



Welcome to your daily legislative update and action alert brought to you by Virginia Institute Action, co-host of the Tuesday Morning Group.

## Thursday, 22 February 2024

Dear Patriot,

Below you will see sections of legislation that we support or oppose, with pertinent information related to each. Each weekday of the session our legislative update from Virginia Institute Action will follow a similar format. Thank you for actively participating in government as "We the People!"

## EDUCATION

### SUPPORT

**TODAY, Thursday, 2/22, the following bill is on the agenda of the Senate Education and Health Committee.** This committee meets on Thursday mornings at 8:30AM in Senate Room A, General Assembly Building.

We **SUPPORT** HB 659 - The original version of this bill would have established open enrollment for public schools in Virginia. After being amended, the bill directs the Department of Education to publish guidelines and best practices about open enrollment for the localities that choose to offer open enrollment within their district. It also reiterates that Virginia law already prohibits charging tuition for students participating in open enrollment.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

To view a full list of all the bills that will be voted on in this committee meeting [CLICK HERE](#) to see the agenda.

Please **CALL** and **EMAIL** these Senators and ask them to **Vote YES on HB 659**. Thank you!

<b>Chair:</b> Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi (D)	(804) 698-7515	<a href="mailto:senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov">senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov</a>
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Senator Lamont Bagby (D)	(804) 698-1092	<a href="mailto:senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov">senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Jennifer B. Boysko (D)	(804) 698-7538	<a href="mailto:senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov">senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Christie New Craig (R)	(804) 698-7519	<a href="mailto:senatorcraig@senate.virginia.gov">senatorcraig@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Tara A. Durant (R)	(804) 698-7527	<a href="mailto:senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov">senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Barbara A. Favola (D)	(804) 698-7540	<a href="mailto:senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov">senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Christopher T. Head (R)	(804) 698-7503	<a href="mailto:senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov">senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Mamie E. Locke (D)	(804) 698-7523	<a href="mailto:senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov">senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator L. Louise Lucas (D)	(804) 698-7518	<a href="mailto:senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov">senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Mark J. Peake (R)	(804) 698-7508	<a href="mailto:senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov">senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Stella G. Pekarasky (D)	(804) 698-7536	<a href="mailto:senatorpekarasky@senate.virginia.gov">senatorpekarasky@senate.virginia.gov</a>
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Senator David R. Suetterlein (R)	(804) 698-7504	<a href="mailto:senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov">senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Schuyler T. VanValkenburg (D)	(804) 698-7516	<a href="mailto:senatorvanvalkenburg@senate.virginia.gov">senatorvanvalkenburg@senate.virginia.gov</a>

## ELECTIONS

### OPPOSE

**TODAY, Thursday, 2/22, the following bill is on the agenda of the House Transportation Committee.** This committee meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9AM in House Committee Room B-205, General Assembly Building.

We **OPPOSE** SB 246 (similar to [HB 1454](#)) - This bill eliminates identifying features used to distinguish between citizen and non-citizen state-issued driver's permits and ID cards, which could facilitate non-citizens voting.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

To view a full list of all the bills that will be voted on in this committee meeting [CLICK HERE](#) to see the agenda.

Please **CALL** and **EMAIL** these Delegates and ask them to **Vote NO on SB 246**. Thank you!

<b>Chair:</b> Delegate Karrie K. Delaney (D)	(804) 698-1009	<a href="mailto:DelKDelaney@house.virginia.gov">DelKDelaney@house.virginia.gov</a>
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Delegate Eric R. Zehr (R)	(804) 698-1051	<a href="mailto:DelEZehr@house.virginia.gov">DelEZehr@house.virginia.gov</a>

## SENATE FLOOR

**Status:** TODAY, Thursday, 2/22, the following bills are on the Senate second reading calendar. They are expected to be on the third reading calendar tomorrow, Friday, 2/23, and receive a floor vote.

We **OPPOSE** HB 26 - This bill expands the list of accepted forms of identification to be presented when voting. Currently, although there is a list of accepted IDs, no ID is required to vote. Any registered voter who arrives at a polling location without an accepted form of identification, or with no ID at all, can sign a statement confirming that they are the registered voter that they say that they are, and then they are permitted to vote. This statement makes the list of acceptable IDs seem like a formality; additionally, some people are concerned that the types of IDs that this bill approves are available to noncitizens.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** HB 441 - This bill expands the practice of curbside voting to not only individuals with a physical impairment but also those who have a mental impairment; this could significantly increase the use of curbside voting. When used at all, we believe the best practice is for curbside voting to be available only for individuals who need physical accommodations.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** HB 1408 - This bill takes a top-down approach to determining the appropriate number of early voting locations in each Virginia city and county, by directing the Department of Elections to create guidelines for localities to utilize regarding how many early voting locations should be open for early voting. These decisions are best made at the local level, where they are currently made, by the local election administrators who know their locality best.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSE** HB 1534 (similar to [SB 196](#)) - This bill would alter the procedure for challenging a voter registration. Currently, local registrars handle these cases, but this bill proposes court system oversight which would prevent any Election Day challenges. Registrars, who maintain up-to-date, accurate voter registration lists for their areas, should retain control over this process.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

Please **CALL** and **EMAIL** your Senator and ask them to **Vote NO on HB 26, HB 441, HB 1408 and HB 1534**. Thank you!

Contact Your Legislators!

**TODAY, Thursday, 2/22, the following bill is on the agenda of the Senate Transportation Committee.** This committee meets on Thursdays 15 minutes after Senate floor adjournment in Senate Room B, General Assembly Building.

We **OPPOSE** HB 1454 (similar to [SB 246](#)) - This bill eliminates identifying features used to distinguish between citizen and non-citizen state-issued driver's permits and ID cards, which could facilitate non-citizens voting.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

To view a full list of all the bills that will be voted on in this committee meeting [CLICK HERE](#) to see the agenda.

Please **CALL** and **EMAIL** these Senators and ask them to **Vote NO on HB 1454**. Thank you!

<b>Chair:</b> Senator Jennifer B. Boysko (D)	(804) 698-7538	<a href="mailto:senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov">senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov</a>
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Senator David R. Suetterlein (R)	(804) 698-7504	<a href="mailto:senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov">senatorsuetterlein@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Angelia Williams Graves (D)	(804) 698-7521	<a href="mailto:senatorwilliamsgraves@senate.virginia.gov">senatorwilliamsgraves@senate.virginia.gov</a>

**TOMORROW, Friday, 2/23, the following bill is on the agenda of the House Privileges and Elections Committee.** This committee meets on Friday mornings at 9AM in House Committee Room C-206, General Assembly Building.

We **OPPOSE** SB 364 - This bill proposes to create higher criminal penalties for intimidation, harassment, and other offenses against election officials and election office staff, continuing a debunked narrative that election officials frequently experience harassment and threats. Although there was an amendment to clarify that communication like politely asked questions couldn't be considered intimidation, there have been differing opinions about whether the language of the bill is clear that it would only apply to imminent harm and threats of bodily injury to election officials and couldn't be applied to benign communications. To protect citizens from inaccurate or subjective allegations, we oppose this bill.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

- [Radio interview](#) discussing this bill

To view a full list of all the bills that will be voted on in this committee meeting [CLICK HERE](#) to see the agenda.

Please **CALL** and **EMAIL** these Delegates and ask them to **Vote NO on SB 364**. Thank you!

<b>Chair:</b> Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price (D)	(804) 698-1085	<a href="mailto:DelMPrice@house.virginia.gov">DelMPrice@house.virginia.gov</a>
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## HEALTHCARE

### OPPOSE

**TODAY, Thursday, 2/22, the following bill is on the agenda of the Senate Education and Health Committee.** This committee meets on Thursday mornings at 8:30AM in Senate Room A, General Assembly Building.

We **OPPOSE** HB 570 - This bill creates a Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Under this proposed legislation, the Board will be given authority to limit drug payment amounts and reimbursements to an upper payment limit amount for state sponsored and state regulated health plans.

- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

To view a full list of all the bills that will be voted on in this committee meeting [CLICK HERE](#) to see the agenda.

Please **CALL** and **EMAIL** these Senators and ask them to **Vote NO on HB 570**. Thank you!

<b>Chair:</b> Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi (D)	(804) 698-7515	<a href="mailto:senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov">senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov</a>
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Senator Lamont Bagby (D)	(804) 698-1092	<a href="mailto:senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov">senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Jennifer B. Boysko (D)	(804) 698-7538	<a href="mailto:senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov">senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov</a>
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Senator Tara A. Durant (R)	(804) 698-7527	<a href="mailto:senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov">senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Barbara A. Favola (D)	(804) 698-7540	<a href="mailto:senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov">senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Christopher T. Head (R)	(804) 698-7503	<a href="mailto:senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov">senatorhead@senate.virginia.gov</a>
Senator Mamie E. Locke (D)	(804) 698-7523	<a href="mailto:senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov">senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov</a>
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### UPDATE

## ELECTIONS

We **OPPOSED** SB 606 (companion [HB 1177](#)) - This bill would require Virginia to re-join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). Although ERIC claims to be a service to help states keep accurate voter rolls, Virginia left ERIC last year after serious concerns over data privacy breaches and partisanship influence within the organization.

- Status:** Yesterday, Wednesday, 2/21, this bill was on the House third reading calendar and passed in a floor vote. It previously passed the Senate and next will be sent to the Governor's desk for his approval or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSED** SB 196 - This bill would alter the procedure for challenging a voter registration. Currently, local registrars handle these cases, but this bill proposes court system oversight which would prevent any Election Day challenges. Registrars, who maintain up-to-date, accurate voter registration lists for their areas, should retain control over this process.

- Status:** Yesterday, Wednesday, 2/21, this bill was on the House third reading calendar and passed in a floor vote. It previously passed the Senate and next will be sent to the Governor's desk for his approval or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

Contact Your Legislators!