

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For Immediate Release  
June 21, 2023

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## New General Assembly Building to open later in 2023

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Virginia General Assembly today announced it would not move into the new General Assembly Building (GAB) until later this year in anticipation of a possible special session.

The General Assembly had planned to move into the new building last fall, but supply chain issues threatened completion of the building in appropriate time to fully prepare for a successful 2023 legislative session. The body decided to remain in the Pocahontas Building through at least this spring due to supply chain delays.

While contractors constructing the building under the oversight of the Department of General Services (DGS) continue to experience some delays in receiving equipment, alternative solutions have been implemented in most instances. However, required life safety equipment failed testing and, as a result, one of the building's stairwells has not met building code requirements this spring. DGS and the construction team are working to remedy that issue as quickly as possible.

While it would be possible to partially open the new GAB without use of the affected stairwell until the issue is resolved, the General Assembly decided to remain in the Pocahontas Building until such time as limitations would not be required on the number of people in the building. The highest priority was to guarantee an efficient and effective special session, should one be called later this summer. General Assembly members, their staff and House and Senate support staff will move into the building later this year once all issues are remedied.

“Similar to last fall, we find ourselves faced with delivering to the General Assembly a building that is not fully operational, thoroughly tested and ready to conduct the important business of the body. While we could open the building by working around the issues we face, the General Assembly is making the prudent decision to delay until the facility is 100 percent ready to accommodate elected officials, employees and visitors,” said **DGS Director Joe Damico**. “We remain wholly committed to working with our contractors to deliver a building worthy of the consequential work that will be conducted within its walls.”

The General Assembly will announce the building opening to the public at a later date.

Legislative offices moved out of the old General Assembly Building in 2017 for construction of the new building. Constructed on the same footprint as the building it replaced, the new GAB is 414,000 square feet with 14 stories above grade and one below. The Modern Classical design incorporates the existing original 1912 facade, which was stabilized in place during demolition. The lower four floors include various public functions, including committee rooms, a cafeteria and other useful meeting facilities. It will be connected via tunnels to the new parking deck at the corner of Broad and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets and to the Capitol's underground Visitor's Center.

For more information, visit <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>.

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