



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

Monday, 26 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!"

ELECTIONS

HOUSE FLOOR

Status: TODAY, Monday, 2/26, the following bill is on the House second reading calendar. It is expected to be on the third reading calendar tomorrow and to receive a floor vote.

We **OPPOSE** SB 246 (similar to [HB 1454](#)) - This bill eliminates 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](#)

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

[Contact Your Legislators!](#)

TODAY, Monday, 2/26, the following bill is on the agenda of the House Election Administration Subcommittee. This committee meets on Monday afternoons at 4PM in House Subcommittee Room South, General Assembly Building.

We **OPPOSE** SB 428 - This bill expands the option for elections to be conducted by ranked choice voting to any race for local or constitutional office. Currently, ranked choice voting is only an option for City Council and Board of Supervisors races. Ranked choice voting creates unnecessary barriers for voters by making voting confusing and prone to errors, making vote counting extremely complicated and ensuring audits for these elections are difficult (if not *impossible*) to conduct.

- 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 MAIL** these Delegates and ask them to **Vote NO on SB 428**. Thank you!

Chair: Delegate Jackie H. Glass (D)	(804) 698-1093	DeJGlass@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Robert S. Bloxom, Jr. (R)	(804) 698-1000	DeRBloxom@house.virginia.gov
Delegate W. Chad Green (R)	(804) 698-1069	DeCGreen@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Rozia A. Henson, Jr. (D)	(804) 698-1019	DeRHenson@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Michelle Lopes Maldonado (D)	(804) 698-1020	DeLMMaldonado@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price (D)	(804) 698-1085	DeMPrice@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Mark D. Sickles (D)	(804) 698-1017	DeMSickles@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Kannan Srinivasan (D)	(804) 698-1026	DeKSrinivasan@house.virginia.gov
Delegate H. Otto Wachsmann, Jr. (R)	(804) 698-1083	DeOWachsmann@house.virginia.gov

TOMORROW, Tuesday, 2/27, the following bills are on the agenda of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee. This committee meets on Tuesday afternoons 15 minutes after adjournment of the Senate floor in Senate Room B, third floor, General Assembly Building.

We **SUPPORT** HB 1171 - This bill requires more timely processing of returned mail absentee ballots than the law currently requires. This protects voters, ensuring they have enough time to correct any written errors on their ballot before it is time for ballots to be counted.

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

We **OPPOSE** HB 939 - If passed, this bill would **prohibit a person from carrying a firearm within 100 feet of a voting location**, including a ballot drop box. In addition to the problem of restricting the right to bear arms, this bill could create a situation where someone accidentally violates the law simply by walking on the sidewalk near a drop box. The original text of this bill would have also prohibited a firearm in a vehicle that was within 100 feet of a voting location, but the bill was amended to eliminate that problem.

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

We **OPPOSE** HB 1490 - This bill would give power to local governing bodies (like the Board of Supervisors or City Council) to circumvent the local Electoral Boards and dictate the number, location, and hours of operation of early voting locations.

- 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 1171

and

Vote NO on HB 939 and HB 1490. Thank you!

Chair: Senator Aaron R. Rouse (D)	(804) 698-7522	senatorrouse@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Jennifer Carroll Foy (D)	(804) 698-7533	senatorcarrollfoy@senate.virginia.gov
Senator R. Creigh Deeds (D)	(804) 698-7511	senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov
Senator J.D. "Danny" Diggs (R)	(804) 698-7524	senatordiggs@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Bill DeSteph (R)	(804) 698-7520	senatordesteph@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Tara A. Durant (R)	(804) 698-7527	senatordurant@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Adam P. Ebbin (D)	(804) 698-7539	senatorebbin@senate.virginia.gov
Senator T. Travis Hackworth (R)	(804) 698-7505	senatorhackworth@senate.virginia.gov
Senator John J. McGuire, III (R)	(804) 698-7510	senatormcguire@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Russet Perry (D)	(804) 698-7531	senatorperry@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Saddam Azlan Salim (D)	(804) 698-7537	senatorsalim@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Glen H. Sturtevant, Jr. (R)	(804) 698-7512	senatorsturtevant@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Suhas Subramanyam (D)	(804) 698-7532	senatorsubramanyam@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Schuyler T. VanValkenburg (D)	(804) 698-7516	senatorvanvalkenburg@senate.virginia.gov

HEALTHCARE

OPPOSE

TODAY, Monday, 2/26, the following bill is on the agenda of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee. This committee meets on Mondays 15 minutes after adjournment of the Senate floor 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!

Chair: Senator R. Creigh Deeds (D)	(804) 698-7511	senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Lamont Bagby (R)	(804) 698-7514	senatorbagby@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Bill DeSteph (R)	(804) 698-7520	senatordesteph@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Adam P. Ebbin (D)	(804) 698-7539	senatorebbin@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Mamie E. Locke (D)	(804) 698-7523	senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
Senator L. Louise Lucas (D)	(804) 698-7518	senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Ryan T. McDougle (R)	(804) 698-7526	senatormcdougle@senate.virginia.gov
Senator David W. McRadden (D)	(804) 698-7535	senatormcradden@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Jeremy S. McPike (D)	(804) 698-7529	senatormcpike@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Mark D. Obenshain (R)	(804) 698-7502	senatorobenshain@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Mark J. Peake (R)	(804) 698-7508	senatorpeake@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Bryce E. Reeves (R)	(804) 698-7528	senatorreeves@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Aaron R. Rouse (D)	(804) 698-7522	senatorrouse@senate.virginia.gov
Senator William M. Stanley, Jr. (R)	(804) 698-7507	senatorstanley@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Scott A. Surovell (D)	(804) 698-7534	senatorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov

UPDATE

ELECTIONS

We **OPPOSED** 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. - **PASSED**

- Status: On Friday, 2/23, this bill passed in a Senate floor vote.** Previously this bill passed in the House and will now be sent to the Governor's desk for his approval or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSED** 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. - **PASSED**

- Status: On Friday, 2/23, this bill passed in a Senate floor vote.** Previously this bill passed in the House and will now be sent to the Governor's desk for his approval or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSED** 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. - **PASSED**

- Status: On Friday, 2/23, this bill passed in a Senate floor vote.** Previously this bill passed in the House and will now be sent to the Governor's desk for his approval or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSED** 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. - **PASSED**

- Status: On Friday, 2/23, this bill passed in a Senate floor vote.** Previously this bill passed in the House and will now be sent to the Governor's desk for his approval or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSED** 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 polite 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. - **VOTE DELAYED**

- Status: On Friday, 2/23, this bill was on the agenda of the House Privileges and Elections Committee, but did not receive a vote.** A member of the committee asked to delay the committee vote on this bill for one week to work on changing the bill to clarify that the provisions of the bill would apply to employees of election officials.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)
- [Radio interview](#) discussing this bill

HEALTHCARE

We **SUPPORTED** SB 277 - This bill would expand an expedited application and review process for Certificate of Public Need. - **PASSED**

- On Friday, 2/23, this bill was passed** in the House Rules Committee. Next, this bill will be sent to the House Appropriations Committee.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

[Contact Your Legislators!](#)

