



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

Friday, 1 March 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, Friday, 3/1, the following bills are on the Senate third reading calendar and are expected to receive a floor vote. Yesterday, 2/29, these bills were on the Senate second reading calendar.

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!

[Contact Your Legislators!](#)

TODAY, Friday, 3/1, the following bills are on the agenda of the House Privileges and Elections Committee. This committee is meeting today at 8:30AM in House Committee Room C-206.

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

We **OPPOSE** SB 428 - This bill, initially, would have expanded Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for more local offices. Currently, if a Board of Supervisors or City Council votes to approve RCV it can be used to conduct a Board of Supervisors race or a City Council race. This bill was written to expand that to permit other local office races to be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting. It also would require some minor changes to be made to processes for RCV local races that are currently permitted. This bill was amended so it no longer expands RCV to new local offices. Now, if passed, it only would establish the minor process changes for already permitted RCV races.

- 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 364 and SB 428**. Thank you!

Chair: Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price (D)	(804) 698-1085	DelMPrice@house.virginia.gov
Vice Chair: Delegate Kelly K. Convors-Fowler (D)	(804) 698-1096	DelKConvors-Fowler@House.virginia.gov
Delegate Bonita G. Anthony (D)	(804) 698-1092	DelBAnthony@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Robert S. Bloxom, Jr. (R)	(804) 698-1000	DelRBloxom@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Destiny LeVere Bolling (D)	(804) 698-1080	DelDLeverebolling@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Mike A. Cherry (R)	(804) 698-1074	DelMCherry@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Joshua G. Cole (D)	(804) 698-1065	DelJCole@house.virginia.gov
Delegate C. Todd Gilbert (R)	(804) 698-1033	DelTGilbert@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Jackie H. Glass (D)	(804) 698-1093	DelJGlass@house.virginia.gov
Delegate W. Chad Green (R)	(804) 698-1069	DelCGreen@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Rozia A. Henson, Jr. (D)	(804) 698-1019	DelRHenson@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Paul E. Krizek (D)	(804) 698-1016	DelPKrizek@house.virginia.gov
Delegate James A. "Jay" Leftwich (R)	(804) 698-1090	DelJLeftwich@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Michelle Lopes Maldonado (D)	(804) 698-1020	DelMMaldonado@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Paul V. Milde (R)	(804) 698-1064	DelPMilde@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Israel D. O'Quinn (R)	(804) 698-1044	DelIOQuinn@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Eric Phillips (R)	(804) 698-1048	DelEPhillips@house.virginia.gov
Delegate David A. Reid (D)	(804) 698-1028	DelDReid@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Phillip A. Scott (R)	(804) 698-1063	DelPScott@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Mark D. Sickles (D)	(804) 698-1017	DelMSickles@house.virginia.gov
Delegate Kannan Srinivasan (D)	(804) 698-1026	DelKSrinivasan@house.virginia.gov
Delegate H. Otto Wachsmann, Jr. (R)	(804) 698-1083	DelOWachsmann@house.virginia.gov

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 & HB 1177 - These bills 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 - These bills 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](#)

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](#)

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 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 place with an expedited application and review process for Certificate of Public Need. 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](#)

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 HB 26, HB 1177, HB 1408, SB 246, SB 606, SB 196, and HB 1534**. Thank you!

HEALTHCARE

HOUSE FLOOR

Status: TODAY, Friday, 3/1, the following bill is on the House second reading calendar. It is expected to be on the third reading calendar on Monday, 3/4, and to receive a floor vote.

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

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

Please **CALL** and **EMAIL** your Delegate and ask them to **Vote YES on SB 277**. Thank you!

UPDATE

HEALTHCARE

We **OPPOSED** HB 570 - This bill would create 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.

- Status: Yesterday, Thursday, 2/29, this bill passed in the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.** Next, this bill will be sent to the Senate floor for a vote.
- To see bill text and info: [Click HERE](#)

[Contact Your Legislators!](#)

