



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

Thursday, 29 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

SENATE FLOOR

Status: TODAY, Thursday, 2/29, the following bills are on the Senate second reading calendar. They are expected to be on the Senate third reading calendar tomorrow and receive a floor vote.

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. 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 **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 1454 (similar to [SB 246](#)) - 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 Senator and ask them to **Vote YES on HB 1171 and Vote NO on HB 939 & HB 1454**. Thank you!

THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Status: The following bills have passed both the House and the Senate and are set to be sent to the Governor for his approval or veto. Please call or email his office as soon as possible and ask that Governor Youngkin veto these bills.

We **OPPOSE** 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.

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

We **OPPOSE** SB 196 & HB 1534 - This bill would **alter the procedure for challenging a voter registration**. It would abolish the mechanism for a voter to challenge another voter's registration eligibility while at a polling place, shifting the responsibility of challenge oversight solely to the court system. In advocating for this, SB 196 and HB 1534 erect barriers that could impede the timely resolution of eligibility disputes. Registrars, who maintain up-to-date, accurate voter registration lists for their areas, should retain control over this process.

- SB 196 bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)
- HB 1534 bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

THE GOVERNOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: (804) 786-2211

Note: after dialing the number it will give you the option to leave a message or speak to someone live if they are in the office.

Email (click the hyperlink below or copy the email address to draft an email):

Glenn.youngkin@governor.virginia.gov

OR

Constituent.services@governor.virginia.gov

Please **CALL and EMAIL** the Governor and ask him to **VETO SB 606, SB 196, and HB 1534**. Thank you!

[Contact Your Legislators!](#)

HEALTHCARE

TODAY, Thursday, 2/29, the following bill is on the agenda of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. This committee meets regularly on Tuesday and Wednesday at 9AM and occasionally on Thursday in the late afternoon in Senate Committee Room A, #305, third floor, 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 MAIL** these Senators and ask them to **Vote NO on HB 570**. 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. McDougale (R)	(804) 698-7526	senatormcdougale@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) 698-7528	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

UPDATE

ELECTIONS

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

- Status: Yesterday, Wednesday, 2/28, this bill passed on the Senate floor.** This bill previously passed in the House and will now be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

We **OPPOSED** HB 1454 (similar to [SB 246](#)) - 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. - **PASSED**

- Status: Yesterday, Wednesday, 2/28, this bill passed in the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.** Today, Thursday, 2/29 this bill is on the Senate 2nd reading calendar. It is expected to be on the third reading calendar tomorrow, 03.01, and receive a floor vote.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

HEALTHCARE

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

- Status: Yesterday, Wednesday, 2/28, this bill passed in the House Appropriations Committee.**
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

[Contact Your Legislators!](#)

