shall issue certificate of incorporation or charter. (§§15.2-5107 - 15.2-5108)	After ordinance or resolution adopted, governing body must file articles of incorporation with SCC. If SCC is satisfied that the articles conform to law, it shall issue certificate of incorporation or charter. (§§15.2-5107 - 15.2-5108)	After ordinance or resolution adopted, governing body must file articles of incorporation with SCC. If SCC is satisfied that the articles conform to law and creation of authority is in the public interest, it shall issue certificate of incorporation or charter. (§15.2-5105)	None.	Ordinances creating district must be filed with SOC, who must certify they meet requirements set forth in the Code for their adoption. (§15.2-4504)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>			Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²			Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
<i>Referendum Provisions</i>	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.
<i>Required Filing with State Corporation Commission (SCC) or Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC)</i>	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	Ordinances creating authority must be filed with SOC. Upon certification by the SOC that statutory requirements have been met, the authority is created. (§15.2-6402)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	PARKS/RECREATIONAL		MEDICAL/HEALTH			
	Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
Referendum Provisions	May be called for by governing body. (§15.2-5602)	May be called for by governing body if substantial opposition to creation of authority is voiced at public hearing. Must be held if 10% of the qualified voters file petition at the public hearing. May also be held after creation of authority on question of authorizing authority to acquire parks in addition to those originally specified. (§15.2-5702)	None.	Referendum required for jurisdiction to participate in authority. (§15.2-5403)	Required for establishment of authority. May be initiated by either governing body resolution or by petition of 100 freeholders. (§36-4)	None.
Required Filing with State Corporation Commission (SCC) or Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC)	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<i>Referendum Provisions</i>	None.	None.	Must be held if court upholds establishment of district after hearing on petition. If the overall vote on establishing the district is favorable, but a majority of the voters of any county, city, or town vote against establishing the district, then any territory of that jurisdictions shall be excluded from the district. (§§21-149 and 21-151)	Must be held if court upholds establishment of district after hearing on petition. If the overall vote on establishing the district is favorable, but a majority of the voters of any county, city, or town vote against establishing the district, then any territory of that jurisdictions shall be excluded from the district. (§§21-232 and 21-234)	None.	None.	None.
<i>Required Filing with State Corporation Commission (SCC) or Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC)</i>	Directors must present application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth setting forth specified facts concerning the creation of the district. Secretary shall officially record the application. (§§10.1-517 - 10.1-518)	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.	None.

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					TRANSPORTATION
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
<u>GOVERNING BODY</u>						
<i>Selection</i>	Board of Supervisors of county serves as governing body of district. (§21-118)	Selection in accordance with the ordinance or resolution establishing authority. (§15.2-5113)	Selection in accordance with ordinance or resolution establishing the authority. (§§15.2-5113, 15.2-5154 - 15.2-5155)	Selection in accordance with ordinance or agreement establishing the authority. (§15.2-5405)	Appointed by governing body. (§36-11)	Appointed by the governing body of each participating county or city. (§15.2-4507)
<i>Composition</i>	Same as for Board of Supervisors. (§21-118)	Five members, or a number equal to the number of members of the county or city governing body. If two or more localities create authority, articles of incorporation shall specify the size of governing body, but it shall include at least one member from each jurisdiction and a total of at least five members. Terms of the members of the authority shall be set out in articles of incorporation, but may not exceed four years. Members of local governing bodies may be appointed to the authority. (§15.2-5113)	Five members, or a number equal to the number of members of the county or city governing body. Petitioning landowners or their designees may constitute a majority. Terms of the members of the authority shall be set out in the articles of incorporation, but may not exceed four years. Members of the local governing body may be appointed to the authority. (§§15.2-5113 and 15.2-5154 - 15.2-5155)	Five members, or a number equal to the number of members on the local governing body. In the case of an authority created by two or more localities, size of the authority's governing body is determined by agreement establishing authority, but shall include at least one member from each jurisdiction and a total of at least five members. Terms of the members to be specified in the ordinance or agreement, but may not exceed four years. No elected official of a member locality may be appointed to the authority. (§15.2-5405)	Five to nine members, appointed for four-year terms. Unless specifically provided by city or town charter, member of governing body and local government employees are not eligible to be appointed to the authority. For regional or consolidated authorities, each member jurisdiction appoints one commissioner. If there is an even number of members, appointed commissioners shall choose an additional member. (§§36-11, 36-45, and 36-47)	Number of members as agreed upon by participating localities. Member of local governing bodies may be appointed to the authority. Members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, or designee, shall be ex officio member. For Potomac and Rappahannock and the Tidewater Transportation Districts, commission members shall include two members of the House of Delegates and one Senator from the legislative districts located within the boundaries of the respective districts. The commission for the Peninsula Transportation District may include one Delegate or one Senator, or both. (§15.2-4507)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>					<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
<u>GOVERNING BODY</u>							
<i>Selection</i>	Appointed by the governing body of each participating county or city. (§33.1-411)	Appointed by the board of supervisors of the county in which the district is located. (§15.2-4803)	Appointed by the boards of supervisors of the counties in which the district is located. (§15.2-4604)	Appointed by the governing body of the locality in which the district is located. (§15.2-4703)	As provided in the agreement establishing the authority. (§5.1-36)	Appointed by the governing body of the county, city or town. (§15.2-4904)	Appointed by the governing bodies of the member localities. (§15.2-6403))
<i>Composition</i>	Four members of the governing body of each locality in which the district is located; chairman of Commonwealth Transportation Board, or designee, serves as ex officio member. (§33.1-411)	Five members of the board of supervisors; chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, or designee, serves as ex officio member. (§15.2-4803)	Four members of each of the board of supervisors of the participating counties; chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, or designee, serves as ex officio member. (§15.2-4604)	Three members of the governing body of the locality; chairman of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, or designee, serves as ex officio member. (§15.2-4703)	As provided in the agreement establishing the authority; may include members of local governing body. (§5.1-36)	Seven members appointed for terms of four years. Members must be residents of the jurisdiction served by the authority or of adjoining jurisdictions. Officers or employees of jurisdiction may not serve on the authority, except in the case of towns with populations under 3,500 persons. In latter case, members of the town council may serve on the authority, but may not comprise majority of the authority's governing board. (§15.2-4904)	Two members from each participating locality. Each member must be resident of appointing locality. (§15.2-6403)
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**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	PARKS/RECREATIONAL		MEDICAL/HEALTH			
	Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
<u>GOVERNING BODY</u>						
<i>Selection</i>	Appointed by governing bodies of participating jurisdictions. (§15.2-5603)	Appointed by governing body or bodies of participating locality or localities. (§15.2-5703)	Appointed by mayor. (§15.2-5307)	Appointed by governing body or bodies of participating locality or localities. (§15.2-5204)	Appointed by governing body of locality. (§37.1-245)	Appointed by the State Commissioner of Health or governing bodies of localities. (See below.) (§32.1-189)
<i>Composition</i>	Five to seventeen members--exact number, manner of appointment, and terms to be provided for in ordinances or resolutions creating authority. Members of local governing bodies and local employees eligible to serve and may constitute a majority. (§15.2-5603)	At least six members, but always an even number. Members of governing body may serve, but may not comprise majority. Where there is more than one participating jurisdiction, each shall appoint at least two representatives. Appointed for four-year terms. (§15.2-5703)	Up to fifteen members, no more than three of which can be practicing physicians. No officer or employee of the city, except the director of the local health department, may be appointed. No director of the local health department may serve as chairman of the hospital or serve simultaneously on the regional health planning agency board. No practicing physical may be appointed to an authority in a city with a population between 17,500 and 18,000 persons and bordered by one county and two rivers. Term of office is six years. (§15.2-5307)	Number of members based on number of participating jurisdictions: 1 locality = 5 members; 2 localities = 6 members; 3 localities = 6 members; 4 localities = 8 members; more than 4 localities = 1 members for each locality. Members must be residents of locality of appointing governing body. Members of local governing bodies may be members of commission. Members appointed for such terms as designated by appointing governing body; may be removed at any time by appointing body. (§15.2-5204)	Six to eighteen members, broadly representative of the community, including consumers and family members of consumers of authority services. Board of directors may not have more than two local government officials as members. (§37.1-245)	Three members, one of which shall be the State Commissioner of Health or his designee. If district encompasses only one locality, the other two members shall be appointed by the governing body; if two localities, each governing body shall appoint one each; if district includes territory in more than two jurisdictions, the State Health Commissioner shall appoint remaining two members from residents of district. Terms of appointed members shall be for four years. (§32.1-189 - 32.1-190)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i> Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i> Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<u>GOVERNING BODY</u>							
<i>Selection</i>	Combination of election by registered voters and appointment by Soil and Water Conservation Board. (§10.1-515)	By circuit court, after election by petitioners for creation of the district. (§21-297)	Appointed by the Governor. (§21-157)	Appointed by the State Health Commissioner. (§21-237)	Appointed by governing bodies of participating localities. (§§53.1-95.6 and 53.1-106)	As provided for in the agreement adopted by the participating localities. (§15.2-1747)	Appointed by the governing bodies of the participating localities, after consultation with the chief judge of the juvenile and domestic relations district court. (§16.1-313)
<i>Composition</i>	Five members, if district restricted to one county or city--three elected and two appointed. If district embraces more than one county or city, board shall have two members elected from each jurisdiction and two members appointed at large. Members of local governing body are eligible to serve. Members serve for three-year terms. Extension agent for county or city shall be one of the appointed members. (§§10.1-515, 10.1-526, 10.1-529 - 10.1-530)	Three owners of property in which the district is proposed. (§21-297)	Five members, residents of the district. Members serve for four-year terms, but may be removed by Governor at his pleasure. (§§21-157 and 21-162)	Seven members, residents of the district. Representation must be apportioned among jurisdictions represented in the district on the basis of population to the extent possible, but each jurisdiction to have at least one member. Appointments to be made from lists of one to five names furnished by governing bodies. Members serve for four-year terms. (§21-237)	Total number of members, number from each jurisdiction, and terms of office established by agreement, with at least one member from each jurisdiction. Sheriff and members of local governing body eligible for appointment. If locality appoints more than one member, sheriff shall be one of those appointed. If each jurisdiction appoints only one member, and no sheriff is appointed, the board itself shall elect one sheriff from region to serve on board. (§§53.1-95.4, 53.1-95.6 and 53.1-106)	Size, composition of board, and terms of office determined by agreement among localities. Sheriffs, members of local governing bodies, and other public officials may serve on board. (§15.2-1747)	Size and composition of board determined by agreement, but each participating jurisdiction entitled to at least one member. Members appointed for four-year terms. Juvenile and domestic relations district judges ineligible for appointment. (§16.1-316)
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**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</i>					<i>TRANSPORTATION</i>
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
<u>SCOPE OF POWERS</u> <i>General Powers</i>	<p>*To construct, maintain, and operate, either itself or by contracting, parking lots; water supply, drainage, sewerage, garbage disposal, heat, light, power, gas, street, and firefighting systems; and sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and recreational facilities.</p> <p>*To construct school buildings.</p> <p>*To buy, lease, and sell real estate in connection with such activities.</p> <p>*To employ special policemen.</p> <p>*To require property owners to connect to our use such systems.</p> <p>*To set and collect user fees and charges for use of district services.</p> <p>*To hire personnel.</p> <p>*To borrow money in anticipation of revenue. (§§21-118 and 21-118.4)</p>	<p>*To construct, maintain and operate water, stormwater control, sewer, sewage disposal, garbage collection and disposal, and electric power generation systems.</p> <p>*To lease, or contract for, a streetlighting system in King George County, and to operate a refuse-to-energy conversion system for Fairfax County and Alexandria.</p> <p>*To buy, lease, and sell real estate in connection with such activities.</p> <p>*To fix, charge and collect rates, fees, and charges for services rendered.</p> <p>*To require, with concurrence of local governing body, property owners to connect with such systems or to pay non-user fees.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts or agreements with other governing bodies; to hire personnel; and to sue and be sued. (§§15.2-5114, 15.2-5117 - 15.2-5120 and 15.2-5137)</p>	<p>*To exercise the same general powers accorded public service authorities.</p> <p>*To fund, acquire, operate, and maintain infrastructure improvements related to roads and street systems, parks and recreational programs and facilities, fire prevention and control systems, age-restricted active adult communities, and school buildings and related structures.</p> <p>*To provide special services, such as garbage and trash removal, street cleaning, snow removal, extra security personnel, recreational management, and grounds keeping.</p> <p>*To request local governing body to levy a special tax on real property within authority's jurisdiction with revenue used to support authority's activities.</p> <p>*To use revenue from a special assessment on abutting property, imposed by locality, to finance services. (§15.2-5158)</p>	<p>*To develop, acquire, construct, operate, and maintain any system for the generation or transmission of electric power.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To generate, purchase and sell electricity at wholesale.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To sell excess electricity to non-member jurisdictions or parties. (§§15.2-5406 and 15.2-5409)</p>	<p>*To construct, acquire, operate and maintain housing projects.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To lease dwelling units and other structures.</p> <p>*To charge and collect rents.</p> <p>*To construct or renovate any public building or facility if requested to do so by the governing body of a locality.</p> <p>*To make loans to assist in the acquisition or construction, repair or rehabilitation of commercial or residential buildings.</p> <p>*To investigate housing conditions in the community and to make recommendations.</p> <p>*To form corporations, joint ventures or other legal entities.</p> <p>*To acquire blighted areas and to clear them, repair facilities or construct new facilities. (§§36-19 and 36-49)</p>	<p>*To prepare transportation plans.</p> <p>*To construct or acquire transportation facilities.</p> <p>*To operate, either itself or through contract with a private company, transportation facilities.</p> <p>*To hire personnel.</p> <p>*To regulate fares, schedules, franchising agreements, and routing of transit facilities.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To do all things necessary, convenient or desirable to carry out purposes of the district. (§§15.2-4515 - 15.2-4516, and 15.2-4518)</p>

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>					<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
<u>SCOPE OF POWERS</u>							
<i>General Powers</i>	<p>*To construct, expand, fund, and operate transportation improvements.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of transportation improvements.</p> <p>*To contract for expansion of any mass transit system or highway into the territory outside the district.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To contract with the Commonwealth Transportation Board to perform any purposes of the district. (§§33.1-414 and 33.1-416)</p>	<p>*To construct, expand, fund, and operate public highways or public mass transit systems.</p> <p>*To contract with any private person or corporation or any state or federal agency to perform any of the purposes of the district.</p> <p>*To set and enforce rates or fees for the use of transportation facilities.</p> <p>*To enter into a continuing service contract for the purposes of the district.</p> <p>*To employ personnel. (§15.2-4805)</p>	<p>*To construct, expand, fund, and operate any mass transit system or two-lane primary highway located in both jurisdictions and which is not included in the State's transportation bond program.</p> <p>*To contract with any private person or corporation or any state or federal agency to perform any of the purposes of the district.</p> <p>*To enter into a continuing service contract for the purposes of the district.</p> <p>*To extend any mass transit system or primary highway into territory outside of the district.</p> <p>*To employ personnel. (§15.2-4606)</p>	<p>*To construct, expand, fund, and operate any mass transit system or highway located in the district and which is not included in the State's transportation bond program.</p> <p>*To contract with any private person or corporation or any state or federal agency to perform any of the purposes of the district.</p> <p>*To enter into a continuing service contract for the purposes of the district.</p> <p>*To extend any mass transit system or primary highway into territory outside of the district.</p> <p>*To employ personnel. (§15.2-4705)</p>	<p>*To establish, construct, manage, and operate an airport.</p> <p>*To lease property to persons wishing to operate an airport.</p> <p>*To charge a board fee, up to \$2.00.</p> <p>*To charge fees for use of the airport. (§§5.1-36, 5.1-40, 5.1-41.1, and 5.1-44)</p>	<p>To acquire, operate, sell, and lease various types of facilities and property, including medical, industrial, and commercial.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To make loans to any person, business, corporation, or governmental entity in order to further industrial development.</p> <p>*To make loans for housing projects in localities without a housing authority.</p> <p>*To acquire, own, develop, and operate an industrial park. (§§15.2-4901 - 15.2-4902 and 15.2-4905)</p>	<p>To develop, own and operate industrial parks.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To charge rents or fees for the use of its services or facilities. (§15.2-6405)</p>

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	PARKS/RECREATIONAL		MEDICAL/HEALTH			
	Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
SCOPE OF POWERS						
<i>General Powers</i>	<p>*To acquire, construct, operate, and maintain any of various specified types of recreational facilities.</p> <p>*To participate in a land conservation project, including the holding of a conservation easement.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To contract with another public agency or private entity regarding the management of recreational facility.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To charge fees and charges for the use of its facilities. (§§15.2-5601 and 15.2-5604)</p>	<p>*To acquire, construct, operate, and maintain parks.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To contract with any State, federal, or local government agency or corporation relating to park services or facilities.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To regulate the use of all lands and facilities under its control.</p> <p>*To charge fees for the use of its facilities. (§§15.2-5704 and 15.2-5709)</p>	<p>*To establish and operate hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities.</p> <p>*To employ physicians and other personnel.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To establish conditions under which physicians may practice in facilities operated by authority.</p> <p>*To establish schools of nursing.</p> <p>*To own and dispose of property. (§15.2-5322 - 15.2-5345)</p>	<p>*To establish and operate hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities, including nursing homes.</p> <p>*To employ physicians and other personnel.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To own and dispose of property. (§15.2-5205)</p>	<p>*To establish and operate mental health, mental retardation, development disabilities, and substance abuse treatment services and facilities.</p> <p>*To fulfill all duties of community service boards.</p> <p>*To receive allocation of State funds for mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To employ an executive director and other personnel.</p> <p>*To own and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To establish a fee schedule for services. (§37.1-248)</p>	<p>*To perform all acts necessary to control and eliminate mosquitoes.</p> <p>*To employ personnel. (§32.1-192)</p>

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<u>SCOPE OF POWERS</u>							
<i>General Powers</i>	<p>*To employ personnel. (§10.1-532)</p> <p>*To conduct surveys and research relating to soil erosion and flood water damages. (§10.1-539)</p> <p>*To improve soil conservation and flood control through a variety of measures, including demonstration projects, financial aid, planning, and operation of actual projects. (§§10.1-540 - 10.1-547)</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property. (§10.1-543)</p> <p>*To enter into contracts. (§10.1-548)</p> <p>*To promulgate regulations. (§10.1-548)</p> <p>*To adopt and administer erosion and sediment control program if local government does not have an approved program. (§10.1-562)</p>	<p>*To survey lands proposed for drainage projects and to prepare plans for projects. (§§21-325 and 21-331)</p> <p>*To operate, manage, and administer drainage projects (levees, drains, ditches, watercourses, etc.) (§21-347)</p> <p>*To employ a superintendent, engineer, and other personnel to oversee work. (§§21-326 and 21-348)</p> <p>*To contract for the construction of drainage projects. (§21-349)</p> <p>*To keep levees, ditches, or watercourses in good repair. (§21-364)</p>	<p>*To acquire and dispose of, in the name of the commission but for the counties, cities, and towns embraced within the district, real and personal property.</p> <p>*To construct, maintain, and operate sewage collection, treatment, and disposal systems.</p> <p>*To charge and collect fees, rents, and other charges for the use of its sewage disposal system.</p> <p>*To hire personnel.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued. (§§21-168, 21-170, 21-177, and 21-180)</p>	<p>*To acquire and dispose of, in the name of the commission but for the counties, cities, and towns embraced within the district, real and personal property.</p> <p>*To construct, maintain, and operate sewage collection, treatment, and disposal systems.</p> <p>*To charge and collect fees, rents, and other charges for the use of its sewage disposal system.</p> <p>*To hire personnel.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued. (§§21-248, 21-250, 21-257, and 21-260)</p>	<p>*To construct, maintain, operate, and manage a jail or jail farm.</p> <p>*To contract with a private corporation for the construction and operation of a regional jail.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To contract with any local government or with any State or federal agency for the use of the jail to house prisoners.</p> <p>*To charge fees for housing prisoners from member localities and from other localities and agencies. (§§53.1-71.1, 53.1-95.7, and 53.1-95.12)</p>	<p>*To establish and conduct training for public law enforcement and correctional officers.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To enter into contracts.</p> <p>*To accept and administer grants.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To sue and be sued.</p> <p>*To establish fees for training services provided. (§15.2-1748)</p>	<p>*To establish, construct, maintain, and operate a juvenile detention facility.</p> <p>*To make contracts.</p> <p>*To acquire and dispose of property.</p> <p>*To employ personnel.</p> <p>*To adopt regulations and policies regarding the care of juveniles in custody. (§16.1-318)</p>

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</i>					<i>TRANSPORTATION</i>
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
<i>Taxing Authority</i>	May levy tax on property in district. (§21-118)	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority itself, but may request local governing body to levy special tax on real property and to impose special assessment on abutting property. Unless requested otherwise by every property in district, any such tax is limited to a maximum of \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed value. (§15.2-5158)	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority	No taxing authority. However, in both the Northern Virginia Transportation District and a district contiguous to that District, State law imposes an additional gasoline tax of 2% to be used for transportation purposes. (§§58.1-1720 and 58.1-1724)
<i>Bonding Authority</i>	Board of Supervisors may issue bonds for district purposes in an amount not to exceed 18% of assessed value of property in the district, subject to approval by referendum. District may issue revenue bonds, without having to hold referendum, to finance water or sewerage systems mandated by State Water Control Board. (§§21-122 - 21-123)	May issue revenue bonds payable from revenues derived from fees charged for services of the authority. Full faith and credit of locality may not be pledged. (§§15.2-5114, 15.2-5125 and 15.2-5131)	May issue revenue bonds payable from revenues derived from fees charged for services of the authority. Full faith and credit of locality may not be pledged. (§§15.2-5125 and 15.2-5158)	May issue revenue bonds, repayable solely from revenues derived from projects. Bonds shall not constitute any obligation on the part of the State or any localities. (§§15.2-5412 and 15.2-5414)	May issue revenue bonds secured by revenues of the authority. Bonds shall not impose any liability on the State or any locality. (§36-29)	May issue bonds backed by district revenues. Full faith and credit of localities or the State may not be pledged, nor shall bonds constitute any liability on the part of localities or the State.

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>					<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
Taxing Authority	May not directly levy tax itself; however, upon request of district, local governing body may levy tax on real property in district zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or used for such. Revenue from tax to be disbursed according to district commission. Rate of any such special tax may not exceed \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed value unless all property owners in district agree to waive limit. (§33.1-415)	May not levy tax on own authority; however, upon request of district, board of supervisors may levy tax on real property in district zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or used for such. Revenue from tax to be disbursed according to district commission. Rate of any such special tax may not exceed \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed value. (§15.2-4806)	May not levy tax on own authority; however, upon request of district, boards of supervisors may levy tax on real property in district zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or used for such. Revenue from tax to be disbursed according to district commission. Rate of any such special tax may not exceed \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed value unless all property owners in district agree to waive limit. (§15.2-4706)	May not levy tax on own authority; however, upon request of district, boards of supervisors may levy tax on real property in district zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or used for such. Revenue from tax to be disbursed according to district commission. Rate of any such special tax may not exceed \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed value. (§15.2-4607)	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority	No taxing authority itself, but locality in which an industrial park owned by the authority is located may direct revenue from machinery and tools tax collected from companies in the industrial park be turned over to the authority. (§15.2-6406)
Bonding Authority	May not issue bonds directly. However, law contemplates that State will issue Transportation Contract Revenue Bonds to finance highway improvements in district. Such bonds would be backed by revenue from special tax on property and highway fund allocations from the district, if necessary. (§§33.1-268 - 33.1-269 and 33.1-416)	May not issue bonds directly. However, law contemplates that State will issue Transportation Contract Revenue Bonds to finance highway improvements in district. Such bonds would be backed by revenue from special tax on property and highway fund allocations from the district, if necessary. (§§15.2-4805 and 33.1-268 - 33.1-269)	May not issue bonds directly. However, law contemplates that State will issue Transportation Contract Revenue Bonds to finance highway improvements in district. Such bonds would be backed by revenue from special tax on property and highway fund allocations from the district, if necessary. (§§15.2-4608 and 33.1-268 - 33.1-269)	May not issue bonds directly. However, law contemplates that State will issue Transportation Contract Revenue Bonds to finance highway improvements in district. Such bonds would be backed by revenue from special tax on property and highway fund allocations from the district, if necessary. (§§15.2-4705 and 33.1-268 - 33.1-269)	By implication, authority may issue bonds to finance facilities. Jurisdictions authorized to issue bonds and all powers conferred on localities in regard to building and operating airport facilities are also explicitly conferred on any joint airport commission or authority. (§§5.1-35 - 5.1-36 and 5.1-42)	May issue revenue bonds, payable solely from revenues and receipts derived from the sale or lease of its facilities. Bonds shall not constitute any obligation on the part of the State or any locality. (§§15.2-4901 and 15.2-4908 15.2-4909)	May issue revenue bonds, payable solely from rents or other revenue received by the authority. Bonds shall not constitute any obligation on the part of the State or any locality. (§§15.2-6409 and 15.2-6412)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
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	<i>PARKS/RECREATIONAL</i> Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	<i>MEDICAL/HEALTH</i> Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
<i>Taxing Authority</i>	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority	Governing body of a district is not authorized to levy tax; however, governing body of county, city, or town in which district is wholly or partially located may levy special real estate and personal property tax, not to exceed \$0.25 per 100 of assessed value, to support activities of district. Revenues to be turned over to district commission. (§32.1-194)
<i>Bonding Authority</i>	May issue revenue bonds, secured by revenues from the authority facilities, including pledge of income from contract obligation of participating locality. Bonds shall not impose any liability on the State or any locality except those which have entered into a contract obligation. (§15.2-5607)	May issue revenue bonds to acquire and construct park land and facilities; also, to pay the cost of a water system, sewer system, or garbage and refuse collection system. Principal and interest on the bonds to be paid from revenues of the authority. Bonds shall not constitute any debt on the part of the State or a locality. (§15.2-5712 - 15.2-5713)	May issue revenue bonds, repayable solely from general revenues or from revenues from designated projects. Bonds shall not constitute any obligation on the part of the State or a locality. (§§15.2-5346 - 15.2-5347 and 15.2-5349)	May issue revenue bonds, repayable solely from revenues and receipts of hospital or other medical facility. May also grant lien on property owned by commission as security for bonds. Bonds shall not constitute any obligation on the part of the State or a locality. However, locality may issue general obligation bonds to construct or enlarge a health facility (§§15.2-5205, 15.2-5207, 15.2-5209 and 15.2-5211)	No bonding authority.	No bonding authority.

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<i>Taxing Authority</i>	No taxing authority.	May assess district landowners and railroads for construction and maintenance in proportion to benefits realized by them from the project. (§§21-334, 31-361, 21-364, 21-367, 21-369, and 21-374) May assess landowners whose lands are benefited by project, although lands not included in district. (§21-345)	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority.	No taxing authority.
<i>Bonding Authority</i>	No bonding authority.	May issue bonds to be repaid from assessments on property in district. (§§21-368 and 21-396)	May issue bonds and pledge revenue from services as backing for the bonds. Full faith and credit of locality or of the State may not be pledged, nor shall the bonds constitute any liability for the locality or the State. Total outstanding bonds limited to \$10 million and any issuance must be approved by voters of the district in a referendum. (§§21-168, 21-189, 21-190, and 21-196)	May issue bonds and pledge revenue from services as backing for the bonds. Full faith and credit of locality or of the State may not be pledged, nor shall the bonds constitute any liability for the locality or the State. Total outstanding bonds limited to \$10 million and any issuance must be approved by voters of the district in a referendum. (§§21-248, 21-269 - 21-270, and 21-276)	May issue revenue bonds. The principal and interest on such bonds are to be paid out of revenues of the authority, primarily payments from member localities for housing prisoners. No obligation by the State or localities is to be incurred by the bonds. (§§53.1-95.7, 53.1-95.10, and 53.1-95.12)	May issue revenue bonds. The principal and interest on such bonds are to be paid out of revenues of the authority, primarily appropriations from member localities, State grants, and fees charged for training courses. No obligation by the State or localities is to be incurred by the bonds. (§§15.2-1749 - 15.2-1750)	Generally, may not issue bonds. However, four commissions may issue revenue bonds payable from funds pledged to the commissions by member localities. Such bonds shall not create any obligation on the part of the State or of any local governments. (§16.1-318 and Chapter 752, Acts of the Assembly 1997)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
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	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					TRANSPORTATION
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
Condemnation Authority	Provided general condemnation power; for construction of water and sewer lines and treatment plants. May exercise same condemnation powers utilized by Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner. (§21-118)	Provided same power of eminent domain as vested in Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner. May not condemn property of any other political subdivision. (§15.2-5114)	Provided same power of eminent domain as vested in Commonwealth Transportation Board. May not condemn property of any other political subdivision. (§15.2-5114)	Provided same power of eminent domain as vested in Commonwealth Transportation Board. May not use authority to acquire existing electric power facilities nor to condemn property outside boundaries of member jurisdiction without permission of governing body in which the property is located. (§15.2-5425)	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§36-27)	Authorized to exercise eminent domain powers set out in Title 25 of the Code of Virginia, subject to the approval of the State Corporation Commission. (§15.2-4518)
Special Powers or Restrictions	None.	<p>*Local governing body may restrict projects which authority may undertake. (§15.2-5111)</p> <p>*Before providing garbage collection and disposal services, authority and participating governing body must determine that certain conditions exist. In addition, authority may not displace private solid waste collection and disposal company without five years' notice or payment of 12 months of gross receipts. (§15.2-5121)</p> <p>*No authority may construct water impoundment facility outside its boundaries without the consent of the locality in which the facility would be located. (§15.2-5122)</p>	<p>*Same limitations as placed on public service authorities regarding services that may be provided. (§15.2-5111)</p> <p>*Authority may not provide services provided by an existing authority which is permitted to provide services within community development district, unless existing authority certifies that community development authority activities will not have a negative impact on its operations. (§15.2-5155)</p>	May not sell electric power at retail to non-governmental end user. (§15.2-5402 and 15.2-5409)	<p>*Prohibited from operating housing projects as a profit or as a source of revenue to city or county. (§36-21)</p> <p>*May rent only to persons with low income and at rates commensurate with their income. (§36-22)</p> <p>*May not acquire land, construct housing or provide related facilities without approval of governing body. (§§36-19.2 and 36-19.5)</p>	<p>*With one exception (in Richmond metropolitan area), districts may not regulate taxicabs.</p> <p>*Northern Virginia Transportation District prohibited from preparing plan or operating transit facilities. Statute sets out cooperative relationship between that district and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission. (§15.2-4515)</p>

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
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	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>					<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
Condemnation Authority	Not authorized to exercise eminent domain powers directly. However, State Transportation Commissioner may, at request of district, exercise condemnation powers for transportation improvements in district. (§33.1-422)	Not authorized to exercise eminent domain powers directly. However, Commonwealth Transportation Board may, at request of the district, exercise its powers of eminent domain to acquire property for transportation facilities within the district. (§15.2-4811)	Not authorized to exercise eminent domain powers directly. However, Commonwealth Transportation Board may, at request of the district, exercise its powers of eminent domain to acquire property for transportation facilities within the district. (§15.2-4614)	Not authorized to exercise eminent domain powers directly. However, Commonwealth Transportation Board may, at request of the district, exercise its powers of eminent domain to acquire property for transportation facilities within the district. (§15.2-4712)	May exercise on behalf of the political subdivisions constituting the authority the same powers of eminent domain as provided railroads, which include easement rights to control trees and vegetation growth along boundaries of an airport. (§§5.1-34 and 5.1-36)	No powers of eminent domain.	No powers of eminent domain.
Special Powers or Restrictions	*District may not construct or improve any transportation facility without the approval of the State and of the locality in which the facility will be located. All rights and title to any mass transit facility constructed shall vest in an agency or instrumentality of the State. (§33.1-411) *Locality restricted on changes it may make in zoning classifications in district. (§33.1-410)	*District may not construct or improve any transportation facility without the approval of the State and of each county in which the facility will be located. All rights and title to any mass transit facility constructed shall vest in an agency or instrumentality of the State. (§15.2-4811) *Locality restricted on changes it may make in zoning classifications in district. (§15.2-4802)	*District may not construct or improve any transportation facility without the approval of the State and of each county in which the facility will be located. All rights and title to any mass transit facility constructed shall vest in an agency or instrumentality of the State. (§15.2-4614) *Counties restricted on changes each county may make in zoning classifications in district. (§15.2-4603)	*District may not construct or improve any transportation facility without the approval of the State and of the locality in which the facility will be located. All rights and title to any mass transit facility constructed shall vest in an agency or instrumentality of the State. (§15.2-4712) *Locality restricted on changes it may make in zoning classifications in district. (§15.2-4702)	Virginia Aviation Board must approve the operation of any airport facility by the authority or the leasing or conveying of the facility to a private party for the operation of an airport or for industrial development purposes. (§§5.1-39.1 - 5.1-41)	*May not operate any facility as a business except as lessor nor any single or multi-family housing facilities. (§15.2-4905) *Locality may limit type and number of facilities financed by the authority. (§15.2-4903)	*Authority subject to planning, zoning, and subdivision regulations to the same extent applicable to private commercial or industrial entities. (§15.2-6408) *Member localities may enter into revenue and economic growth-sharing agreement regarding revenues generated by the authority. Such agreement not subject to approval by referendum. (§15.2-6407)

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	PARKS/RECREATIONAL		MEDICAL/HEALTH			
	Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
Condemnation Authority	No power of eminent domain.	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§15.2-5704)	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§15.2-5343)	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§15.2-5214)	No power of eminent domain.	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§32.1-193)
Special Powers or Restrictions	<p>*All moneys received deemed to be trust funds. (§15.2-5611)</p> <p>*By implication, authority restricted to operating types of facilities specified in the ordinances or resolutions creating the authority. (§15.2-5602)</p> <p>*Any contract obligation between a member county and the authority which serves to secure bonds issued by the authority must be approved by referendum in the county. (§15.2-5607)</p>	<p>*May use special conservators of the peace, appointed by the court, on land and facilities. (§15.2-5706)</p> <p>*No contract with local government to provide park services may impose financial requirement on local government extending beyond one year unless approved in referendum. (§15.2-5711)</p> <p>*May not acquire or maintain parks other than those specified in the resolutions or ordinances establishing authority, unless authorized by participating jurisdictions to do so. If no projects specified, authority has general power to acquire and maintain parks, unless participating localities object to any project. (§15.2-5702)</p>	None.	None.	Must enter into performance contract with State. (§37.1-248.1)	None.

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<i>Condemnation Authority</i>	No power of eminent domain.	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§21-323)	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§21-166)	Provided general power of eminent domain. (§21-246 and 21-248)	No power of eminent domain.	No power of eminent domain.	May exercise power of eminent domain, subject to the approval, after public hearing, of the local governing body of the jurisdiction in which property is to be acquired. (§16.1-319)
<i>Special Powers or Restrictions</i>	None.	None.	No bond referendum may be held within first six months of the creation of the district. (§21-209)	None.	None.	None.	*Operation of juvenile detention facility subject to general oversight and regulation by the State Department of Juvenile Justice. (§§16.1-310 - 16.1-312) *No juvenile detention facility may be established within a local jurisdiction without the approval, after a public hearing, of the governing body of the jurisdiction. Also, other participating localities and the director of the Department of Juvenile Justice must approve location if outside boundaries of participating jurisdictions. (§16.1-318 - 16.1-319)
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**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					TRANSPORTATION
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)	Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
<u>ALTERATION/TERMINATION</u>						
<i>Changes in Jurisdictional Membership/Service Area</i>	Upon petition of county governing board and of 25% of voters residing in area to be added, judge may, after holding a hearing, enlarge district. (§21-116)	A jurisdiction may withdraw from authority, if all remaining members consent, and, unless all bondholders consent, if there are no bonds outstanding. To withdraw, jurisdiction must adopt ordinance or resolution after public hearing, authority must consent, and SCC must certify that withdrawal conforms to law. A county, city or town, or another existing authority, may join existing authority. Applicant and current members must pass concurrent ordinances or resolutions providing for joiner and specifying conditions. Authority must also consent and applicant must hold public hearing. SCC must certify that all provisions of law have been followed. (§15.2-5112)	No provisions for changing boundaries of district.	A governmental unit may join after authority established, upon adoption of ordinance and with unanimous consent of current members. Any member may withdraw; however, all contractual rights acquired and obligations incurred shall remain in effect. (§15.2-5405)	Regional and consolidated authorities may be enlarged by the addition of new member jurisdictions if the governing bodies of the existing members, the appointed authority commissioners, and the governing body of the joining members agree. (§§36-41 and 36-47) Members may leave regional and consolidated authorities with the consent of the governing bodies of all the other members and the commissioners of the authority. If there are any outstanding debts of the authority, all bondholders must also consent. (§§36-42 and 36-47)	The district may be expanded by the addition of contiguous county or city or part thereof, on terms agreed to by commission and county or city. (§15.2-4529) A member county or city may withdraw from district. Withdrawal does not relieve locality of any financial obligation incurred while a member of the district. (§§15.2-4530 - 15.2-4531)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>					<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²	Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
<u>ALTERATION/TERMINATION</u>							
<i>Changes in Jurisdictional Membership/Service Area</i>	The district may be expanded by the local governing body upon petition of the commission, of 51% of the property owners in the district, and of 51% of the owners of the property to be added. Any property added must be contiguous to district. (§33.1-423)	The district may be expanded by board of supervisors upon petition of 51% of the owners of unimproved or commercially-zoned property in the district, and of 51% of the owners of such property in the area to be added. Any property added must be contiguous to district. (§15.2-4812)	The district may be expanded by boards of supervisors upon joint petition of the commission, of 51% of the owners of land area in the district in each county, and of 51% of the owners of the land area to be added. Any property added must be contiguous to district. Each board of supervisors must find that such expansion would be in the best interest of the residents and the property owners and of the general welfare. (§15.2-4615)	The district may be expanded by the local governing body upon joint petition of the commission, of 51% of the owners of land area in the district in each county, and of 51% of the owners of the land area to be added. Any property added must be contiguous to district. The local governing body must find that such expansion would be in the best interest of the residents and the property owners and of the general welfare. (§15.2-4713)	No explicit provisions; local governments given wide discretion to form authority and to establish terms of agreement. Any joint authority in existence on July 1, 1994, shall continue in existence although all member jurisdictions except one withdraw. (§§5.1-35 - 5.1-36)	Not applicable.	No provisions for additional members to join authority. Members may not withdraw from authority, except upon its dissolution. (§15.2-6415)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>PARKS/RECREATIONAL</i>		<i>MEDICAL/HEALTH</i>			
	Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
<u>ALTERATION/TERMINATION</u>						
<i>Changes in Jurisdictional Membership/Service Area</i>	Any locality may join an existing authority and any member may withdraw before any obligation has been incurred. (§15.2-5602)	Any locality may join an authority after it has been established and any member locality may withdraw. However, no member may withdraw after obligations have been incurred and those obligations remain binding. (§15.2-5702)	Not applicable.	No provisions for changing the composition of the commission.	Not applicable.	The council in any city with more than one district may consolidate the districts. (§32.1-188)
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**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i>				<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i>		
	Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<u>ALTERATION/TERMINATION</u>							
<i>Changes in Jurisdictional Membership/Service Area</i>	State Soil and Water Conservation Board may enlarge boundaries, upon receipt of a petition from the governing body not included in the district and concurred in by the district directors or upon receipt of a petition from the residents of the jurisdiction not part of the district. (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-507)	After final establishment of the district, if it becomes apparent that lands not included in the district are benefited by the project, those lands can be assessed for the cost of the improvements, which, in effect, brings them into the district. (§21-345)	A jurisdiction may withdraw within one year of creation of the district, but must give notice of its intent to do so within six months after creation of the district. Withdrawal of jurisdiction is allowed if the State Health Commissioner determines if the withdrawing locality has taken sufficient steps to construct its own sewage disposal system. District commission must also be satisfied that withdrawing locality has taken sufficient steps to prevent pollution. If the district commission does not agree, the withdrawing locality may petition court to determine if it may withdraw from district. If a city withdraws, it must treat sewage of adjacent county or town, if requested to do so by the commission or the governing body of the county or town. (§§21-203 - 21-211)	No provisions for changing composition of district.	Any political subdivision may join authority on terms agreed to by subdivision and current members. Any member may withdraw, but if any obligation has been incurred by the authority, unanimous consent of other members is required for withdrawal. (§53.1-95.5)	Procedures for addition and withdrawal of members to be included in the agreement establishing the authority. (§15.2-1747)	Additional jurisdictions may join upon recommendation of the commission and with the approval of the governing bodies of the current local government members. No provisions for withdrawal. (§16.1-316)
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**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</i>		Community Development Authority (§§15.2-5251 - 15.2-5158) ¹	Electric Authority (§§15.2-5400 - 15.2-5431)	Redevelopment and Housing Authority (§§36-1 - 36-55.1)	<i>TRANSPORTATION</i>
	Sanitary District (§§21-112.22 - 21-140.3)	Public Service Authority (§§15.2-5100 - 15.2-5151)				Transportation District (§§15.2-4500 - 15.2-4534)
<i>Prescribed Duration</i>	None Specified.	50 years, but may be extended by member jurisdictions for up to another 50 years. However, an authority shall continue in existence even after term has expired until all obligations have been paid or assumed by member jurisdictions. (§§15.2-5109 and 15.2-5114)	Same as public service authority	None Specified.	None Specified.	None Specified.
<i>Dissolution Provisions</i>	May be dissolved by judge, upon petition of county governing body and at least 50 residents of district, followed by hearing. The following conditions must be satisfied before dissolution: 1. All bonds issued must have been redeemed and purposes for which district created have been completed; or 2. All obligations and functions of district have been taken over by county as a whole; or 3. Purposes for which district created are impractical or impossible and no obligations incurred. (§21-117.1)	When authority determines that purpose has been accomplished or is impractical, or purpose has been taken over by jurisdictions and all of its obligations have been paid or assumed by jurisdictions, it shall notify members. If they concur, authority is dissolved. If one or more jurisdictions refuse to concur in dissolution, authority may petition court to order objecting jurisdiction to create new authority. Court may issue such order, specifying division of assets and obligations. (§15.2-5109)	Same as public service authority	May be dissolved by board of directors and member governmental units whenever they determine the purposes of the authority have been fulfilled or cannot be fulfilled, and if all bonds and obligations have been paid or if sufficient cash is on deposit for their payment. (§15.2-5428)	No provisions for dissolution.	No provisions for dissolution.

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>TRANSPORTATION (cont'd.)</i>				Airport Authority (§§5.1-31 - 5.1-46)	<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</i>	
	Local Transportation Improvement District (§§33.1-409 - 33.1-425)	Transportation Service District (§§15.2-4800 - 15.2-4815) ²	Multicounty Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4600 - 15.2-4618) ²	Individual Locality Transportation Improvement District (§§15.2-4700 - 15.2-4715) ²		Industrial Development Authority (§§15.2-4900 - 15.2-4920)	Regional Industrial Facility Authority (§§15.2-6400 - 15.2-6416)
<i>Prescribed Duration</i>	35 years, if not dissolved sooner. (§33.1-410)	35 years, if not dissolved sooner. (§15.2-4603)	35 years, if not dissolved sooner. (§15.2-4802)	35 years, if not dissolved sooner. (§15.2-4702)	None Specified.	None Specified.	None Specified.
<i>Dissolution Provisions</i>	May be dissolved by governing bodies of localities in which district lies, upon petition of commission and petition of 51% of the owners of land area located within the district. Governing body must be satisfied that dissolution is in the best interests of property owners and residents, is in furtherance of local comprehensive plan, that purpose of the district has been fulfilled, and that all debts have been paid or will be assumed by local governing bodies. (§33.1-424)	May be dissolved by board of supervisors, upon petition of 51% of the owners of land area or assessed value located in the district, which is either unimproved or zoned for commercial or industrial purposes. Governing body must be satisfied that dissolution is in the best interests of property owners and residents, is in furtherance of local comprehensive plan, that purpose of the district has been fulfilled, and that all debts have been paid or will be assumed by the county. (§15.2-4813)	May be dissolved by boards of supervisors, upon joint petition of the commission and of 51% of the owners of land area located in the district in each county. Governing bodies must be satisfied that dissolution is in the best interests of property owners and residents, is in furtherance of local comprehensive plan, that purpose of the district has been fulfilled, and that all debts have been paid or will be assumed by the counties. (§15.2-4616)	May be dissolved by local governing body, upon petition of the commission and of 51% of the owners of land area or assessed value located in the district in each county. Governing body must be satisfied that dissolution is in the best interests of property owners and residents, is in furtherance of local comprehensive plan, that purpose of the district has been fulfilled, and that all debts have been paid or will be assumed by the local governing body. (§15.2-4813)	No provisions for dissolution.	May be dissolved by local government, upon resolution from authority directors stating that purposes of authority have been fulfilled. Dissolution conditioned upon all bonds and obligations having fully paid. (§15.2-4914)	May be dissolved if authority's board adopts resolution, after finding that the purpose for the authority has been fulfilled or impossible to accomplish. Resolution must be delivered to Governor and General Assembly must pass legislation for dissolution to be effected. (§15.2-6415)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	PARKS/RECREATIONAL Public Recreational Facilities Authority (§§15.2-5600 - 15.2-5616)	Park Authority (§§15.2-5700 - 15.2-5714)	MEDICAL/HEALTH Hospital Authority (§§15.2-5300 - 15.2-5367)	Hospital or Health Center Commission (§§15.2-5200 - 15.2-5218)	Behavioral Health Authority (§§37.1-242 - 37.1-253)	Mosquito Control District (§§32.1-187 - 32.1-197)
Prescribed Duration	Term of existence to be specified by participating localities. (§15.2-5604)	Term of existence to be specified by participating localities. (§15.2-5704)	None specified.	None specified.	None specified.	None specified.
Dissolution Provisions	May be dissolved by local governing bodies, upon resolution from the authority's directors stating that the purposes of the authority have been fulfilled. Dissolution conditioned upon all bonds and obligations having been fully paid. (§15.2-5616)	No provisions for dissolution.	May be dissolved by a court upon petition by commissioners asserting that the need for the authority no longer exists. Court shall approve plan for ending business of the authority, payment or assumption of obligations, and transfer of assets. (§15.2-5365)	May be dissolved by a court upon petition by commissioners asserting that the need for the authority no longer exists. Court shall approve plan for ending business of the authority, payment or assumption of obligations, and transfer of assets. (§15.2-5216)	May be dissolved by a court upon petition by directors asserting that the need for the authority no longer exists. Court shall approve plan for ending business of the authority, payment or assumption of obligations, and transfer of assets. Plan must also describe how localities intend to provide mental health services for residents. (§15.2-5216)	No specific provisions for dissolution. However, when commission determines that accumulated funds no longer are needed for mosquito control, it may transfer funds to treasury of their governmental source. (§32.1-196)

**DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN VIRGINIA
Principal Characteristics**

	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL</i> Soil and Water Conservation District (§§10.1-506 - 10.1-571)	Drainage District (§§21-292 - 21-426)	Sanitation District-- Tidal Waters (§§21-141 - 21-223)	Sanitation District-- Non-Tidal Waters (§§21-224 - 21-290)	<i>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</i> Jail Authority (§§53.1-95.2 - 53.1-95.24)	Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy (§§15.2-1747 - 15.2-1753)	Regional Juvenile Detention Commission (§§16.1-315 - 16.1-322)
<i>Prescribed Duration</i>	Perpetual succession, until terminated. (§10.1-548)	None specified.	None specified.	None specified.	None Specified.	To be set out in the agreement establishing the authority. (§15.2-1747)	None Specified.
<i>Dissolution Provisions</i>	Any time two years after the organization of the district, any 25 landowners may file a petition requesting dissolution of the district. The Soil and Water Conservation Board must hold referendum on the question of dissolution. The results of the referendum are not absolutely binding on the Board, except that it may continue the district only if a majority voted in favor. If district is dissolved, liabilities and responsibilities revert to State Board. (§§10.1-553 - 10.1-559)	No provisions for dissolution.	No provisions for dissolution.	No provisions for dissolution.	No provisions for dissolution.	No provisions for dissolution.	No provisions for dissolution.

1. The legislation authorizing community development authorities is a separate article with the chapter authorizing public service authorities. Many of the provisions of that chapter relevant to public service authorities in general are also
2. These sections are not set out in full in the Code of Virginia. For the text of the sections, see Chapter 587, Acts of the Assembly 1997.