



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

Tuesday, 27 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, Tuesday, 2/27, the following bill is on the House third reading calendar and is expected to receive a floor vote. Yesterday, this bill was on the House second reading calendar.

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, Tuesday, 2/27, the following bill is on the agenda of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. This committee meets on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in Senate Committee Room A, #305, third floor, General Assembly Building.

We **OPPOSE** HB 1177 (companion [SB 606](#)) - 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.

- 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 Senators and ask them to **Vote NO on HB 1177**. Thank you!

Chair: Senator L. Louise Lucas (D)	(804) 698-7518	senatorlucas@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Jennifer B. Boysko (D)	(804) 698-7538	senatorboysko@senate.virginia.gov
Senator R. Creigh Deeds (D)	(804) 698-7511	senatordeeds@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Adam P. Ebbin (D)	(804) 698-7539	senatorebbin@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Barbara A. Favola (D)	(804) 698-7540	senatorfavola@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi (D)	(804) 698-7515	senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Mamie E. Locke (D)	(804) 698-7523	senatorlocke@senate.virginia.gov
Senator David W. Marsden (D)	(804) 698-7535	senatormarsden@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Ryan T. McDougle (R)	(804) 698-7526	senatormcdougle@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 Todd E. Pillion (R)	(804) 698-7506	senatorpillion@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Bryce E. Reeves (R)	(804) 698-7528	senatorreeves@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Richard H. Stuart (R)	(804) 698-7525	senatorstuart@senate.virginia.gov
Senator Scott A. Surovell (D)	(804) 698-7534	senatorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov

TODAY, 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

UPDATE

ELECTIONS

We **OPPOSED** SB 428 - The original version of this bill would have allowed elections for local offices like school board to be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Currently, RCV is only an option for City Council and Board of Supervisors races. After being amended, the bill makes some minor adjustments related to races that are already permitted to be conducted using RCV. 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. - **PASSED**

- Status: Yesterday, Monday, 2/26, an amended version of this bill passed in the House Election Administration Subcommittee. The new substitute bill removed the language that would have allowed Ranked Choice Voting elections for more local offices. Next, this bill will be voted on by the full House Privileges and Elections Committee.

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

HEALTHCARE

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

- Status: Yesterday, Monday, 2/26, this bill passed in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee. Next, it will be voted on by the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

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

Contact Your Legislators!

