

Governor's Amendments and Vetoes

2025 Session of the General Assembly

The Governor vetoed 157 bills and recommended amendments to 160 bills passed by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly. The Division of Legislative Services staff prepared the following summaries of the Governor's recommendations to assist General Assembly members during their deliberations at the Reconvened Session on April 2. Not summarized in this publication are the Governor's recommended amendments to the budget bill.

Governor's Amendments

House Bills

HB 1589. Powers and duties of Parole Board; voting requirements; meetings. The enrolled bill removes various references to postrelease supervision and instead includes such references and related procedures in the provisions that govern probation so that such procedures, including revocation hearings, will be overseen and conducted by the sentencing circuit court instead of the Virginia Parole Board. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) reinstates references to postrelease supervision throughout the bill but retains that the sentencing circuit court is responsible for the oversight of any procedures or hearings of those serving a term of postrelease supervision.

The Governor's Substitute also authorizes a probation officer to arrest a felon serving a period of postrelease supervision without a warrant. Currently, a probation officer has this authority over a probationer only.

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HB 1601. Siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility. The Governor's amendments (i) make the requirement for certain site assessments prior to local siting decisions for proposed high energy use facilities a local option rather than mandatory and (ii) add a reenactment clause. SB 1449, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

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HB 1609. Health insurance; coverage for fertility services; essential health benefits benchmark plan. The enrolled bill requires the Health Insurance Reform Commission to consider coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of infertility and for standard fertility preservation procedures in its 2025 review of the essential health benefits benchmark plan. The Governor's amendment adds that the Commission shall not recommend fertility coverage apply to any nongovernmental plan sponsor that is exempt under federal or state law based on sincerely held religious or ethical beliefs.

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HB 1614. Department of Medical Assistance Services; state plan for medical assistance services; postpartum doula care; report. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to amend the state plan for medical assistance services to include a provision for payment for up to 10 doula visits, with up to four doula visits during pregnancy and up to six doula visits during the 12 months after the individual gives birth. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes references to "birthing individual(s)" and replaces them with "women" or "mother" and removes the requirement that the provision of postpartum doula care include culturally appropriate and individualized care. The Governor's Substitute also removes the requirement for an annual report and instead directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to provide information to the Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures. SB 1418, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1630. Discovery. The Governor's amendments (i) add a reenactment clause to the provisions of the enrolled bill and (ii) direct the Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board or his designee, in coordination with the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, to convene a work group to determine (a) the costs associated with any changes in operations and technology infrastructure necessary to implement the provisions of the enrolled bill if reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly and (b) whether the sensitive personal information of citizens identified in police reports that will be subject to mandatory disclosure to individuals charged with criminal offenses is adequately and properly protected. The Governor's amendments direct the work group to submit a report of its findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025. SB 963, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

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HB 1642. Use of artificial intelligence-based tool. The enrolled bill requires that the recommendations or predictions provided by any artificial intelligence-based tool shall not be the sole basis for any decision related to pre-trial detention or release, prosecution, adjudication, sentencing, probation, parole, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation of criminal offenders, provided that any such decision is made by the judicial officer or other person charged with making such decision. The enrolled bill also provides that the use of any artificial intelligence-based tool shall be subject to any challenge or objection as permitted by law. The Governor's amendments add clarifying language regarding a human decision-maker and remove the requirement that the use of any artificial intelligence-based tool be subject to any challenge or objection as permitted by law.

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HB 1649. Board of Medicine; continuing education; unconscious bias and cultural competency. The enrolled bill directs the Board of Medicine to require that all persons licensed by the Board complete unconscious bias and cultural competency training as part of their continuing education requirements for renewal of licensure and requires the Board of Medicine to report the number of licensees who have successfully completed such training to the

Department of Health and the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes references to unconscious bias and cultural competency, specifies that requirements for the continuing learning activities be limited to those licensees who work with maternal populations, and requires that the continuing learning activities address health care during pregnancy and the postpartum period for all women and infants, especially those populations that experience significantly greater than average maternal mortality, postpartum complications, and infant mortality. The Governor's Substitute further requires the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative to make training resources available and for licensees subject to such continuing learning activities requirement to complete such training by the later of one year after obtaining such license or July 1, 2026. SB 740, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1665. Fines, restitution, forfeiture, penalties, and other costs; criminal and traffic cases; itemized statement. The enrolled bill requires a clerk of the court to provide (i) an itemized statement to any defendant convicted of a traffic infraction or a violation of any criminal law of the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision thereof, or found not innocent in the case of a juvenile, who is sentenced to pay a fine, restitution, forfeiture, or penalty or assessed any other costs in the circuit court or appropriate district court of his county or city at the time such fine, restitution, forfeiture, penalty, or other costs are assessed, or within a reasonable time after assessment, or (ii) an updated statement of the outstanding balances of any fines, forfeiture, and penalties, restitution and costs, or payment history upon request of the defendant. The Governor's amendments require that a defendant request such itemized or updated statement in writing and permit such writing to be electronic.

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HB 1675. Board of Medicine; continuing education; unconscious bias and cultural competency. The enrolled bill directs the Board of Medicine to require that all persons licensed by the Board complete unconscious bias and cultural competency training as part of their continuing education requirements for renewal of licensure and requires the Board of Medicine to report on the training to the Department of Health. The enrolled bill was a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes references to unconscious bias and cultural competency, specifies that requirements for the continuing learning activities be limited to those licensees who work with maternal populations, and requires that the continuing learning activities address health care during pregnancy and the postpartum period for all women and infants, especially those populations that indicate experience significantly greater than average maternal mortality, postpartum complications, and infant mortality. The Governor's Substitute further requires the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative to make training resources available and for licensees subject to such continuing learning activities requirement to complete such training by the later of one year after obtaining such license or July 1, 2026. If the Governor's Substitutes to this bill and HB 1649, which are not identical as enrolled, are adopted, the bills will be identical.

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HB 1678. School board policies; parental notification; safe storage of prescription drugs and firearms in the household. The enrolled bill requires each local school board to develop and implement a policy to require the annual notification of the parent of each student enrolled in the local school division, to be sent by email and, if applicable, SMS text message within 30 calendar days succeeding the first day of each school year, of the importance of securely storing any prescription drug, as defined in relevant law, present in the household and the parent's legal responsibility to safely store any firearm present in the household. The Governor's amendments also require local school boards to develop protocols by which each public elementary or secondary school principal or his designee shall, as soon as practicable, (i) inform at least one parent of a minor student enrolled in such school if such minor requests that any school employee participate while at school in (a) social affirmation of the minor student's gender incongruence or (b) the transition of such minor to a felt or stated gender different from the minor student's biological sex and (ii) request and receive permission from at least one parent of a minor student enrolled at such school prior to the implementation at such school of any plan concerning any gender incongruence experienced by such minor, including any counseling of such minor at school that includes a provision for parental participation. SB 1048, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

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HB 1699. Tax exemptions; Confederacy organizations. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause and, not subject to the reenactment clause, directs the Department of Taxation to report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2025, regarding a review of certain revenue impacts related to the exemptions to the state recordation tax and certain exemptions to real and personal property taxes.

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HB 1712. Department of Criminal Justice Services; training on certain arrests. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish a training course for law-enforcement agencies and officers and special conservators of the peace on the discretion such officers and special conservators of the peace can exercise regarding certain arrests. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) requires the Department to establish a "training curriculum" rather than a "training course" and changes from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027, the required date for completion of such curriculum by the Department. The Governor's Substitute moves the required review date for current law-enforcement officers from prior to January 1, 2027, to prior to January 1, 2028, and for future law-enforcement officers to within one year of their date of hire. The Governor's Substitute also moves from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027, the date by which the Criminal Justice Services Board must promulgate regulations pursuant to relevant law requiring special conservators of the peace to review such curriculum and moves the deadline for persons applying for an initial or renewal registration as special conservators of the peace from on or after January 1, 2027, to on or after

July 1, 2027, to review such curriculum as part of their compulsory training standards. SB 1194, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1716. Contraception; right to contraception; applicability; enforcement. The enrolled bill establishes a right to obtain contraceptives and engage in contraception, as such terms are defined in the bill, clarifies that none of its provisions shall be construed to permit or sanction the performance of any sterilization procedure without a patient's voluntary and informed consent, and creates a cause of action that may be instituted against anyone who infringes on such right.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) states that it is the public policy of the Commonwealth that individuals possess the right to contraception as set forth in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 479 (1965) and *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, 405 U.S. 438 (1972). The Governor's Substitute establishes a religious exception that specifies that no private institution or physician shall be prohibited from refusing to provide contraception if such refusal is based upon religious or conscientious objection. SB 1105, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1721. Condemnation of conservation or open-space easement; compensation; Uniform Easement Relocation Act established. The enrolled bill provides that the portion of the bill creating the Uniform Easement Relocation Act is subject to reenactment by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly and directs the Boyd-Graves Conference to conduct a study on the provisions of such Act and report any findings to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees for Courts of Justice by November 1, 2025. The Governor's amendments provide that the remaining provisions of the bill relating to the condemnation of conservation or open-space easements are also subject to such 2026 reenactment and Boyd-Graves Conference study.

The Governor's amendments also provide that agencies of the Commonwealth are exempt from the compensation requirements established in the portion of the bill relating to the condemnation of conservation or open-space easements; under the enrolled bill, only natural gas utilities and natural-gas companies are exempt.

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HB 1723. Department of Social Services; improving access to and maximizing participation in federal food assistance programs; work group; report. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Social Services to convene a work group to evaluate methods to improve access and maximize participation in all federal public assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture relating to assistance with food access and improving food security. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute applies to all federal public assistance programs, not just those administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and includes improving assistance through Virginia CommonHelp as a method to improve access to and maximize participation in federal public assistance programs to be evaluated by the work group.

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HB 1725. Medical Debt Protection Act established; prohibited practices; penalties. The enrolled bill creates the Medical Debt Protection Act to prohibit a large health care facility or medical debt buyer, as those terms are defined in the enrolled bill, from using certain extraordinary collection actions to collect medical debt or from charging interest or late fees on medical debt until 90 days following the due date applicable to the final invoice. The enrolled bill specifies that no such interest or late fees shall exceed three percent of the amount of such medical debt per annum and that a violation of its provisions constitutes a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (i) removes from the list of restricted extraordinary collection actions the sale of an individual's medical debt to another party, (ii) removes a provision that a medical creditor that sells medical debt remains liable for any actions taken by the medical debt buyer in relation to such medical debt, and (iii) provides that the bill's provisions apply only to medical debt incurred on or after July 1, 2026, which is the effective date of the bill.

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HB 1730. Civil actions; liability of employer for personal injury or death by wrongful act. The enrolled bill provides that an employer may be found vicariously liable for any tortious conduct of an employee against a vulnerable victim for personal injury or death by wrongful act when such vulnerable victim brings a civil action against such employee. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) narrows the scope of such vicarious liability to an action committed by an employee against a vulnerable victim that would constitute criminal sexual assault, abuse or neglect of a child, or malicious wounding of a minor.

The enrolled bill includes in the definition of "vulnerable victim" passengers of certain common carriers. The Governor's Substitute removes this portion of the definition and adds to the definition a vulnerable adult as defined in relevant law. SB 894, which is similar as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1766. Unemployment compensation; increase weekly benefit amounts; work group; report. The enrolled bill provides that for unemployment compensation claims effective on or after January 1, 2026, an eligible individual's weekly benefit amount shall be \$100 higher than the current weekly benefit amount, as denoted in the table in the printed bill. The enrolled bill also provides that, beginning July 1, 2025, for claims effective on or after July 1, 2025, an eligible individual's weekly unemployment compensation benefit amount shall be paid for a maximum duration of 26 weeks. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) reduces the increase in an eligible individual's weekly benefit amount from \$100 to \$52, as denoted in the table in the printed bill, and removes the provision that such amount shall be paid for a maximum duration of 26 weeks. SB 1056, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1796. Corporations; decentralized autonomous organizations. The enrolled bill creates a regulatory framework for decentralized autonomous organizations, defined in the bill as a distinct legal entity that operates through blockchain-based governance frameworks, incorporating self-executing smart contracts and decentralized decision-making mechanisms, and includes a reenactment clause. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) does not create such regulatory framework but instead directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS), in coordination with the State Corporation Commission, to conduct a study to determine the impact and implementation of decentralized autonomous organizations in the Commonwealth and to submit a report of its recommendations and findings by December 1, 2025. The Governor's Substitute also removes the reenactment clause.

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HB 1821. Electric utilities; accelerated renewable energy buyers; zero-carbon electricity; energy storage resources. The enrolled bill permits an accelerated renewable energy buyer to (i) obtain bundled capacity, energy, and renewable energy certificates from solar or wind electricity generation resources under certain conditions and (ii) offset all or a portion of their capacity needs through the procurement of energy storage resources under certain conditions. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute permits such buyers to obtain bundled capacity, energy, and renewable energy certificates from zero-carbon electricity generation resources, as well as solar and wind, and provides that, for such buyers contracting to obtain energy storage capacity, the storage facility shall be located within Appalachian Power or Dominion Energy's service territory.

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HB 1824. High school graduation requirements; history and social studies credits; certain substitutions permitted. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause. SB 1462, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

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HB 1833. Small Family Day Home Provider Incentive Pilot Program established. The enrolled bill establishes the four-year Small Family Day Home Provider Incentive Pilot Program (the Pilot Program) whereby funds are provided to the Ready Region Chesapeake Bay lead to work in conjunction with public and private partners, to cover the cost of hiring a Navigator focused on providing training and support to small family day homes in the region and provide incentive payments to any small family day home in the region that meets the criteria set forth in the bill. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) adds a reenactment clause to the provisions of the bill establishing the Pilot Program. The Governor's Substitute also adds a third enactment clause, which shall become effective in due course, directing the Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education, to (i) study and make recommendations on (a) the feasibility and potential cost of implementing and administering the Pilot Program in accordance with the provisions of the bill; (b) the impact of the Pilot Program on the availability of child care in the

Commonwealth, particularly for military families and other hard-to-serve families; and (c) the scalability of the Pilot Program necessary to meet child care demands and (ii) submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations no later than December 1, 2025.

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HB 1835. Professions and occupations; regulation of geologists; licensure; penalty. The Governor's amendments add a reenactment clause.

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HB 1844. Baby Food Protection Act; testing and labeling requirements for toxic heavy metals; work group; report. The enrolled bill requires a manufacturer of a baby food product to meet certain testing requirements, including that tests for a toxic heavy metal be conducted at least once a month. The Governor's amendments require such tests to be conducted periodically and at least twice per year.

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HB 1883. Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements; power purchase agreements. The enrolled bill amends certain renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) program requirements for Dominion Energy Virginia, including (i) the annual percentage of program requirements to be met with behind-the meter solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion resources of three megawatts or less located in the Commonwealth and (ii) the date by which 75 percent of such requirements shall be met with resources located in the Commonwealth. The enrolled bill also removes the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third party power purchase agreement under a pilot program. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) exempts Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia from certain RPS requirements for the compliance years 2024 through 2027. The Governor's Substitute also removes certain provisions of the enrolled bill relating to amending the percentages of RPS program requirements for behind-the-meter resources and restores the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third party power purchase agreement under a pilot program. SB 1040, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1888. Immunity of persons for tort actions based on statements made in connection with any formal review or hearing. The enrolled bill adds to the tort actions for which an individual shall be immune pursuant to applicable law any tort action based solely on a statement made at or in connection with any formal review or hearing authorized by law, including a written or oral statement made pursuant to a report or complaint that is not one of the public hearings enumerated in current law. The Governor's amendment replaces the additional

immunity granted under the enrolled bill with any tort action based solely on a statement made at a Title IX hearing before the applicable tribunal of an institution of higher education.

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HB 1918. Women's Menstrual Health Program established; provision of education, training, and information. The Governor's amendment provides that the provisions of the enrolled bill shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly.

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HB 1923. Health insurance; reimbursement for services rendered by certain practitioners other than physicians. The Governor's amendments provide that the provisions of the enrolled bill shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 General Assembly and direct the Health Insurance Reform Commission to study, in due course, the provisions of the enrolled bill as part of its statutory review process.

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HB 1924. School boards; prohibition against hiring or contracting for the services of certain individuals; certain criminal convictions. The enrolled bill prohibits each school board from employing or contracting for the services of any individual who has been convicted of any felony crime of violence as defined in the enrolled bill or any offense involving a child. The enrolled bill also amends the provision in current law permitting any school board to employ or contract for the services of an individual who has been convicted of any felony that is not a crime of violence and that does not involve a child or any crime of moral turpitude, provided that in the case of a felony conviction, such individual has had his civil rights restored by the Governor, to require that such individual, in addition to having had his civil rights restored by the Governor, is, in the opinion of the school board, of upstanding character and has demonstrated commitment to public or community service and rehabilitation after completing all terms of supervision.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes the term and definition of "crime of violence." The Governor's Substitute prohibits any school board from employing or contracting for the services of any individual who has been convicted of any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, or the solicitation of any such offense. The Governor's Substitute also prohibits any school board from employing or contracting for the services of any individual who has been convicted of any violent felony or crime of moral turpitude set forth in a certain statutory definition of "barrier crime," provided, however, that any school board may employ such an individual if (i) such felony conviction does not involve the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, or the solicitation of any such offense; (ii) such an individual (a) has had his civil rights restored by the Governor; (b) has completed all terms of supervision and has been released from supervision for more than 20 years; (c) is, in the opinion of the school board, of upstanding character; and (d) has demonstrated commitment to public or community service and rehabilitation after completing all terms of supervision; and (iii) the school board certifies in

writing that such an individual meets such requirements. Finally, the Governor's Substitute retains the current law provision permitting any school board to employ an individual who has been convicted of any felony or crime of moral turpitude that is not set forth in the definition of "barrier crime" and does not involve the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, or the solicitation of any such offense, provided that in the case of a felony conviction, such individual has had his civil rights restored by the Governor.

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HB 1929. Department of Medical Assistance Services; pregnancy mobile application. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services (the Department) to partner with a mobile pregnancy application to promote awareness of state government maternal and infant health programs and information available to prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum individuals who are eligible for Medicaid. The enrolled bill requires the Department to submit a request for proposal within 180 days of the bill's effective date.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) makes a number of changes to the enrolled bill, including: (i) giving the Department the option to partner with a managed care organization, in addition to a mobile pregnancy application; (ii) changing the term "prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum individuals" to "prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum mothers"; (iii) removing the requirement that the Department consult with the General Assembly in developing its request for proposal; (iv) removing the list of specified entities whose definition of acceptable clinical standards may be used in determining the application's content; (v) removing certain data that the selected vendor is required to provide to the Department; and (vi) clarifying that the Department shall issue a request for proposals when appropriations are provided through a general appropriation act. SB 1393, which is similar as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1934. Electric utilities; generation of electricity from renewable and zero carbon sources; projects on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools. The enrolled bill provides that for purposes of compliance with a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) program, to the extent that low-income qualifying projects, as defined in existing law, are not available and projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools are available, a certain percentage of the required projects shall be composed of projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) repeals RPS program requirements for Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power and requires such utilities to sell all renewable energy certificates obtained by certain electric-generating resources on the open market and to credit all revenues from such sale to customers' bills. SB 1192, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1936. Department of Education; index of required teacher training. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Education to establish and post the teacher training index required pursuant to the bill no later than August 1, 2025. The Governor's amendment changes such date to November 1, 2025.

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HB 1957. Board of Education; Standards of Learning assessments and related student assessment methods; assessment development, implementation, and administration reform.

The enrolled bill makes several modifications relating to assessment methods and procedures for determining the level of achievement of the Standards of Learning objectives by all students, including requiring the Board of Education to make available to each local school division each Standards of Learning assessment for each subject area administered during the previous school year, including the applicable answer key or grading rubric, by the beginning of the current school year. The Governor's amendments limit this provision to requiring the Board of Education to make available to each local school division no more than 20 percent of each Standards of Learning assessment for each subject area.

The enrolled bill defines "local alternative assessment" as an assessment developed, administered, and scored by a local school board, consistent with Board guidelines, that is aligned with the Standards of Learning for any Standards of Learning subject area for which a Standards of Learning assessment is not administered by such school board or is not administered on a statewide basis, including any mandatory local alternative assessment or permissive local alternative assessment. The Governor's amendments make several changes to the definition of "local alternative assessment," including by expanding it to include certain assessments "accepted by institutions of higher education as a measure of college readiness, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Cambridge assessments" and by changing the requirement that a local alternative assessment be "consistent with Board guidelines" to a requirement that any mandatory local alternative assessment developed, administered, and scored by a local school board be approved by the Board as aligned with the rigor of the Standards of Learning content, assessments, and the Board's definition of proficiency for any Standards of Learning subject area.

The enrolled bill defines "performance assessment" as an assessment developed and administered consistent with Board guidelines and scored using a set rubric or set of criteria, that is designed to measure subject-matter proficiency by requiring students to demonstrate learning acquisition and apply content, skills, and processes in the applicable subject area through performing a task or creating a project, including any authentic performance assessment. The Governor's amendments define "performance assessment" as "an assessment that is approved by the Board as aligned with both the rigor of the content of the Standards of Learning and the Board's definition of proficiency and is scored using a set rubric or set of criteria and that is designed to measure subject-matter proficiency by requiring students to demonstrate learning acquisition and apply content, skills, and processes in the applicable subject area through performing a task or creating a project." The Governor's amendments remove from the definition

of "performance assessment" the language specifying that it includes any "authentic performance assessment."

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HB 1961. Public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; student cell phone possession and use policies; development and implementation. The enrolled bill directs each school board to develop and each public elementary and secondary school to implement age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate policies relating to the possession and use of cell phones and smart devices by students on school property during regular school hours and requires such policies to (i) restrict, to the fullest extent possible, student cell phone and smart device possession and use in the classroom during regular school hours and (ii) permit any student, pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan or if otherwise deemed appropriate by the school board, to possess and use a cell phone or smart device on school property, including in the classroom, during regular school hours to monitor or address a health concern. The enrolled bill clarifies that its provisions shall not be construed to require the development or implementation of any student cell phone or smart device policy that prohibits all cell phone and smart device use by students during regular school hours. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs each school board to develop and each public elementary and secondary school to implement policies relating to the possession and use of cell phones and smart devices by students on school property from bell to bell, as defined by the Governor's Substitute, and requires such policies to (i) restrict, to the fullest extent possible, student cell phone and smart device possession and use in the classroom from bell to bell and (ii) permit any student, pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, individualized health care plan, or Limited English Proficiency plan, to possess and use a cell phone or smart device on school property, including in the classroom, from bell to bell to monitor or address a health concern or as an accommodation or assistive technology support. The Governor's Substitute also removes from the enrolled bill any provisions allowing each school board to adopt policies permitting students to possess or use cell phones or smart devices outside of the classroom during regular school hours. SB 738, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 1970. Tax exempt property; nonprofit institutions of learning; emergency. The enrolled bill clarifies that institutions licensed by the Department of Education that provide services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or any school that is licensed by the Board of Education as a school for students with disabilities are institutions of learning not conducted for profit whose property is exempt from taxation pursuant to the Constitution of Virginia. The enrolled bill contains an emergency clause. The Governor's amendment clarifies that such provisions are declaratory of existing law. SB 1202, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

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HB 1989. Medical cannabis program; product labels; delivery. The enrolled bill allows a pharmaceutical processor or cannabis dispensing facility to dispense or deliver cannabis products in person to a patient or such patient's registered agent, parent, or legal guardian at any residence, including a temporary residence, or business, but prohibits dispensing or delivering cannabis products to (i) any military base, child day center, school, or correctional facility; (ii) the State Capitol; or (iii) any public gathering places, including sporting events, festivals, fairs, races, concerts, and terminals of public transportation companies. The Governor's amendments remove such provisions related to where a pharmaceutical processor or cannabis dispensing facility may dispense or deliver cannabis products and also remove the definition of "delivery agent" included in the enrolled bill.

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

HB 2008. Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program authority; right of entry. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause. SB 1093, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

HB 2018. Board of Education; teacher licensure; career and technical education; alternative pathway to provisional licensure. The enrolled bill requires the Board of Education to issue a provisional license to any person seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education who has a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate and an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure to allow time for such person to complete, in lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, coursework in three areas specified in the enrolled bill. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) requires the Board of Education to (i) issue a provisional license to any person seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education who has (a) a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate and (b) at least five years of full-time work-related experience, evidenced through submission of written proof, or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, to allow time for such person to submit, in lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, written proof of the completion of two microcredentials established and administered by the Department of Education, one of which shall be in the unique learning needs of special education students and the other of which shall be in classroom management and lesson planning and (ii) establish, in consultation with the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement, policies, procedures, and requirements allowing local school divisions to issue a locally awarded subject matter expert credential to any individual who has expertise in a content or subject matter area relating to career and technical education in order for such individual to provide instruction or coursework as a part-time or adjunct instructor in one

career and technical education course. SB 879, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

HB 2024. Virginia Public Procurement Act; solar photovoltaic equipment meeting national environmental protection and product safety standards. The enrolled bill prohibits state and local agencies from including a provision in any request for proposal, procurement agreement, contract, ordinance, policy, permit, or accompanying document that directs the exclusion from use of any materials contained in or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing. The Governor's amendments prohibit state and local agencies from including a provision in such requests that directs the exclusion from use of any materials contained in or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that are manufactured in the United States. SB 1165, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2034. Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources; protection of existing tidal and nontidal wetlands; wetland restoration and creation; policy task force; report. The enrolled bill directs the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to establish a policy task force to develop (i) strategies to protect existing tidal and nontidal wetlands and restore, create, and plan for the persistence of such wetlands in the Commonwealth and (ii) mechanisms to incorporate such strategies into appropriate plans, including the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, to address losses and adverse impacts from human activities and climate change. The enrolled bill requires the task force to report its initial findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources by December 1, 2025, and to update its report at least every two years. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) changes the focus of the task force to only evaluate existing policies regarding wetlands protection, restoration, and explore emerging science and innovation to ensure wetland health and survival, and requires the report of the task force's initial findings and recommendations to be submitted by December 31, 2025. The Governor's Substitute also requires the task force to have one meeting jointly with the Statewide Wetlands Technical Team led by the Department of Wildlife Resources to allow the team to review and provide feedback on the task force's proposed recommendations.

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HB 2036. Reckless driving; exhibition driving; penalties. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute adds an emergency clause.

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2040. Speech-language pathology assistants; licensure, qualifications, scope of practice; revocation or suspension of license; continuing education. The enrolled bill adds speech-

language pathology assistants to the professions governed by the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, directs the Board to adopt regulations governing the speech-language pathology assistant profession by July 1, 2026, and specifies that the provisions governing the licensure of speech-language pathology assistants have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill also has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027, for individuals currently practicing as assistant speech-language pathologists under existing regulations. The Governor's amendments further delay the effective date of the bill until July 1, 2027, and remove the exception to the effective date for individuals currently practicing as assistant speech-language pathologists under existing regulations.

Contact: Lucas Childers | lchilders@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1823

HB 2050. Drinking water; Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction Program established. The enrolled bill creates the Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction Program to reduce excessive levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in public drinking water derived from the Occoquan Reservoir. The enrolled bill requires certain facilities to monitor for PFAS on or before October 1, 2025, using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Method 1633 or an alternative method approved by the EPA. The enrolled bill requires any such facility to report all results to the Department of Environmental Quality no later than the tenth day of the next month after the month in which the result is reported by the laboratory and to include in such report all PFAS analytes measured by the test method. The enrolled bill requires, by July 1, 2027, for any facility that measures exceedances in its discharge of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFAS in drinking water promulgated on or before January 1, 2025, the Department, for an individual Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit if the facility discharges directly to surface waters, or a major publicly owned treatment works, for an indirect discharger, to modify the applicable discharge permit to require that the facility's discharge not exceed that MCL. The enrolled bill requires the modified permit to provide a compliance schedule that requires compliance with such level as soon as possible but no later than July 1, 2029. The Governor's amendment requires the Department, when modifying a facility's permit to include a compliance schedule for MCL exceedances, to provide an extension beyond July 1, 2029, if the deadline to comply with the MCL for PFAS in finished water for any public water system that withdraws surface water from the Occoquan Reservoir is extended beyond July 1, 2029.

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

HB 2082. Department of Medical Assistance Services; appeals of agency determination. The enrolled bill allows health care providers to appeal any adverse action or determination by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) or a DMAS contractor. Under current law, such appeal is allowed for a determination of overpayment to a provider by DMAS. The enrolled bill adds provisions allowing for DMAS and an appealing provider to stay the deadline for their appeal decision to facilitate settlement discussions. The enrolled bill further specifies that DMAS contractors are required to represent themselves during appeal proceedings.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) specifies that providers may appeal actions only if they are subject to appeal under the Administrative Process

Act. The Governor's Substitute removes a provision from the enrolled bill that would allow a provider and a managed care organization to settle an appeal without additional approval. The Governor's Substitute specifies that contractors, including managed care organizations, shall not have the right to file a petition for reconsideration or an appeal for court review of DMAS' final agency decision. SB 1237, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Chandler Brooks | cbrooks@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1843

HB 2087. Electric utilities; electric vehicle charging stations; transportation electrification.

The enrolled bill permits Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power to develop, own, maintain, and operate public-facing fast-charging stations, as defined in the enrolled bill, at or beyond a radial distance from privately owned fast-charging stations, which radial distance shall be determined by the State Corporation Commission in a rulemaking proceeding initiated by June 1, 2027, with a final order entered no later than December 31, 2027. The enrolled bill repeals current law related to the recovery of costs associated with investment in transportation electrification on December 31, 2027, to coincide with such final order, and has an expiration date of July 1, 2030. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) prohibits Dominion Energy or Appalachian Power from developing, owning, maintaining, or operating any retail electric vehicle charging stations that sell directly to the public and permits public-facing retailers offering electric vehicle charging station services to purchase electricity from a competitive service provider without being subject to the existing limitations on or requirements for returning to service by an incumbent electric utility. The Governor's Substitute repeals current law related to the recovery of costs associated with investment in transportation electrification as of the bill's effective date.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2096. Intelligent Speed Assistance Program established; penalty. The enrolled bill requires a court to order enrollment in the Intelligent Speed Assistance Program for a person convicted of reckless driving and who was found to have been driving in excess of 100 miles per hour. The Governor's amendment specifies that such order is not required if the court has ordered suspension of such person's driver's license as otherwise provided in existing law.

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

HB 2103. Board of Education; Regulations Governing Allowable Credit for Teaching Experience; certain credit substitution allowance required.

The enrolled bill (i) directs the Board of Education to amend its regulations to provide that, for the purpose of salary placement credit, teachers in the field of career and technical education, where the licensure requirement calls for occupational work experience beyond the apprenticeship level, may be allowed credit for one year of teaching experience for each one or two years of work experience; (ii) directs the Board of Education to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of the bill to be effective within 280 days of its enactment; and (iii) contains a reenactment clause. The Governor's amendment removes the reenactment clause and adds a provision directing the Department of Education to provide notification to each local school division of the regulations

promulgated by the Board of Education pursuant to the bill within 30 days of the promulgation of such regulations.

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 2109. Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures; report. The enrolled bill directs the State Health Commissioner to reestablish the Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures (Task Force) for the purpose of evaluating maternal health data collection processes to guide policies in the Commonwealth to improve maternal care, quality, and outcomes for all birthing people in the Commonwealth. The enrolled bill directs the Task Force to report its findings and conclusions to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1 of each year regarding its activities and to conclude its work by November 1, 2026. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes references to "birthing people" and alters the membership of the Task Force. The Governor's Substitute directs the Department of Health and the Department of Medical Assistance Services to provide staff assistance to the Task Force, changes the annual reporting date to December 1 of each year, and requires the Task Force to conclude its work by December 1, 2028.

Contact: Lucas Childers | lchilders@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1823

HB 2134. Definitions; American Indians; Virginia recognized tribes; federally recognized tribes; sovereignty. The enrolled bill provides that the "Commonwealth endeavors to maintain positive government-to-government relationships with the federally recognized tribes within the present-day external boundaries of the Commonwealth." The Governor's amendment removes the phrase "government-to-government" from the language of the bill. SB 949, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2153. Affordable housing; comprehensive plan; development by nonprofit organizations; Department of Housing and Community Development. The enrolled bill grants authority to localities to adopt a variety of strategies intended to encourage and facilitate the development of affordable housing on property owned by property tax-exempt nonprofit organizations. To stimulate development of such property, the enrolled bill allows localities to provide by ordinance the alteration or waiver of requirements for certain zoning permits and the creation of site plan application incentives. If a locality adopts such an ordinance, the enrolled bill requires that such ordinance shall ensure that the organization agrees to preserve the property as affordable housing for at least 40 years. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to publish a document describing the strategies a locality may consider on the Department's website no later than December 1, 2025. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute removes the provisions in the enrolled bill granting such authority to localities and instead directs the Department to develop a document describing considerations that a locality may consider when implementing an ordinance to stimulate affordable housing and strategies on property owned by a property tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2157. Richard Bland College; governance. The enrolled bill removes the authority of the board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in Virginia to supervise, manage, and control Richard Bland College and establishes the nine-member board of visitors of Richard Bland College to generally direct the affairs of Richard Bland College, including appointing all teachers and fixing their salaries, providing for the employment of other personnel as required, and caring for and preserving all property belonging to Richard Bland College. The provisions of the enrolled bill, with the exception of the provision requiring Richard Bland College to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2025, have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, and the Governor's amendments remove such delayed effective date and move up by one year several dates and deadlines contained in the enrolled bill. SB 742, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

HB 2158. Department of Corrections; functional literacy program for inmates; data sharing and tracking; salary schedules for teachers; Virginia Prison Education Task Force established; report. The enrolled bill directs the Virginia Prison Education Task Force (the Task Force), established pursuant to the bill, to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations by November 1 of each year, beginning with November 1, 2026, and to complete its work by July 1, 2030. The Governor's amendments change to November 1, 2027, the date by which the Task Force is directed to submit its first annual report and to July 1, 2031, the date by which the Task Force is directed to complete its work. The enrolled bill also directs the Department of Education to (i) review and update the salary schedules for teachers licensed by the Board of Education and employed by the Department of Corrections and (ii) make recommendations for the inclusion of such teacher salary increases in the appropriation act by November 1, 2025. The Governor's amendments change such deadline to November 1, 2026. Finally, the Governor's amendments add a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 2161. Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority; board of directors; chief executive officer. The enrolled bill makes several changes relating to the board of directors and the chief executive officer of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority (the Authority). The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) preserves several such changes, including provisions relating the length of appointed members' terms and the election of a chairman and vice-chairman of the board of directors, but it alters or removes other changes, including adjusting the total and appointed membership of the board of directors and removing changes in the enrolled bill that pertain to the procedures to be followed in the event of a disagreement on the selection or conditions of appointment of the chief executive officer of the Authority. SB 1259, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

HB 2210. Real Estate Board; membership; qualifications. The enrolled bill increases from five to 10 years the amount of time a licensed real estate broker or salesperson must be actively engaged in the profession in order to serve as a member of the Real Estate Board. The Governor's amendment increases from five to seven years the amount of time a licensed real estate broker or salesperson must be actively engaged in the profession in order to serve as a member of the Real Estate Board. SB 866, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2218. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; rental payment methods. The enrolled bill requires, with certain exceptions outlined in the bill, landlords subject to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act to accept payment of periodic rent and any security deposit by any lawful means, including check, electronic funds transfer, debit or credit card, cash, and money order. The Governor's amendments remove this requirement. The Governor's amendments also reinstate a provision, removed from existing law by the enrolled bill, providing that the tenant may request a written receipt after paying in the form of cash or money order. The enrolled bill requires the landlord to provide such written receipt as a matter of law. SB 1356, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

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HB 2221. Prisoners; Department of Corrections-issued identification; report. The enrolled bill specifies certain identifying information that must be included on a Department of Corrections Offender Identification form. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) provides that such form shall include, instead of a prisoner's residency status as required by the enrolled bill, the prisoner's legal presence in the United States, if available, and also provides that such form shall be verified by the Department of Corrections (the Department) and provided to the Department of Motor Vehicles in a secured format and by a means mutually agreed upon by the Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The enrolled bill also provides that the Department of Corrections Offender Identification form shall serve as proof of identity, proof of legal presence in the United States, two proofs of residency, or proof of a social security number as required to obtain a government-issued identification card for the 120 days immediately following the release or discharge of the prisoner identified on such form. The Governor's Substitute provides that such form shall serve as proof of identity and proof of Virginia residency and may serve as proof of legal presence in the United States or proof of a social security number, if one is available, for such 120-day period.

The Governor's Substitute also requires the Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles to cooperatively establish procedures for verifying a Department of Corrections Offender Identification form and all information contained therein and specifies that the Department of Motor Vehicles shall not accept such form if the form or any of the information contained on the form cannot be verified. The Governor's Substitute adds a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, for the substantive provisions of the bill.

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

HB 2235. Local and regional correctional facilities; treatment of prisoners known to be pregnant. The enrolled bill defines "restraints" as "any mechanical device, medication, physical intervention, or hands-on hold to prevent an individual from moving her body." The Governor's amendments replace the term "individual" with "pregnant or postpartum woman" as used in such definition. The Governor's amendments also replace the term "pregnant people" with "pregnant women" as used in requirements in the enrolled bill relating to provision of sufficient food and dietary supplements for prisoners known to be pregnant.

The enrolled bill prohibits the use of restraints on any prisoner of a local or regional correctional facility who is (i) known to be pregnant or (ii) in postpartum recovery unless a deputy sheriff or jail officer makes an individualized determination that (a) the prisoner will harm herself, the fetus, the newborn child, or any other person; (b) the prisoner poses a flight risk; or (c) the totality of the circumstances creates a serious security risk. The Governor's amendments remove the fetus from the exception in clause (a).

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HB 2252. Decreasing probation period; criteria for mandatory reduction. The enrolled bill establishes criteria for which a defendant's supervised probation period shall be reduced, including completing qualifying educational activities, maintaining verifiable employment, complying with or completing any state-certified or state-approved mental health or substance abuse treatment program, securing and maintaining qualifying health insurance or a qualifying health care plan, and obtaining housing and establishing residence.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) amends the enrolled bill as follows: (i) provides that any technical violation disqualifies a defendant from accruing credits during the calendar month that he is found in violation of his probation; (ii) provides a maximum credit allowance of 15 days, instead of 30 days as provided in the enrolled bill, for a reduction of probation for completion of any qualified educational activities, maintaining verifiable employment, complying with or completing any state-certified or state-approved mental health or substance abuse treatment program, securing and maintaining qualifying health insurance or a qualifying health care plan, and obtaining housing and establishing residence; (iii) allows the court, upon motion of the attorney for the Commonwealth and after notice to the defendant, to revoke any credits the defendant has accrued for any reason the court deems necessary and in the interest of the health and safety of the public; (iv) requires complete payment of any restitution prior to the defendant being discharged from supervised probation; and (v) prohibits any defendant who was sentenced to a mandatory period of at least three years of supervised probation pursuant to relevant law from being eligible to earn such credits. The Governor's Substitute retains the enrolled bill's provision that the foregoing provisions do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly.

The Governor's Substitute also directs the Department of Corrections, in due course, to convene a work group to identify (a) current practices for community supervision as it relates to

monitoring engagement and attainment included in Executive Order 36 (2024) and (b) recommendations for court-ordered modification of time served on supervised probation. However, no recommendation shall be considered that allows the probationer (1) to receive credits while being in technical violation of his probation or (2) to receive more than 150 days of credit in one calendar year for a modified term. The work group shall take into consideration the impact of a reduced period of supervised probation on probationers who were released from incarceration early due to sentence reductions pursuant to relevant law. The work group shall submit an executive summary and report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2025..

SB 936, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

HB 2266. State Corporation Commission; distribution cost sharing program; required distribution system upgrades. The enrolled bill directs the State Corporation Commission by July 1, 2026, to establish by regulation a distribution cost sharing program for Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power to construct distribution system upgrades required to interconnect participating projects, as defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill directs the Commission to require each such utility to file any tariffs, agreements, or forms necessary for the implementation of the program by December 1, 2026, and to submit a report on the implementation of the program by November 1, 2028. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) amends the requirements for such distribution cost sharing program by requiring that Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power allocate the costs of qualifying upgrades, as defined in the bill, among any sharing projects, as defined in the enrolled bill, except that a project shall be exempted from such program if the owner or developer of such project elects to pay in full the approved cost of any associated qualifying upgrade. The Governor's Substitute also creates individual and corporate income tax deductions for the amount paid or cost incurred for installing a qualifying upgrade required to interconnect a triggering project, as defined in the bill. SB 1058, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2302. Real property tax; exemption for religious buildings; rebuilding structure. The enrolled bill provides that the property tax exemption for property used for religious worship shall include property on which a church or other building for religious worship is being replaced or rebuilt. The Governor's amendment changes from six months to five years the maximum amount of time after discontinuation of the former use of the property that construction of the replacement or rebuilt structure shall commence in order to maintain such tax exemption.

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HB 2313. Grooming and boarding establishments; inspections by animal control officers. The enrolled bill allows an animal control officer to inspect a grooming or boarding establishment that is not regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine with the consent of the

owner or person in charge or pursuant to a warrant upon a receipt of a complaint or twice annually upon their own motion to ensure compliance with state animal care laws and regulations. The enrolled bill requires an animal control officer, a law-enforcement officer, or the State Veterinarian to obtain the consent of the owner or person in charge of any business premises of any dealer, pet shop, groomer, or boarding establishment to investigate allegations of a complaint of a suspected violation of state or local animal care laws. Current law does not require such consent to investigate allegations of a complaint. The enrolled bill allows an animal control officer to search a building or place pursuant to a warrant after making a sworn statement regarding any potential violations of the cruelty to animals laws. Current law only allows a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or police officer to conduct such a search. The enrolled bill also directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, convene a work group to consider whether to propose a state license and other regulatory requirements for animal boarding establishments similar to the current licensing requirements for animal shelters and submit its report of such findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes all provisions in the enrolled bill except for the provision that directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, to convene such work group and submit its report by December 1, 2026. SB 1051, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

HB 2328. Admission to bail; pregnant persons or persons who have recently given birth.

The enrolled bill requires the judicial officer to consider any evidence a person provides indicating that such person (i) is currently pregnant, (ii) has recently given birth, or (iii) is currently nursing a child when determining whether such person shall be admitted to bail. The Governor's amendments replace the word "person" with "woman."

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

HB 2346. Electric utilities; virtual power plant pilot program. The enrolled bill requires Dominion Energy Virginia to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to conduct a pilot program to evaluate methods to optimize demand through various technology applications, including the establishment of virtual power plants, by December 1, 2025. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs the State Corporation Commission to hold an ex-parte proceeding to evaluate and assess the benefits, impacts, best practices, and implementation recommendations for Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to establish virtual power plant programs in the Commonwealth. SB 1100, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

HB 2350. Department of Emergency Management; powers and duties; development and implementation of standardized guidelines and training programs. The enrolled bill requires

the Department of Emergency Management to develop a training program comprised of National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles, the state's Incident Command System (ICS) structure, and the role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Under the enrolled bill, each agency head shall be required to complete the training within six months of appointment and again every two years thereafter. The Governor's amendments remove the provisions requiring the Department to develop such training program and each agency head to complete such training. SB 1386, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2351. Civil litigation; suspension bonds and irrevocable letters of credit upon appeal.

The enrolled bill increases the cap currently in place for suspension bonds and irrevocable letters of credit for appellants during the pendency of an appeal in a civil action from \$25 million to \$200 million. The Governor's amendment decreases such cap from \$200 million to \$35 million.

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HB 2352. Charter; Town of Dumfries. The enrolled bill makes numerous amendments to the charter for the Town of Dumfries in Prince William County, including providing for a runoff election in the case of a tie vote for town council. The Governor's amendment removes this runoff election provision. General law calls for determination by lot in such cases. SB 1300, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 2360. High school diploma seal of biliteracy; designation as high-demand industry workforce credential for certain purposes. The enrolled bill requires the Board of Education to include on the list of industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for certain credits required for graduation developed and maintained pursuant to applicable law its diploma seal of biliteracy and to consider such seal to be a high-demand industry workforce credential for the purpose of satisfying graduation requirements and determining and calculating high school student readiness in its school accountability system. The Governor's amendment removes the requirement that the Board consider such seal to be a high-demand industry workforce credential for the purpose of determining and calculating high school student readiness in its school accountability system.

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 2371. Health insurance; coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices. The enrolled bill requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage, under any health insurance contract, policy, or plan that includes coverage for prescription drugs on an outpatient basis, for contraceptive drugs and contraceptive devices, as defined in the enrolled bill, including those available over-the-counter. The enrolled bill prohibits a health insurance carrier from imposing upon any person receiving contraceptive benefits pursuant to the provisions of the enrolled bill any copayment, coinsurance payment, or fee, except in certain circumstances. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) provides that (i) it is the policy of the Commonwealth that, independently of the requirements of the Constitution of the United

States, individuals possess the right to access contraception; (ii) no private institution or physician, or any agent or employee of such institution or physician, shall be prohibited from refusing to provide contraception or contraceptive procedures, supplies, or information if such refusal is based upon religious or conscientious objection; and (iii) no such institution, physician, agent, or employee shall be held liable for such refusal. SB 780, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2393. Issuance of writ of vacatur for victims of human trafficking. The enrolled bill amends the procedure that allows victims of human trafficking, defined in the enrolled bill, to file a petition of vacatur in circuit court to have certain convictions vacated and the police and court records expunged for such convictions. The Governor's amendments add the requirement that such petition contain a statement that the petitioner has ceased to be a victim of human trafficking or has sought rehabilitative services. SB 1460, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

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HB 2401. Child labor; child engaged in the work of content creation; trust account. The enrolled bill requires that a child under the age of 16 who meets certain criteria specified in the enrolled bill to be considered a child engaged in the work of content creation be compensated by the content creator, as defined in the enrolled bill, whose video content includes such child's likeness, name, or photograph. The enrolled bill requires the content creator to set aside gross earnings on the video content that includes the likeness, name, or photograph of the child in a trust account to be preserved for the benefit of the child upon attaining 18 years of age or having been declared emancipated. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science to convene a work group to examine child labor protections for children engaging in the work of content creation and requires such work group to report its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2025. SB 998, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2415. Public housing authorities; indigent parties; unlawful detainer. The enrolled bill exempts indigent defendants from having to post an appeal bond in unlawful detainer actions brought by a public housing authority and prohibits any landlord that is a public housing authority from requiring a tenant to pay any fees for the maintenance or repair of a dwelling unit unless such repair is necessitated by the tenant's action or omission. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes these provisions. The enrolled bill also requires, if a public housing authority issues a notice of nonpayment of rent to a tenant, that such public housing authority provide the tenant certain information printed on pink or orange paper explaining how the tenant may recertify the tenant's income in accordance with federal law and policy. The Governor's Substitute removes the requirement that such information be printed on pink or orange paper. SB 1221, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 2426. Small renewable energy projects; permit by rule. The enrolled bill amends the definition of "small renewable energy project" for the purposes of obtaining a permit by rule from the Department of Environmental Quality to include interconnection facilities, as defined in the enrolled bill. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute adds to such definition (i) an electrical generation facility with a rated capacity not exceeding 500 megawatts that generates electricity only from nuclear energy and its dedicated associated interconnection facilities and (ii) an electrical generation facility with a rated capacity not exceeding 400 megawatts that generates electricity only from fusion energy and its dedicated associated interconnection facilities.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2446. Postpartum Depression Education Act; report. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Health to establish a public awareness campaign, develop and distribute educational materials, and create an online resource hub focused on perinatal and postpartum depression. The enrolled bill requires the Department to submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the enrolled bill, with the first annual report due by November 1, 2026. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute directs the Department, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to collaborate with community-based organizations to develop and implement a statewide public health campaign to promote the importance of accessing prenatal, perinatal, and postpartum care.

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HB 2454. Board of Education; public school accountability system; Three "E" Readiness Framework; include and incentivize work-based learning experiences. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause. SB 784, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 2458. Vehicles used for agricultural purposes. The enrolled bill provides that trailers and semitrailers used for certain agricultural purposes may be operated without tail lights or brake lights on the highways of the Commonwealth, except in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia), that are not interstate highways between sunrise and sunset, provided that such trailer or semitrailer has affixed to the rear end certain reflectors or reflectorized material. The Governor's amendments remove the prohibition on such operation in Planning District 8. The enrolled bill prohibits the operation of such a trailer or semitrailer operated without tail lights or brake lights (i) during any time when, because of rain, smoke, fog, snow, sleet, insufficient light, or other unfavorable atmospheric conditions, visibility is reduced to a degree whereby persons or vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet or (ii) whenever windshield wipers are in use as a result of fog, rain, sleet, or snow. The Governor's amendments change such prohibition to during any time when rain, smoke, fog, snow, or sleet cause visibility to be

reduced to a degree whereby persons or vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet.

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

HB 2493. Gaming; conduct of Texas Hold'em poker tournaments; fantasy contests; age restrictions. The enrolled bill increases from 18 years of age to 21 years of age the minimum age an individual must be to participate in Texas Hold'em poker tournaments held by a qualified charitable organization and fantasy contests. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute removes the provisions increasing such minimum age for Texas Hold'em poker tournaments held by a qualified charitable organization.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2501. Department of Motor Vehicles; driver communication improvement program. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to develop and implement a program for the promotion, printing, and distribution of envelopes for use by drivers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder to provide to a law-enforcement officer for the purpose of easing communication during a traffic stop or upon such law-enforcement officer's arrival at the scene of a traffic accident. The Governor's amendment specifies that the Department is not required to verify any information provided on such envelopes and that no action taken with regard to any such information creates a warranty of the reliability or accuracy of the document nor does it create any liability on the part of the Commonwealth or of any department, office, or agency or of any officer, employee, or agent thereof.

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HB 2515. Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; mandatory fees or surcharges disclosure. The enrolled bill prohibits a supplier, in connection with a consumer transaction, from advertising or displaying a price for goods or services without clearly and conspicuously displaying the total price, which shall include all mandatory fees or surcharges, as defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill specifies the requirements for compliance with its provisions for certain suppliers and excludes from its provisions (i) certain fees charged by motor vehicle dealers, as defined in relevant law; (ii) fees charged by electric utilities, natural gas utilities, and telecommunications service providers, as those terms are defined in relevant law; (iii) certain costs associated with real estate settlement services; and (iv) the provision of air transportation by air carriers. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) adds health club services to the list of exclusions.

The enrolled bill requires a food delivery platform to, at the point when a consumer views and selects a vendor or items for purchase, include a clear and conspicuous disclosure of any additional fee or percentage charged, as defined in the enrolled bill. The Governor's Substitute removes the requirement that such disclosure be made at the point when a consumer views and selects items for purchase.

The enrolled bill provides that a food delivery platform that is a price-variable supplier is in compliance if such supplier discloses at the point when a consumer selects items for purchase (a)

the factors determining the final price, (b) any mandatory fees or surcharges associated with the transaction, and (c) that the total cost of services may vary. The Governor's Substitute requires that such disclosure be made prior to checkout. Finally, the Governor's Substitute adds a reenactment clause. SB 1212, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 2520. Virginia military forces; Sexual Offense Prevention and Response Program

established. The enrolled bill establishes the Sexual Offense Prevention and Response Program (the Program) within the Department of Military Affairs. The enrolled bill also establishes the Sexual Offense Prevention and Response Officer (the Officer) to perform victim advocacy services, including helping victims of certain criminal sexual assault offenses make either a restricted report or an unrestricted report, as those terms are defined in the enrolled bill.

Restricted and unrestricted reports may be made (i) by a person who is a member of the Virginia military forces, defined in the enrolled bill as the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia Defense Force, or (ii) against a member of the Virginia military forces. The enrolled bill directs the Adjutant General, in coordination with the Officer, to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Chairmen of both the House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice. The annual report shall include relevant information enumerated in the enrolled bill, including implementation and effectiveness of the Program's policies and procedures, as well as statistical information about restricted reports and unrestricted reports. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes the substantive provisions of the enrolled bill and instead directs the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs to convene a work group to study the efficacy of existing responses to address sexual offenses within the Department of Military Affairs and the Virginia National Guard. The Governor's Substitute requires the work group to submit a report on its findings and legislative recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

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HB 2537. Electric utilities; energy storage requirements; Department of Energy and Department of Environmental Quality to develop model ordinances; work groups; reports.

The enrolled bill increases the targets for energy storage capacity that Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia are required to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure and extends the time frame by which such capacity must be met. Under the enrolled bill, (i) Appalachian Power shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 780 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2040 and 520 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and (ii) Dominion Energy Virginia shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 5,220 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and 3,480 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045. "Long-duration energy storage" and "short-duration energy storage" are defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill requires the Commission to conduct a technology demonstration program for long-duration energy storage resources and initiate a proceeding to determine if such technology is viable and that the targets in the enrolled bill are reasonably achievable, for which a final order shall be entered no later

than March 1, 2030. Certain provisions of the enrolled bill are only effective upon such determination by the Commission.

The enrolled bill requires the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Fire Programs, to create model ordinances for use by localities in their regulation of energy storage projects and to convene a work group to develop such model ordinances and submit a report by December 1, 2025. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality to convene a work group to develop recommendations and financial incentives related to the development of long-duration energy storage projects and submit a report by December 1, 2025. The enrolled bill also directs the Department of Energy to engage with PJM Interconnection, LLC, in reviewing regional market conditions related to energy storage resources and permits Dominion Energy Virginia to propose a partnership with institutions of higher education to deploy energy storage resources.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) repeals provisions requiring Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to participate in a renewable energy portfolio standard program that establishes annual goals for the sale of renewable energy. SB 1394, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 2543. Department of Education; model memorandum of understanding; counseling from school counselors by way of telehealth. The enrolled bill provides that the model memorandum of understanding developed by the Department of Education for partnerships with community mental health services providers or school-based telehealth providers shall include procedures allowing for students to receive counseling from school counselors by way of telehealth. The Governor's amendment requires such model memorandum of understanding to also include a requirement for parental consent before the provision of any mental health services to any student who is under 18 years of age. SB 1370, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

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HB 2594. Department of Criminal Justice Services; standards and training for security at nonprofit institutions. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish statewide best practices, including training, for any law-enforcement officer, unarmed security officer, or armed security officer providing security services at nonprofit institutions that serve individuals and communities at risk of hate crimes within the Commonwealth. The Governor's amendments restructure the enrolled bill's language and substitute the term "model policies" for "statewide best practices."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2610. Department of Medical Assistance Services; state pharmacy benefits manager; independent evaluation. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Medical Assistance Services, by July 1, 2026, to select and contract with a third-party administrator to serve as the

state pharmacy benefits manager to administer all pharmacy benefits for Medicaid recipients, including recipients enrolled in a managed care organization. The enrolled bill enumerates requirements for the Department's contract with the state pharmacy benefits manager. In addition, the enrolled bill directs the Department to engage an independent consultant to evaluate the implementation of a contract with a third-party pharmacy benefits manager pursuant to the enrolled bill. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs the Department to conduct an evaluation of the potential benefits, cost savings, and implementation considerations associated with utilizing a third-party administrator as the pharmacy benefit manager for all Medicaid pharmacy benefits. The Governor's Substitute requires the evaluation to include a review of fee-for-service and managed care pharmacy dispensing fees as well as recommendations for adjustments necessary to maintain pharmacy participation and patient access. The Governor's Substitute requires the Department to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025. SB 875, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Lucas Childers | lchilders@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1823

HB 2618. Public school buildings; indoor air quality; inspection and evaluation. The enrolled bill establishes several enumerated requirements for local school divisions to ensure indoor air quality in each public school building in the local school division, including providing for an inspection and evaluation program at least once every two years and an industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation at least once every four years. The Governor's amendments remove the requirement for local school divisions to provide for an inspection and evaluation program at least once every two years. SB 1413, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

HB 2657. Involuntary manslaughter; certain drug offenses. The enrolled bill provides that any person who knowingly, intentionally, and feloniously manufactures, sells, or distributes a controlled substance knowing that such controlled substance contains a detectable amount of fentanyl, including its derivatives, isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, and unintentionally causes the death of another person is guilty of involuntary manslaughter if (i) such death results from the use of the controlled substance and (ii) such controlled substance is the proximate cause of the death. The enrolled bill provides that venue for a prosecution of this crime shall lie in the locality where the manufacturing, sale, or distribution of such controlled substance occurred, where the use of the controlled substance occurred, or where death occurred.

The enrolled bill also provides that if a person gave or distributed such controlled substance only as an accommodation to another individual who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility, or state correctional facility, or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient of the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, he is not guilty of involuntary manslaughter but is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) provides that a person is guilty of felony homicide, which constitutes second degree murder and is punishable by confinement of not less than five nor more than 40 years, if the underlying felonious act that resulted in the killing of another involved the manufacture, sale, gift, or distribution of a Schedule I or II controlled substance to another and (a) such other person's death results from his use of the controlled substance and (b) the controlled substance is the proximate cause of his death. The Governor's Substitute provides that venue for a prosecution of this crime shall lie in the locality where the underlying felony occurred, where the use of the controlled substance occurred, or where death occurred. The Governor's Substitute also provides that if a person gave or distributed a Schedule I or II controlled substance only as an accommodation to another individual who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility, or state correctional facility, or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient of the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, he is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

SB 746, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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HB 2663. Electricity consumption tax; rate adjustments. The enrolled bill increases the electric utility consumption tax's special utility tax rates for commercial and industrial consumer electricity consumed per month (i) in excess of 2,500 kWh but not in excess of 50,000 kWh and (ii) in excess of 50,000 kWh.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) (a) removes the provisions of the enrolled bill that increase such rates for electricity consumed per month in excess of 2,500 kWh but not in excess of 50,000 kWh; (b) limits the rate increase on electricity consumed per month in excess of 50,000 kWh to such consumers of electricity that are outside of Sector 31-33 of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS); and (c) prohibits the State Corporation Commission from using the revenues generated from the electricity consumption tax to conduct certain studies unless such studies are limited to assessing load forecasts and rate impacts. SB 1336, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Rebecca Schultz | rschultz@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1863

HB 2692. Custodial interrogations; false statements to a child prohibited; inauthentic replica documents. The enrolled bill prohibits law-enforcement officers from knowingly and intentionally making false statements about any material fact, including by use of inauthentic replica documents, prior to or during a custodial interrogation of a child to secure the cooperation, confession, or conviction of such child. The enrolled bill defines "inauthentic replica documents" as any documents, including computer-generated documents, created by any means, including artificial intelligence, by a law-enforcement officer or his agent that (i) contain a false statement, signature, seal, letterhead, or contact information or (ii) materially misrepresent any fact. The enrolled bill provides that if a law-enforcement officer knowingly violates such

prohibition, any statements made by such child shall be inadmissible in any delinquency proceeding or criminal proceeding against such child. The Governor's amendment restores existing law that permits admission of such statements where the attorney for the Commonwealth proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the statement was made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2695. Library Board; conferral of the honorary degree of patron of letters. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2718. Photo speed monitoring devices; school crossing zones. The enrolled bill requires photographs, microphotographs, or other recorded images, or documentation, produced by a photo speed monitoring device placed in a school crossing zone to depict or confirm a portable sign or tilt-over sign that is in position and blinking or otherwise activated, indicating the school crossing zone, at the time of such vehicle speed violation in order for the sworn certificate to be considered prima facie evidence for purposes of enforcing vehicle speed violations. The Governor's amendments clarify that videotapes are included in the list of such forms of evidence and require such forms of evidence to depict or confirm a portable sign or tilt-over sign that is in position or a blinking sign that is activated in order for the sworn certificate to be considered prima facie evidence.

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

HB 2723. Criminal records; expungement and sealing of records. The enrolled bill amends numerous statutes related to the expungement and sealing of criminal records that are scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2025. In addition, the enrolled bill requires (i) the Department of State Police to develop a secure portal for the purpose of allowing government agencies to determine whether a record has been sealed prior to responding to a request pursuant to current law by October 1, 2026; (ii) the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission to (a) educate and provide support to public defenders and certified court-appointed counsel on expungement and sealing, (b) conduct trainings on expungement and sealing across the Commonwealth, (c) develop a library of resources on expungement and sealing for use by public defenders and court-appointed counsel, and (d) post information regarding expungement and sealing for use by the public on its website; and (iii) the Department of State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and clerk of any circuit court to provide data and information on sealing upon request of the Virginia State Crime Commission for purposes of monitoring and evaluating the implementation and impact of the sealing processes. The enrolled bill also directs (1) the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia to collect data related to petitions filed pursuant to relevant law, (2) the Virginia State Crime Commission to analyze data and information collected on automatic and petition sealing and report to the General Assembly by the first day of the 2026 Regular Session, and (3) the Virginia State Crime Commission to continue its study on the sealing of

criminal records and report its work to the General Assembly by the first day of the 2026 Regular Session.

The enrolled bill repeals the Sealing Fee Fund and directs any money in such Fund to be reverted to the general fund. The enrolled bill contains a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, for the provisions related to the sealing of former possession of marijuana offenses without entry of a court order and the sealing of charges and convictions related to automatic sealing and such petitions. Lastly, the enrolled bill delays the repeal of the relevant law related to marijuana possession, limits on dissemination of criminal history record information, and prohibited practices by employers, educational institutions, and state and local governments until January 1, 2026.

The Governor's amendments prohibit sealing criminal history records for convictions of assault and battery of a law-enforcement officer and financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. The Governor's amendments also extend various delayed effective dates by an additional six months. SB 1466, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

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HB 2724. Use of automatic license plate recognition systems; reports; penalty. The enrolled bill requires the Division of Purchases and Supply of the Department of General Services (the Division) to determine and approve the automatic license plate recognition systems, defined in the enrolled bill, for use in the Commonwealth and provides requirements for use of such systems by law-enforcement agencies.

The provisions of the enrolled bill that require a law-enforcement agency to obtain a permit from the Department of Transportation in accordance with regulations of the Commonwealth Transportation Board before installing an automatic license plate recognition system on a state right-of-way do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly.

The Governor's amendments increase from 21 days to 30 days the maximum amount of time that data obtained by such systems may be retained and replace the reenactment clause with a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, for the provisions of the enrolled bill requiring a law-enforcement agency to obtain such permit before installing such systems on a state right-of-way.

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HB 2749. Department of Health; waterworks; mandatory reporting. The enrolled bill requires owners of waterworks to report any critical equipment failure or malfunction or contaminant release to the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water as soon as practicable but no more than six hours after discovery. The Governor's amendment reduces the time to report such failure, malfunction, or release from six hours after discovery to two hours after discovery. SB 1408, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

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HB 2777. Public schools; textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials. The enrolled bill makes several changes relating to the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials that are utilized as the curriculum basis for public elementary and secondary school student instruction, including (i) requiring each local school board to adopt and implement textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials in English language arts for grades six through 12 and mathematics, science, and history and social studies for grades kindergarten through 12 and requiring the Department of Education to support such local adoption and implementation in several ways and (ii) requiring each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education or alternative certification program that provides training for any student seeking initial licensure by the Board of Education with certain endorsements to include a program of coursework and clinical experience and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in identifying and implementing textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials. The provisions of the enrolled bill, with the exception of a provision that requires a study of and report on the textbook review and approval process by November 1, 2025, have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) (a) removes such study, report, and delayed effective date; (b) moves up by one year several deadlines relating to the approval of vendors and the review and approval of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials; and (c) requires the Department to develop a unified process for local school boards that consolidates and simplifies the applications for all state and federal programs that provide funding to local school boards into a single application and requires local school boards to develop one consolidated plan and budget for all such grants that includes identification of the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials to be adopted, the vendor for professional learning resources to support implementation of the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials from the list developed by the Department, and the budget needs to procure the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials and professional learning resources. SB 955, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

HB 2779. Office of New Americans Advisory Board; increase in membership. The enrolled bill adds to the Office of New Americans Advisory Board the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Education, Health and Human Resources, Labor, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Transportation as ex officio members with nonvoting privileges. The enrolled bill also removes the provision that limits the Board to meeting four times per year. The Governor's amendments remove the provisions adding the ex officio members and retain the language in current law limiting the meetings of the Board to four times per year.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2783. Placing Nazi swastika on certain property with intent to intimidate; penalty. The enrolled bill creates a Class 6 felony for any person who, with intent of intimidating any person or group of persons, places a Hakenkreuz, hooked cross, or Nazi symbol or emblem, sometimes referred to as the Nazi swastika, on the private property of another without permission. The

enrolled bill also makes it a Class 6 felony if such Nazi symbol or emblem is placed on a highway or other public place in a manner having a direct tendency to place another person in reasonable fear or apprehension of death or bodily injury. Finally, the enrolled bill clarifies that such Nazi symbol or emblem does not include the swastika symbol of peace and prosperity used by Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, or Native American religions. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute rephrases the clarification of the definition of "Nazi swastika."

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Senate Bills

SB 738. Public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; student cell phone possession and use policies; development and implementation. The enrolled bill directs each school board to develop and each public elementary and secondary school to implement age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate policies relating to the possession and use of cell phones and smart devices by students on school property during regular school hours and requires such policies to (i) restrict, to the fullest extent possible, student cell phone and smart device possession and use in the classroom during regular school hours and (ii) permit any student, pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan or if otherwise deemed appropriate by the school board, to possess and use a cell phone or smart device on school property, including in the classroom, during regular school hours to monitor or address a health concern. The enrolled bill clarifies that its provisions shall not be construed to require the development or implementation of any student cell phone or smart device policy that prohibits all cell phone and smart device use by students during regular school hours. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs each school board to develop and each public elementary and secondary school to implement policies relating to the possession and use of cell phones and smart devices by students on school property from bell to bell, as defined by the Governor's Substitute, and requires such policies to (i) restrict, to the fullest extent possible, student cell phone and smart device possession and use in the classroom from bell to bell and (ii) permit any student, pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, individualized health care plan, or Limited English Proficiency plan, to possess and use a cell phone or smart device on school property, including in the classroom, from bell to bell to monitor or address a health concern or as an accommodation or assistive technology support. The Governor's Substitute also removes from the enrolled bill any provisions allowing each school board to adopt policies permitting students to possess or use cell phones or smart devices outside of the classroom during regular school hours. HB 1961, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

SB 740. Board of Medicine; continuing education; unconscious bias and cultural competency. The enrolled bill directs the Board of Medicine to require that all persons licensed by the Board complete unconscious bias and cultural competency training as part of their continuing education requirements for renewal of licensure and requires the Board of Medicine to report the number of licensees who have successfully completed such training to the Department of Health and the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes references to unconscious bias and cultural competency, specifies that requirements for the continuing learning activities be limited to those licensees who work with maternal populations, and requires that the continuing learning activities address health care during pregnancy and the postpartum period for all women and infants, especially those populations that experience significantly greater than average maternal mortality, postpartum complications, and infant mortality. The Governor's Substitute further requires the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal

Collaborative to make training resources available and for licensees subject to such continuing learning activities requirement to complete such training by the later of one year after obtaining such license or July 1, 2026. HB 1649, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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SB 742. Richard Bland College; governance. The enrolled bill removes the authority of the board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in Virginia to supervise, manage, and control Richard Bland College and establishes the nine-member board of visitors of Richard Bland College to generally direct the affairs of Richard Bland College, including appointing all teachers and fixing their salaries, providing for the employment of other personnel as required, and caring for and preserving all property belonging to Richard Bland College. The provisions of the enrolled bill, with the exception of the provision requiring Richard Bland College to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2025, have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, and the Governor's amendments remove such delayed effective date and move up by one year several dates and deadlines contained in the enrolled bill. HB 2157, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

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SB 746. Involuntary manslaughter; certain drug offenses. The enrolled bill provides that any person who knowingly, intentionally, and feloniously manufactures, sells, or distributes a controlled substance knowing that such controlled substance contains a detectable amount of fentanyl, including its derivatives, isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, and unintentionally causes the death of another person is guilty of involuntary manslaughter if (i) such death results from the use of the controlled substance and (ii) such controlled substance is the proximate cause of the death. The enrolled bill provides that venue for a prosecution of this crime shall lie in the locality where the manufacturing, sale, or distribution of such controlled substance occurred, where the use of the controlled substance occurred, or where death occurred.

The enrolled bill also provides that if a person gave or distributed such controlled substance only as an accommodation to another individual who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility, or state correctional facility, or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient of the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, he is not guilty of involuntary manslaughter but is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) provides that a person is guilty of felony homicide, which constitutes second degree murder and is punishable by confinement of not less than five nor more than 40 years, if the underlying felonious act that resulted in the killing of another involved the manufacture, sale, gift, or distribution of a Schedule I or II controlled substance to another and (a) such other person's death results from his use of the controlled substance and (b) the controlled substance is the proximate cause of his death. The Governor's Substitute provides that venue for a prosecution of this crime shall lie in

the locality where the underlying felony occurred, where the use of the controlled substance occurred, or where death occurred. The Governor's Substitute also provides that if a person gave or distributed a Schedule I or II controlled substance only as an accommodation to another individual who is not an inmate in a community correctional facility, local correctional facility, or state correctional facility, or in the custody of an employee thereof, and not with intent to profit thereby from any consideration received or expected nor to induce the recipient of the controlled substance to use or become addicted to or dependent upon such controlled substance, he is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

HB 2657, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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SB 780. Health insurance; coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices. The enrolled bill requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage, under any health insurance contract, policy, or plan that includes coverage for prescription drugs on an outpatient basis, for contraceptive drugs and contraceptive devices, as defined in the enrolled bill, including those available over-the-counter. The enrolled bill prohibits a health insurance carrier from imposing upon any person receiving contraceptive benefits pursuant to the provisions of the enrolled bill any copayment, coinsurance payment, or fee, except in certain circumstances. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) provides that (i) it is the policy of the Commonwealth that, independently of the requirements of the Constitution of the United States, individuals possess the right to access contraception; (ii) no private institution or physician, or any agent or employee of such institution or physician, shall be prohibited from refusing to provide contraception or contraceptive procedures, supplies, or information if such refusal is based upon religious or conscientious objection; and (iii) no such institution, physician, agent, or employee shall be held liable for such refusal. HB 2371, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

SB 784. Board of Education; public school accountability system; Three "E" Readiness Framework; include and incentivize work-based learning experiences. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause. HB 2454, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

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SB 805. Determination of child support. The Governor's amendments add a requirement that the Child Support Review Panel review whether to adopt a self-support reserve to address the circumstances of low-income parents who are obligated to pay support. The Governor's amendments further provide that the provisions of the enrolled bill updating the amounts in the schedule of basic child support obligations based upon gross monthly income and calculating such obligations for specific amounts up to a gross monthly income of \$42,500 shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly.

Contact: Britt Olwine | bolwine@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1815

SB 838. Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; recovery residences; certification required; penalty; work group. The enrolled bill allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (the Department) to issue provisional certification to certain recovery residences. The Governor's amendments make several changes to the enrolled bill, including: (i) changing "provisional certification" to "conditional certification"; (ii) specifying that conditional certifications may be revoked for serious health and safety concerns; and (iii) requiring the Department to maintain lists of conditionally certified and certified recovery residences on its website.

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SB 854. Consumer Data Protection Act; social media platforms; responsibilities and prohibitions related to minors. The enrolled bill requires that any controller or processor that operates a social media platform shall (i) use commercially reasonable methods to determine whether a user is a minor younger than 16 years of age and (ii) limit any such minor's use of such social media platform and allow a parent to give verifiable parental consent to increase or decrease the daily time limit.

The Governor's amendments change the definition of minor from any natural person younger than 16 years of age to any natural person younger than 18 years of age. The Governor's amendments also require a controller or processor that operates a social media platform to disable the following features on a minor's account: (a) infinite scroll or any practice, design, or feature that automatically allows content to automatically load and display additional content, other than music or video that the user has prompted to play, when a user has not been required to click a button or navigate to a new page or perform any action that is not scrolling and (b) auto-playing videos or any practice, design, or feature in which videos automatically begin playing when a user navigates to or scrolls through a social media platform.

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SB 866. Real Estate Board; membership; qualifications. The enrolled bill increases from five to 10 years the amount of time a licensed real estate broker or salesperson must be actively engaged in the profession in order to serve as a member of the Real Estate Board. The Governor's amendment increases from five to seven years the amount of time a licensed real estate broker or salesperson must be actively engaged in the profession in order to serve as a member of the Real Estate Board. HB 2210, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 698-1825

SB 875. Department of Medical Assistance Services; state pharmacy benefits manager; independent evaluation. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Medical Assistance Services, by July 1, 2026, to select and contract with a third-party administrator to serve as the state pharmacy benefits manager to administer all pharmacy benefits for Medicaid recipients, including recipients enrolled in a managed care organization. The enrolled bill enumerates requirements for the Department's contract with the state pharmacy benefits manager. In

addition, the enrolled bill directs the Department to engage an independent consultant to evaluate the implementation of a contract with a third-party pharmacy benefits manager pursuant to the enrolled bill. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs the Department to conduct an evaluation of the potential benefits, cost savings, and implementation considerations associated with utilizing a third-party administrator as the pharmacy benefit manager for all Medicaid pharmacy benefits. The Governor's Substitute requires the evaluation to include a review of fee-for-service and managed care pharmacy dispensing fees as well as recommendations for adjustments necessary to maintain pharmacy participation and patient access. The Governor's Substitute requires the Department to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025. HB 2610, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Lucas Childers | lchilders@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1823

SB 879. Board of Education; teacher licensure; career and technical education; alternative pathway to provisional licensure. The enrolled bill requires the Board of Education to issue a provisional license to any person seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education who has a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate and an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure to allow time for such person to complete, in lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, coursework in three areas specified in the enrolled bill. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) requires the Board of Education to (i) issue a provisional license to any person seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education who has (a) a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate and (b) at least five years of full-time work-related experience, evidenced through submission of written proof, or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, to allow time for such person to submit, in lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, written proof of the completion of two microcredentials established and administered by the Department of Education, one of which shall be in the unique learning needs of special education students and the other of which shall be in classroom management and lesson planning and (ii) establish, in consultation with the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement, policies, procedures, and requirements allowing local school divisions to issue a locally awarded subject matter expert credential to any individual who has expertise in a content or subject matter area relating to career and technical education in order for such individual to provide instruction or coursework as a part-time or adjunct instructor in one career and technical education course. HB 2018, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 881. Manufacture, importation, sale, transfer, or possession of plastic firearms and unfinished frames or receivers and unserialized firearms prohibited; penalties. The enrolled bill creates a Class 5 felony for any person who knowingly manufactures or assembles, imports, purchases, sells, transfers, or possesses any firearm that, after removal of all parts other than a major component is not detectable as a firearm when subjected to inspection by the types of detection devices, including X-ray machines, commonly used at airports, government buildings, schools, correctional facilities, and other locations for security screening. The enrolled bill updates language regarding the types of detection devices that are used at such locations for detecting plastic firearms. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes these provisions and amends the Class 5 felony in current law for manufacturing, importing, selling, transferring, or possessing any plastic firearm so that it applies only to a person who knowingly manufactures, imports, sells, transfers, or possesses such firearm.

The enrolled bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor, which is punishable as a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent offense, making it unlawful for any person to knowingly possess a firearm or any completed or unfinished frame or receiver that is not imprinted with a valid serial number or to knowingly import, purchase, sell, offer for sale, or transfer ownership of any completed or unfinished frame or receiver, unless the completed or unfinished frame or receiver (i) is deemed to be a firearm pursuant to federal law and (ii) is imprinted with a valid serial number. The enrolled bill also creates a Class 1 misdemeanor, which is punishable as a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent offense, making it unlawful for any person to manufacture or assemble, cause to be manufactured or assembled, import, purchase, sell, offer for sale, or transfer ownership of any firearm that is not imprinted with a valid serial number. The Governor's Substitute removes all of these provisions, as well as certain delayed effective dates provided in the enrolled bill.

The Governor's Substitute adds the use of a plastic firearm to the type of firearm that is unlawful for any person to use or display in the commission of a felony and raises the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment from five years to 10 years for a second or subsequent conviction.

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SB 894. Civil actions; liability of employer for personal injury or death by wrongful act.

The enrolled bill provides that an employer may be found vicariously liable for any tortious conduct of an employee against a vulnerable victim for personal injury or death by wrongful act when such vulnerable victim brings a civil action against such employee. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) narrows the scope of such vicarious liability to an action committed by an employee against a vulnerable victim that would constitute criminal sexual assault, abuse or neglect of a child, or malicious wounding of a minor.

The enrolled bill includes in the definition of "vulnerable victim" passengers of certain common carriers. The Governor's Substitute removes this portion of the definition and adds to the

definition a vulnerable adult as defined in relevant law. HB 1730, which is similar as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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SB 903. Sale and procurement of dogs by pet shops; pet shop regulations. The Governor's amendment removes the requirement in the enrolled bill for pet shops upon taking custody of a dog to make a record of certain information outlined in the enrolled bill relating to the custody of such dog and instead requires the pet shop upon taking custody of a dog to make and maintain a record containing information required by current law.

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

SB 936. Decreasing probation period; criteria for mandatory reduction. The enrolled bill establishes criteria for which a defendant's supervised probation period shall be reduced, including completing qualifying educational activities, maintaining verifiable employment, complying with or completing any state-certified or state-approved mental health or substance abuse treatment program, securing and maintaining qualifying health insurance or a qualifying health care plan, and obtaining housing and establishing residence.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) amends the enrolled bill as follows: (i) provides that any technical violation disqualifies a defendant from accruing credits during the calendar month that he is found in violation of his probation; (ii) provides a maximum credit allowance of 15 days, instead of 30 days as provided in the enrolled bill, for a reduction of probation for completion of any qualified educational activities, maintaining verifiable employment, complying with or completing any state-certified or state-approved mental health or substance abuse treatment program, securing and maintaining qualifying health insurance or a qualifying health care plan, and obtaining housing and establishing residence; (iii) allows the court, upon motion of the attorney for the Commonwealth and after notice to the defendant, to revoke any credits the defendant has accrued for any reason the court deems necessary and in the interest of the health and safety of the public; (iv) requires complete payment of any restitution prior to the defendant being discharged from supervised probation; and (v) prohibits any defendant who was sentenced to a mandatory period of at least three years of supervised probation pursuant to relevant law from being eligible to earn such credits. The Governor's Substitute retains the enrolled bill's provision that the foregoing provisions do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly.

The Governor's Substitute also directs the Department of Corrections, in due course, to convene a work group to identify (a) current practices for community supervision as it relates to monitoring engagement and attainment included in Executive Order 36 (2024) and (b) recommendations for court-ordered modification of time served on supervised probation. However, no recommendation shall be considered that allows the probationer (1) to receive credits while being in technical violation of his probation or (2) to receive more than 150 days of credit in one calendar year for a modified term. The work group shall take into consideration the impact of a reduced period of supervised probation on probationers who were released from

incarceration early due to sentence reductions pursuant to relevant law. The work group shall submit an executive summary and report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

HB 2252, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 940. Elections; candidates for office; challenges to candidate qualifications. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute removes from the enrolled bill (i) the deadlines established for filing and service of legal actions related to a person's eligibility to appear on the ballot, (ii) the deadline established for the court to decide such legal actions, and (ii) the prohibition established on certain challenges to candidates nominated in a primary.

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SB 949. Definitions; American Indians; Virginia recognized tribes; federally recognized tribes; sovereignty. The enrolled bill provides that the "Commonwealth endeavors to maintain positive government-to-government relationships with the federally recognized tribes within the present-day external boundaries of the Commonwealth." The Governor's amendment removes the phrase "government-to-government" from the language of the bill. HB 2134, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

SB 955. Public schools; textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials. The enrolled bill makes several changes relating to the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials that are utilized as the curriculum basis for public elementary and secondary school student instruction, including (i) requiring each local school board to adopt and implement textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials in English language arts for grades six through 12 and mathematics, science, and history and social studies for grades kindergarten through 12 and requiring the Department of Education to support such local adoption and implementation in several ways and (ii) requiring each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education or alternative certification program that provides training for any student seeking initial licensure by the Board of Education with certain endorsements to include a program of coursework and clinical experience and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in identifying and implementing textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials. The provisions of the enrolled bill, with the exception of a provision that requires a study of and report on the textbook review and approval process by November 1, 2025, have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) (a) removes such study, report, and delayed effective date; (b) moves up by one year several deadlines relating to the approval of vendors and the review and approval of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials; and (c) requires the Department to develop a unified process for local school boards that consolidates and simplifies the applications for all state and federal programs that provide funding to local school boards into a single application and requires local

school boards to develop one consolidated plan and budget for all such grants that includes identification of the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials to be adopted, the vendor for professional learning resources to support implementation of the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials from the list developed by the Department, and the budget needs to procure the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials and professional learning resources. HB 2777, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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SB 963. Discovery. The Governor's amendments (i) add a reenactment clause to the provisions of the enrolled bill and (ii) direct the Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board or his designee, in coordination with the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, to convene a work group to determine (a) the costs associated with any changes in operations and technology infrastructure necessary to implement the provisions of the enrolled bill if reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly and (b) whether the sensitive personal information of citizens identified in police reports that will be subject to mandatory disclosure to individuals charged with criminal offenses is adequately and properly protected. The Governor's amendments direct the work group to submit a report of its findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025. HB 1630, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 998. Child labor; child engaged in the work of content creation; trust account. The enrolled bill requires that a child under the age of 16 who meets certain criteria specified in the enrolled bill to be considered a child engaged in the work of content creation be compensated by the content creator, as defined in the enrolled bill, whose video content includes such child's likeness, name, or photograph. The enrolled bill requires the content creator to set aside gross earnings on the video content that includes the likeness, name, or photograph of the child in a trust account to be preserved for the benefit of the child upon attaining 18 years of age or having been declared emancipated. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science to convene a work group to examine child labor protections for children engaging in the work of content creation and requires such work group to report its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2025. HB 2401, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

SB 999. Appeals; security for appeal and fees; procedure on appeal. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute removes a provision of the enrolled bill that that changes the amount of the suspending bond required during the pendency of all appeals of any judgment granting legal, equitable, or any other form of relief from one year's interest calculated from the date of the notice of appeal to the value of the judgment plus two and one-half years' interest calculated from the date of the notice of appeal.

Contact: Britt Olwine | bolwine@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1815

SB 1040. Electric utilities; renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements; power purchase agreements. The enrolled bill amends certain renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) program requirements for Dominion Energy Virginia, including (i) the annual percentage of program requirements to be met with behind-the meter solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion resources of three megawatts or less located in the Commonwealth and (ii) the date by which 75 percent of such requirements shall be met with resources located in the Commonwealth. The enrolled bill also removes the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third party power purchase agreement under a pilot program. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) exempts Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia from certain RPS requirements for the compliance years 2024 through 2027. The Governor's Substitute also removes certain provisions of the enrolled bill relating to amending the percentages of RPS program requirements for behind-the-meter resources and restores the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third party power purchase agreement under a pilot program. HB 1883, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's substitute.

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1048. School board policies; parental notification; safe storage of prescription drugs and firearms in the household. The enrolled bill requires each local school board to develop and implement a policy to require the annual notification of the parent of each student enrolled in the local school division, to be sent by email and, if applicable, SMS text message within 30 calendar days succeeding the first day of each school year, of the importance of securely storing any prescription drug, as defined in relevant law, present in the household and the parent's legal responsibility to safely store any firearm present in the household. The Governor's amendments also require local school boards to develop protocols by which each public elementary or secondary school principal or his designee shall, as soon as practicable, (i) inform at least one parent of a minor student enrolled in such school if such minor requests that any school employee participate while at school in (a) social affirmation of the minor student's gender incongruence or (b) the transition of such minor to a felt or stated gender different from the minor student's biological sex and (ii) request and receive permission from at least one parent of a minor student enrolled at such school prior to the implementation at such school of any plan concerning any gender incongruence experienced by such minor, including any counseling of such minor at school that includes a provision for parental participation. HB 1678, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 1051. Grooming and Boarding establishments; inspections by animal control officers. The enrolled bill allows an animal control officer to inspect a grooming or boarding establishment that is not regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine with the consent of the owner or person in charge or pursuant to a warrant upon a receipt of a complaint or twice annually upon their own motion to ensure compliance with state animal care laws and regulations. The enrolled bill requires an animal control officer, a law-enforcement officer, or the

State Veterinarian to obtain the consent of the owner or person in charge of any business premises of any dealer, pet shop, groomer, or boarding establishment to investigate allegations of a complaint of a suspected violation of state or local animal care laws. Current law does not require such consent to investigate allegations of a complaint. The enrolled bill allows an animal control officer to search a building or place pursuant to a warrant after making a sworn statement regarding any potential violations of the cruelty to animals laws. Current law only allows a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or police officer to conduct such a search. The enrolled bill also directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, convene a work group to consider whether to propose a state license and other regulatory requirements for animal boarding establishments similar to the current licensing requirements for animal shelters and submit its report of such findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes all provisions in the enrolled bill except for the provision that directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, to convene such work group and submit its report by December 1, 2026. HB 2313, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

SB 1056. Unemployment compensation; increase weekly benefit amounts; work group; report. The enrolled bill provides that for unemployment compensation claims effective on or after January 1, 2026, an eligible individual's weekly benefit amount shall be \$100 higher than the current weekly benefit amount, as denoted in the table in the printed bill. The enrolled bill also provides that, beginning July 1, 2025, for claims effective on or after July 1, 2025, an eligible individual's weekly unemployment compensation benefit amount shall be paid for a maximum duration of 26 weeks. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) reduces the increase in an eligible individual's weekly benefit amount from \$100 to \$52, as denoted in the table in the printed bill, and removes the provision that such amount shall be paid for a maximum duration of 26 weeks. HB 1766, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

SB 1058. State Corporation Commission; distribution cost sharing program; required distribution system upgrades. The enrolled bill directs the State Corporation Commission by July 1, 2026, to establish by regulation a distribution cost sharing program for Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power to construct distribution system upgrades required to interconnect participating projects, as defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill directs the Commission to require each such utility to file any tariffs, agreements, or forms necessary for the implementation of the program by December 1, 2026, and to submit a report on the implementation of the program by November 1, 2028. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) amends the requirements for such distribution cost sharing program by requiring that Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power allocate the costs of

qualifying upgrades, as defined in the enrolled bill, among any sharing projects, as defined in the bill, except that a project shall be exempted from such program if the owner or developer of such project elects to pay in full the approved cost of any associated qualifying upgrade. The Governor's Substitute also creates individual and corporate income tax deductions for the amount paid or cost incurred for installing a qualifying upgrade required to interconnect a triggering project, as defined in the bill. HB 2266, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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SB 1093. Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program authority; right of entry. . The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause. HB 2008, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

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SB 1100. Electric utilities; virtual power plant pilot program. The enrolled bill requires Dominion Energy Virginia to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to conduct a pilot program to evaluate methods to optimize demand through various technology applications, including the establishment of virtual power plants, by December 1, 2025. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs the State Corporation Commission to hold an ex-parte proceeding to evaluate and assess the benefits, impacts, best practices, and implementation recommendations for Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to establish virtual power plant programs in the Commonwealth. HB 2346, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1105. Contraception; right to contraception; applicability; enforcement. The enrolled bill establishes a right to obtain contraceptives and engage in contraception, as such terms are defined in the bill, clarifies that none of its provisions shall be construed to permit or sanction the performance of any sterilization procedure without a patient's voluntary and informed consent, and creates a cause of action that may be instituted against anyone who infringes on such right.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) states that it is the public policy of the Commonwealth that individuals possess the right to contraception as set forth in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 479 (1965) and *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, 405 U.S. 438 (1972). The Governor's Substitute establishes a religious exception that specifies that no private institution or physician shall be prohibited from refusing to provide contraception if such refusal is based upon religious or conscientious objection. HB 1716, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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SB 1153. Department of Social Services; assisted living facilities; appointment of receiver. The Governor's amendment adds an emergency clause.

Contact: Hannah Yates | hyates@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1873

SB 1158. Eminent domain; condemnation proceedings. The Governor's amendment provides that the provisions of the enrolled bill requiring that a title report showing all matters that affect the current ownership, existing liens, encumbrances, and other matters affecting property title as of the date of such report shall be provided by the condemner to a landowner in a condemnation action shall apply only to offers made to take or damage property that are made on or after January 1, 2026.

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SB 1165. Virginia Public Procurement Act; sola photovoltaic equipment meeting national environmental protection and product safety standards. The enrolled bill prohibits state and local agencies from including a provision in any request for proposal, procurement agreement, contract, ordinance, policy, permit, or accompanying document that directs the exclusion from use of any materials contained in or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing. The Governor's amendment prohibits state and local agencies from including a provision in such requests that directs the exclusion from use of any materials contained in or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that are manufactured in the United States. HB 2024, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

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SB 1192. Electric utilities; generation of electricity from renewable and zero carbon sources; projects on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools. The enrolled bill provides that for purposes of compliance with a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) program, to the extent that low-income qualifying projects, as defined in existing law, are not available and projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools are available, a certain percentage of the required projects shall be composed of projects located on or adjacent to public elementary or secondary schools. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) repeals RPS program requirements for Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power and requires such utilities to sell all renewable energy certificates obtained by certain electric-generating resources on the open market and to credit all revenues from such sale to customers' bills. HB 1934, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

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SB 1194. Department of Criminal Justice Services; training on certain arrests. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish a training course for law-enforcement agencies and officers and special conservators of the peace on the discretion such officers and special conservators of the peace can exercise regarding certain arrests. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) requires the Department to establish a "training curriculum" rather than a "training course" and changes from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027, the required date for completion of such curriculum by the Department. The Governor's Substitute moves the required review date for current law-

enforcement officers from prior to January 1, 2027, to prior to January 1, 2028, and for future law-enforcement officers to within one year of their date of hire. The Governor's Substitute also moves from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027, the date by which the Criminal Justice Services Board must promulgate regulations pursuant to relevant law requiring special conservators of the peace to review such curriculum and moves the deadline for persons applying for an initial or renewal registration as special conservators of the peace from on or after January 1, 2027, to on or after July 1, 2027, to review such curriculum as part of their compulsory training standards. HB 1712, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 1202. Tax exempt property; nonprofit institutions of learning; emergency. The enrolled bill clarifies that institutions licensed by the Department of Education that provide services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or any school that is licensed by the Board of Education as a school for students with disabilities are institutions of learning not conducted for profit whose property is exempt from taxation pursuant to the Constitution of Virginia. The enrolled bill contains an emergency clause. The Governor's amendment clarifies that such provisions are declaratory of existing law. HB 1970, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Rebecca Schultz | rschultz@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1863

SB 1212. Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; mandatory fees or surcharges disclosure. The enrolled bill prohibits a supplier, in connection with a consumer transaction, from advertising or displaying a price for goods or services without clearly and conspicuously displaying the total price, which shall include all mandatory fees or surcharges, as defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill specifies the requirements for compliance with its provisions for certain suppliers and excludes from its provisions (i) certain fees charged by motor vehicle dealers, as defined in relevant law; (ii) fees charged by electric utilities, natural gas utilities, and telecommunications service providers, as those terms are defined in relevant law; (iii) certain costs associated with real estate settlement services; and (iv) the provision of air transportation by air carriers. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) adds health club services to the list of exclusions.

The enrolled bill requires a food delivery platform to, at the point when a consumer views and selects a vendor or items for purchase, include a clear and conspicuous disclosure of any additional fee or percentage charged, as defined in the enrolled bill. The Governor's Substitute removes the requirement that such disclosure be made at the point when a consumer views and selects items for purchase.

The enrolled bill provides that a food delivery platform that is a price-variable supplier is in compliance if such supplier discloses at the point when a consumer selects items for purchase (a) the factors determining the final price, (b) any mandatory fees or surcharges associated with the transaction, and (c) that the total cost of services may vary. The Governor's Substitute requires that such disclosure be made prior to checkout. Finally, the Governor's Substitute adds a reenactment clause. HB 2515, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

SB 1219. General Assembly; Legislator Compensation Commission; established. The enrolled bill establishes the 11-member Legislator Compensation Commission, made up of former legislators and nonlegislative citizen members, for the purpose of reviewing the compensation received by members of the General Assembly and determining whether any adjustments are needed. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) renames the new commission as the Elected State Official Compensation Commission and provides for the commission to consider the compensation of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General in addition to the compensation of members of the General Assembly. The Governor's Substitute adds three members to the commission: a former Governor, a former Lieutenant Governor, and a former Attorney General, each to be appointed by the current holder of each such office.

Contact: Lily Jones | ljones@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1888

SB 1221. Public housing authorities; indigent parties; unlawful detainer. The enrolled bill exempts indigent defendants from having to post an appeal bond in unlawful detainer actions brought by a public housing authority and prohibits any landlord that is a public housing authority from requiring a tenant to pay any fees for the maintenance or repair of a dwelling unit unless such repair is necessitated by the tenant's action or omission. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes these provisions. The enrolled bill also requires, if a public housing authority issues a notice of nonpayment of rent to a tenant, that such public housing authority provide the tenant certain information printed on pink or orange paper explaining how the tenant may recertify the tenant's income in accordance with federal law and policy. The Governor's Substitute removes the requirement that such information be printed on pink or orange paper. HB 2415, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sabrina Miller-Bryson | smiller-bryson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1876

SB 1237. Department of Medical Assistance Services; appeals of agency determinations. The enrolled bill allows health care providers to appeal any adverse action or determination by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) or a DMAS contractor. Under current law, such appeal is allowed for a determination of overpayment to a provider by DMAS. The enrolled bill adds provisions allowing for DMAS and an appealing provider to stay the deadline for their appeal decision to facilitate settlement discussions. The enrolled bill further specifies that DMAS contractors are required to represent themselves during appeal proceedings.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) specifies that providers may appeal actions only if they are subject to appeal under the Administrative Process Act. The Governor's Substitute removes a provision from the enrolled bill that would allow a provider and a managed care organization to settle an appeal without additional approval. The Governor's Substitute specifies that contractors, including managed care organizations, shall not have the right to file a petition for reconsideration or an appeal for court review of DMAS' final agency decision. HB 2082, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Chandler Brooks | cbrooks@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1843

SB 1259. Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority; board of directors; chief executive officer. The enrolled bill makes several changes relating to the board of directors and the chief executive officer of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority (the Authority). The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) preserves several such changes, including provisions relating the length of appointed members' terms and the election of a chairman and vice-chairman of the board of directors, but it alters or removes other changes, including adjusting the total and appointed membership of the board of directors and removing changes in the enrolled bill that pertain to the procedures to be followed in the event of a disagreement on the selection or conditions of appointment of the chief executive officer of the Authority. HB 2161, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 1272. Trespass with an unmanned aircraft system; penalties. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) (i) reinstates a provision repealed by the enrolled bill relating to unmanned aircraft systems taking off or landing in violation of current Federal Aviation Administration Special Security Instructions or UAS Security Sensitive Airspace Restrictions and (ii) adds any facility, as defined in relevant law, covered by the federal Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 to the Class 4 felony created by the enrolled bill for any person who knowingly and intentionally, and without authorization, causes an unmanned aircraft system to enter the airspace over certain locations. The Governor's Substitute provides an exception for any such person who is an employee of such facility and conducting official business.

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 1300. Charter; Town of Dumfries. The enrolled bill makes numerous amendments to the charter for the Town of Dumfries in Prince William County, including providing for a runoff election in the case of a tie vote for town council. The Governor's amendment removes this runoff election provision. General law calls for determination by lot in such cases. HB 2352, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

SB 1316. Renewable energy portfolio standard eligible sources; geothermal electric generating resources. The enrolled bill provides that geothermal electric generating resources, as defined in the enrolled bill, located in the Commonwealth or physically located within the PJM region are eligible for compliance with renewable energy portfolio standard requirements. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute adds zero-carbon electricity to the renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) program, amends the definition of "total electric energy," and adds zero-carbon electricity generating nuclear facilities located in the Commonwealth to sources eligible for the RPS program.

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1318. Board of Pharmacy; emergency medical services providers; work group. The enrolled bill directs the Board of Pharmacy (the Board) to convene a work group to advise the Board on issues related to emergency medical services providers. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) directs the Board to report specifically on the progress of Virginia's emergency medical services agencies in regard to complying with federal law and Board regulations. The Governor's Substitute requires the Board to submit such report by November 1, 2025.

Contact: Chandler Brooks | cbrooks@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1843

SB 1332. Charges for towing and storage of certain vehicles. The enrolled bill (i) increases the maximum hookup and initial towing fee of a passenger car from \$150 to \$210, (ii) repeals the July 1, 2025, sunset of provisions that authorize a towing and recovery operator to charge a fuel surcharge fee of \$20 for the removal of certain vehicles, and (iii) prohibits a towing and recovery operator from charging such a fuel surcharge fee in certain localities. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute removes the provision of the enrolled bill that repeals the sunset and removes the prohibition on charging the fuel surcharge in certain localities.

Contact: Tom Stevens | tstevens@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1821

SB 1336. Electricity consumption tax; rate adjustments. The enrolled bill increases the electric utility consumption tax's special utility tax rates for commercial and industrial consumer electricity consumed per month (i) in excess of 2,500 kWh but not in excess of 50,000 kWh and (ii) in excess of 50,000 kWh.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) (a) removes the provisions of the enrolled bill that increase such rates for electricity consumed per month in excess of 2,500 kWh but not in excess of 50,000 kWh; (b) limits the rate increase on electricity consumed per month in excess of 50,000 kWh to such consumers of electricity that are outside of Sector 31-33 of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS); and (c) prohibits the State Corporation Commission from using the revenues generated from the electricity consumption tax to conduct certain studies unless such studies are limited to assessing load forecasts and rate impacts. HB 2663, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Rebecca Schultz | rschultz@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1863

SB 1339. Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act; telephone solicitations by text message. The Governor's amendment adds a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026.

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

SB 1356. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; rental payment methods. The enrolled bill requires, with certain exceptions outlined in the enrolled bill, landlords subject to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act to accept payment of periodic rent and any security deposit by any lawful means, including check, electronic funds transfer, debit or credit card, cash, and money order. The Governor's amendments remove this requirement. The

Governor's amendments also reinstate a provision, removed from existing law by the enrolled bill, providing that the tenant may request a written receipt after paying in the form of cash or money order. The enrolled bill requires the landlord to provide such written receipt as a matter of law. HB 2218, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

SB 1370. Department of Education; model memorandum of understanding; counseling from school counselors by way of telehealth. The enrolled bill provides that the model memorandum of understanding developed by the Department of Education for partnerships with community mental health services providers or school-based telehealth providers shall include procedures allowing for students to receive counseling from school counselors by way of telehealth. The Governor's amendment requires such model memorandum of understanding to also include a requirement for parental consent before the provision of any mental health services to any student who is under 18 years of age. HB 2543, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 1371. Gift certificates; fees; expiration. The enrolled bill prohibits the imposition of a dormancy fee, an inactivity charge or fee, or a service fee with respect to a gift certificate, unless certain requirements of the enrolled bill are met and also prohibits the sale or issuance of a gift certificate that is subject to an expiration date that is earlier than five years after the gift certificate was issued or funds were last loaded to the gift certificate. The Governor's amendment removes the provision of the enrolled bill related to expiration dates.

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1379. Health; Research and Clinical Trial Cancer Consortium Initiative established; report. The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) increases from nine to 12 the membership of the Research and Clinical Trial Cancer Consortium Initiative (the Initiative), established by the enrolled bill, by adding (i) two nonlegislative citizen members and providing that nonlegislative citizen members shall have expertise in cancer clinical research and treatment or philanthropic support of cancer clinical research and treatment and (ii) the Secretary of Health and Human Resources as an ex officio member. The Governor's Substitute also removes Inova Schar Cancer Institute from the Initiative and instead includes three nonacademic health systems.

Contact: Hannah Yates | hyates@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1873

SB 1386. Department of Emergency Management; powers and duties; development and implementation of standardized guidelines and training programs. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Emergency Management to develop a training program comprised of National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles, the state's Incident Command System (ICS) structure, and the role of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Under the enrolled bill, each agency head shall be required to complete the training within six months of appointment and again every two years thereafter. The Governor's amendments remove the provisions requiring

the Department to develop such training program and each agency head to complete such training. HB 2350, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

SB 1393. Department of Medical Assistance Services; pregnancy mobile application. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services (the Department) to partner with a mobile pregnancy application to promote awareness of state government maternal and infant health programs and information available to prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum individuals who are eligible for Medicaid. The enrolled bill also directs the Department to develop an in lieu of service or setting that expands access to nutritious food for pregnant and postpartum Medicaid managed care members. The enrolled bill requires the Department to submit a request for proposal within 180 days of the bill's effective date.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) makes a number of changes to the enrolled bill, including: (i) giving the Department the option to partner with a managed care organization, in addition to a mobile pregnancy application; (ii) changing the term "prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum individuals" to "prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum mothers"; (iii) removing the requirement that the Department consult with the General Assembly in developing its request for proposal; (iv); removing the list of specified entities whose definition of acceptable clinical standards may be used in determining the application's content; (v) removing certain data that the selected vendor is required to provide to the Department; (vi) clarifying that the Department shall issue a request for proposals when appropriations are provided through a general appropriation act; and (vii) removing the requirement that the Department develop an in lieu of service or setting that expands access to nutritious food for pregnant and postpartum Medicaid managed care members. HB 1929, which is similar as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Hannah Yates | hyates@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1873

SB 1394. Electric utilities; energy storage requirements; Department of Energy and Department of Environmental Quality to develop model ordinances; work groups; report. The enrolled bill increases the targets for energy storage capacity that Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia are required to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure and extends the time frame by which such capacity must be met. Under the enrolled bill, (i) Appalachian Power shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 780 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2040 and 520 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and (ii) Dominion Energy Virginia shall petition the Commission for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 5,220 megawatts of short-duration energy storage capacity by 2045 and 3,480 megawatts of long-duration energy storage capacity by 2045. "Long-duration energy storage" and "short-duration energy storage" are defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill requires the Commission to conduct a technology demonstration program for long-duration energy storage resources and initiate a proceeding to determine if such technology is viable and that the targets in the enrolled bill are reasonably achievable, for which a final order shall be entered no later

than March 1, 2030. Certain provisions of the enrolled bill are only effective upon such determination by the Commission.

The enrolled bill requires the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Fire Programs, to create model ordinances for use by localities in their regulation of energy storage projects and to convene a work group to develop such model ordinances and submit a report by December 1, 2025. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality to convene a work group to develop recommendations and financial incentives related to the development of long-duration energy storage projects and submit a report by December 1, 2025. The enrolled bill also directs the Department of Energy to engage with PJM Interconnection, LLC, in reviewing regional market conditions related to energy storage resources and permits Dominion Energy Virginia to propose a partnership with institutions of higher education to deploy energy storage resources.

The Governor's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) repeals provisions requiring Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to participate in a renewable energy portfolio standard program that establishes annual goals for the sale of renewable energy. HB 2537, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

SB 1408. Department of Health; waterworks; mandatory reporting. The enrolled bill requires owners of waterworks to report any critical equipment failure or malfunction or contaminant release to the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water as soon as practicable but no more than six hours after discovery. The Governor's amendment reduces the time to report such failure, malfunction, or release from six hours after discovery to two hours after discovery. HB 2749, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Lucas Childers | lchilders@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1823

SB 1413. Public school buildings; indoor air quality; inspection and evaluation. The enrolled bill establishes several enumerated requirements for local school divisions to ensure indoor air quality in each public school building in the local school division, including providing for an inspection and evaluation program at least once every two years and an industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation at least once every four years. The Governor's amendments remove the requirement for local school divisions to provide for an inspection and evaluation program at least once every two years. HB 2618, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 1418. Department of Medical Assistance Services; state plan for medical assistance services; postpartum doula care; report. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to amend the state plan for medical assistance services to include a provision for payment for up to 10 doula visits, with up to four doula visits during pregnancy and up to six doula visits during the 12 months after the individual gives birth. The Governor's Amendment in

the Nature of a Substitute (Governor's Substitute) removes references to "birthing individual(s)" and replaces them with "women" or "mother" and removes the requirement that the provision of postpartum doula care include culturally appropriate and individualized care. The Governor's Substitute also removes the requirement for an annual report and instead directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to provide information to the Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures. HB 1614, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's Substitute.

Contact: Lucas Childers | lchilders@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1823

SB 1449. Siting of data centers; site assessment; high energy use facility. The Governor's amendments (i) make the requirement for certain site assessments prior to local siting decisions for proposed high energy use facilities a local option rather than mandatory and (ii) add a reenactment clause. HB 1601, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

SB 1460. Issuance of writ of vacatur for victims of human trafficking. The enrolled bill amends the procedure that allows victims of human trafficking, defined in the enrolled bill, to file a petition of vacatur in circuit court to have certain convictions vacated and the police and court records expunged for such convictions. The Governor's amendments add the requirement that such petition contain a statement that the petitioner has ceased to be a victim of human trafficking or has sought rehabilitative services. HB 2393, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1462. High school graduation requirements; history and social studies credits; certain substitutions permitted. The Governor's amendment adds a reenactment clause. HB 1824, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendment.

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

SB 1466. Criminal records; expungement and sealing of records. The enrolled bill amends numerous statutes related to the expungement and sealing of criminal records that are scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2025. In addition, the enrolled bill requires (i) the Department of State Police to develop a secure portal for the purpose of allowing government agencies to determine whether a record has been sealed prior to responding to a request pursuant to current law by October 1, 2026; (ii) the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission to (a) educate and provide support to public defenders and certified court-appointed counsel on expungement and sealing, (b) conduct trainings on expungement and sealing across the Commonwealth, (c) develop a library of resources on expungement and sealing for use by public defenders and court-appointed counsel, and (d) post information regarding expungement and sealing for use by the public on its website; and (iii) the Department of State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and clerk of any circuit court to provide data and information on sealing upon request of the Virginia State Crime

Commission for purposes of monitoring and evaluating the implementation and impact of the sealing processes. The enrolled bill also directs (1) the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia to collect data related to petitions filed pursuant to relevant law, (2) the Virginia State Crime Commission to analyze data and information collected on automatic and petition sealing and report to the General Assembly by the first day of the 2026 Regular Session, and (3) the Virginia State Crime Commission to continue its study on the sealing of criminal records and report its work to the General Assembly by the first day of the 2026 Regular Session.

The enrolled bill repeals the Sealing Fee Fund and directs any money in such Fund to be reverted to the general fund. The enrolled bill contains a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, for the provisions related to the sealing of former possession of marijuana offenses without entry of a court order and the sealing of charges and convictions related to automatic sealing and such petitions. Lastly, the enrolled bill delays the repeal of the relevant law related to marijuana possession, limits on dissemination of criminal history record information, and prohibited practices by employers, educational institutions, and state and local governments until January 1, 2026.

The Governor's amendments prohibit sealing criminal history records for convictions of assault and battery of a law-enforcement officer and financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. The Governor's amendments also extend various delayed effective dates by an additional six months. SB 1466, which is identical as enrolled, has the same Governor's amendments.

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1472. Revenue reserves of the Revenue Stabilization Funds and the Revenue Reserve Fund. The enrolled bill increases the maximum combined amount in the Revenue Stabilization Fund and the Revenue Reserve Fund from 15 percent to 20 percent of the Commonwealth's average annual tax revenues, provided that such combined amount shall only exceed 15 percent if the balance of the Revenue Reserve Fund does not exceed eight percent of such revenues. The Governor's amendment provides that the combined amount shall only exceed 15 percent if the balance of the Revenue Reserve Fund does not exceed 10 percent of such tax revenues.

Contact: Keelin Cronin | kcronin@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1832

SB 1474. Filing of six-year financial outline; alternative recession estimates; revenue estimates based on Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates. The enrolled bill requires the Governor to include in his financial plan for a prospective period of six years submitted to the General Assembly (i) alternative recession estimates of anticipated general fund and nongeneral fund revenue and (ii) revenue estimates for the general fund and nongeneral fund based on the assumptions presented to the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates. The Governor's amendment requires the Governor to include, instead of the alternative recession estimates specified in clause (i), alternative estimates of general and nongeneral fund revenues based on the below-baseline economic assumptions presented to the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates.

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Governor's Vetoes

HB 1607. Importation, sale, manufacture, etc., of assault firearms and certain ammunition feeding devices prohibited; penalties. The enrolled bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person who imports, sells, manufactures, purchases, or transfers an assault firearm, as that term is defined in the bill with some exceptions, and prohibits a person who has been convicted of such violation from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm for a period of three years from the date of conviction. The enrolled bill provides that an assault firearm does not include any firearm that is an antique firearm, has been rendered permanently inoperable, is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action, or was manufactured before July 1, 2025. The enrolled bill also prohibits the sale of a large capacity ammunition feeding device, as that term is defined in the bill. The enrolled bill provides that any person who willfully and intentionally (i) sells an assault firearm to another person or (ii) purchases an assault firearm from another person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and that any person who imports, sells, barter, or transfers a large capacity ammunition feeding device is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The enrolled bill also makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person younger than 21 years of age to import, sell, manufacture, purchase, possess, transport, or transfer an assault firearm regardless of the date of manufacture of such assault firearm with some exceptions. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1181. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1607, which creates new penalties for transferring and possessing certain firearms containing certain components.

My position on this legislation has not changed since it came to my desk last year. The Constitution precludes the Commonwealth from prohibiting a broad category of firearms widely embraced for lawful purposes, such as self-defense.

Like all Virginians, I am profoundly troubled by the occurrences of mass shootings and crimes committed with firearms. The pain and sorrow inflicted by criminals with heinous intentions are truly heart-wrenching and should not be minimized for our communities, the victims, or their families.

Virginia has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth under previous administrations has reduced penalties for criminals, contributing to violent crime. I have yet to receive any bills enhancing penalties for crimes committed with firearms that would reverse this trend. Our most significant gap has been in our behavioral health system. This is why substantial investments in behavioral health are necessary.

That twofold approach can provide a real solution without creating outcomes that would affect law-abiding citizens and violating Virginia's constitutional rights.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1608. Firearm industry members; standards of responsible conduct; civil liability. The enrolled bill creates standards of responsible conduct for firearm industry members and requires such members to establish and implement reasonable controls regarding the manufacture, sale, distribution, use, and marketing of the firearm industry member's firearm-related products, as those terms are defined in the bill. Such reasonable controls include reasonable procedures, safeguards, and business practices that are designed to (i) prevent the sale or distribution of a firearm-related product to a straw purchaser, a firearm trafficker, a person prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a person who the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe is at substantial risk of using a firearm-related product to harm themselves or unlawfully harm another or of unlawfully possessing or using a firearm-related product; (ii) prevent the loss of a firearm-related product or theft of a firearm-related product from a firearm industry member; (iii) ensure that the firearm industry member complies with all provisions of state and federal law and does not otherwise promote the unlawful manufacture, sale, possession, marketing, or use of a firearm-related product; and (iv) ensure that the firearm industry member does not engage in an act or practice in violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The enrolled bill also provides that a firearm industry member may not knowingly or recklessly create, maintain, or contribute to a public nuisance, as defined in the enrolled bill, through the sale, manufacturing, importing, or marketing of a firearm-related product. The enrolled bill creates a civil cause of action for the Attorney General or a local county or city attorney to enforce the provisions of the bill or for any person who has been injured as a result of a firearm industry member's violation to seek an injunction and to recover costs and damages. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1608, which relates to civil penalties for firearm industry members.

This bill is identical to legislation brought to my desk last year. As I previously stated, the federal Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) already provides a framework for addressing civil actions against firearms industry entities concerning negligent entrustment and defects. This federal law, grounded in common sense and common law principles, prevents baseless litigation that could financially devastate a lawful industry with exorbitant legal fees. Other lawful industries, such as vaccine producers, have similar protections.

Even under Presidents Obama and Biden, the Department of Justice consistently defended the PLCAA. The DOJ has argued against attempts by states to implement regulatory schemes as a loophole to the PLCAA, deeming them unconstitutional and lacking merit.

The Second Amendment, like the First Amendment, necessitates protection from abusive civil lawsuits. I am disappointed to reach the end of my last session in office without bills to increase penalties for heinous acts of gun violence. Our legal system should prioritize punishing criminals rather than targeting law-abiding manufacturers and retailers within the firearms industry.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1610. Department of Taxation; accounts receivable; collection. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Taxation, Department of Accounts, and Office of the Attorney General to analyze the pervasiveness of outstanding accounts receivable due to the Commonwealth and collection efforts related to such receivables. The Department of Taxation shall report on the findings and recommendations of such analysis and submit such report to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and House Committee on Appropriations by November 1, 2025. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1610, which would direct the Department of Taxation, Department of Accounts, and the Office of the Attorney General to study the pervasiveness of outstanding accounts receivable and collection efforts currently underway in the Commonwealth.

The assessments required by this study are already in process at the Department of Taxation. Therefore, this study is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | clenson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1616. Department of Energy; workforce development in offshore wind industry. The enrolled bill directs the Director of the Department of Energy to identify and develop training resources to advance workforce development in the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1616, which would require the Virginia Department of Energy to identify and develop training resources to advance workforce development in the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Department of Energy already addresses workforce development across various forms of energy. Furthermore, our Administration has partnered with the General Assembly to create the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (Virginia Works) in order to streamline workforce development efforts to ensure they are more efficient and effective. The offshore wind industry has been hit with project contract cost increases and project cancellations running rampant across the east coast and declining interest even for projects in Europe. Virginia must drive workforce development efforts for high growth, in demand professions, which is exactly why Virginia Works was established.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1621. Public institutions of higher education; governing boards; nonvoting, advisory representatives. The enrolled bill requires the State Board for Community Colleges, the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education, and each local community

college board to appoint a nonvoting, advisory faculty representative to its respective board. Under current law, such an appointment is permissive. The enrolled bill also requires the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education and each local community college board to appoint a nonvoting, advisory staff representative to its respective board. The enrolled bill requires such advisory faculty and staff representatives to be elected by the faculty and staff of the institution, respectively, in the manner that such faculty and staff members deem appropriate. Current law requires the advisory faculty representative to be chosen from individuals elected by the faculty or the institution's faculty senate or its equivalent. The enrolled bill also clarifies that any vacancy of such an advisory representative shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection, whether the vacancy occurs by expiration of a term or otherwise. The Governor's veto explanation states:

" Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1621, which requires the addition of nonvoting faculty and staff representatives to the governing boards of baccalaureate public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.

Our esteemed public higher education institutions uphold the Commonwealth's commitment to education, overseen by Boards of Visitors endowed with broad statutory powers to regulate academic and financial affairs. The Boards of Visitors hire employees to fulfill their duty to the people.

The proposal would also exclude these representatives from General Assembly confirmation, subject only to an internal selection process, and they would be beyond the Governor's authority for removal due to misconduct, solely accountable to their peers.

Boards of Visitors "do not exist for their own sake or that of any particular institution but for the benefit of the public at large" (2023 Op. Va Att'y Gen. 52). Their governance should follow their public role, with members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly rather than by unelected faculty or staff.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 1625. Minimum wage; farm laborers or farm employees; temporary foreign workers.

The enrolled bill eliminates the exemptions from Virginia's minimum wage requirements for (i) persons employed as farm laborers or farm employees and (ii) certain temporary foreign workers. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1625 which removes the farmworker exemption from the Virginia Minimum Wage Act.

The proposal's effects on labor costs, as determined by existing federal law, are especially concerning.

All producers who employ H-2A workers must adhere to the U.S. Department of Labor's Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR), currently set at \$16.16 per hour.

The AEW is determined using various domestic workers' annual average gross wage rates in a state or region. Eliminating the farmworker exemption would align the AEW with the increased wage mandate, significantly increasing costs beyond sustainable levels for farmers.

Even farms that do not employ H-2A workers pay the AEW to compete with those that do, creating a blanket increase in the cost of production for all agricultural products.

Farmers have a unique economic environment with unpredictable weather and fluctuating production costs. Due to federal pricing systems and global market conditions, farmers often lack control over the prices they receive for their goods. Agricultural budgeting and operations are already challenging, and imposing a wage mandate without considering these factors could drive small and medium-sized farms into debt or closure. The agricultural sector has thin margins, and this bill will significantly affect the industry.

Each job created in the agriculture sector simulates 1.6 jobs elsewhere in Virginia's economy. This multiplier effect demonstrates the agriculture sector's significant effect on the overall state economy. This ripple effect helps to drive economic growth and stability across Virginia, making agriculture a crucial component of the state's prosperity.

A minimum wage requirement unnecessarily strains farmers financially, leading to farm closures, job losses, and increased consumer food prices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1634. Charter; City of Portsmouth. The enrolled bill amends the charter for the City of Portsmouth by authorizing the City Manager to require city departments to implement appropriate enhancement or remedial measures consistent with prevailing law wherever there exists (i) a compelling government interest, (ii) an analysis that documents a statistically significant disparity between the availability and utilization of minority-owned and women-owned businesses, or (iii) direct evidence by minority-owned businesses or women-owned businesses of the impact of race by discrimination. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 872. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1634, which authorizes the Portsmouth City manager to engage in race and sex-based decision making.

There are significant constitutional, legal, administrative, and economic challenges presented by this bill. Enforcing these remedial measures could expose the City to costly lawsuits for potential violations of state or federal laws, including equal protection clauses. Policies that prioritize race or gender over qualifications may discourage competition, reduce efficiency, and undermine the city's economic growth by eroding confidence in a fair and merit-based process.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 1638. Department of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; affordable housing; criminal record screening model policy. The enrolled bill requires the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, with input from a stakeholder group convened by the Department of Housing and Community Development, to develop a criminal record screening model policy for admitting or denying an applicant for affordable housing covered under the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's guidance on the application of the federal Fair Housing Act and maintain such model policy on its website. The enrolled bill prohibits a landlord of an affordable housing unit from basing an adverse action, in whole or in part, on an applicant's criminal or arrest record unless the landlord does so in accordance with the criminal record screening model policy developed by the Department of Housing and Community Development and posted on its website and provides the applicant with a written copy of such policy. The provisions of the enrolled bill other than the creation of the stakeholder group have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1638, which requires the Commonwealth to develop an affordable housing criminal record screening model policy.

Rental applicants are currently protected by existing fair housing laws related to criminal convictions. Historically, housing providers participating in federal affordable housing programs have been permitted to deny an applicant on the basis of a criminal background check. This bill could make Virginia's affordable housing policy inconsistent with what is accepted under federal law and may dissuade housing providers from participating in affordable housing programs within the Commonwealth.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1639. Health insurance; tobacco surcharge; sunset. The enrolled bill removes the January 1, 2026, sunset on provisions of current law that eliminate the authority of a health carrier to vary its premium rates based on tobacco use and directs the State Corporation Commission to make its final report regarding the elimination of such tobacco surcharge by January 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1639, which would permanently prohibit small group and individual health insurance carriers from applying a surcharge on the insurance premiums of tobacco users.

Smoking and tobacco use remain among the leading causes of chronic health conditions, contributing to increased healthcare costs for all Virginians. The tobacco surcharge serves as a policy tool to ensure that those who engage in higher-risk behaviors contribute proportionally to their healthcare expenses, rather than shifting the financial burden onto non-tobacco users.

Eliminating this surcharge would require insurers to redistribute these costs, potentially leading to higher premiums for non-smokers.

Furthermore, while proponents of this legislation argue that removing the surcharge would expand the insurance pool and reduce premiums, data from the State Corporation Commission has not conclusively demonstrated that eliminating the surcharge achieves these goals. The most recent reports indicate mixed enrollment trends and only marginal premium adjustments, suggesting that other economic and demographic factors play a more significant role in insurance participation than the surcharge itself.

Requiring non-tobacco users to bear the increased healthcare costs associated with tobacco use, without clear evidence of a broader benefit, is not a policy I can support.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1657. Voter registration, regular periodic review of registration records; 90-day quiet period before all primary and general elections. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Elections to complete not later than 90 days prior to the date of a primary or general election any program the purpose of which is to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the voter registration system. This restriction is not to be construed to preclude (i) the removal of names from the voter registration system at the request of the registrant or as provided by existing law by reason of criminal conviction or mental incapacity or the death of the registrant or (ii) the correction of registration records pursuant to existing law. Under current law, such restriction only applies to federal primaries and federal general elections. The bill also extends (a) the period of time registrars have to cancel registrations from 30 days to 60 days after notification of the need to cancel by the Department of Elections and (b) the period of time a registered voter has to respond to a notice of cancellation related to citizenship status from 14 days to 28 days. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 813. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1657, which imposes unnecessary restrictions on the Department of Elections' ability to maintain accurate voter rolls.

Federal law already governs voter list maintenance, and this bill simply codifies ambiguous language that has led to ongoing litigation. The Supreme Court recently declined to require Virginia to reinstate non-citizens whose registrations were canceled during the federally mandated quiet period, affirming current practices. This bill does nothing to clarify the issue and will likely invite further legal challenges without improving election security.

Additionally, expanding the quiet period to all elections not just federal ones would disrupt essential voter roll updates, creating administrative inefficiencies and unnecessary costs for election officials.

Virginia's election system must be guided by clear, effective policies, not redundant and legally uncertain mandates.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 1660. Trigger activator definition; penalty. The enrolled bill defines "trigger activator" as a conversion kit, tool, accessory, or device designed to alter the rate of fire of a semi-automatic firearm to mimic automatic weapon fire or used to increase the rate of fire to a rate faster than such semi-automatic firearm not equipped with a conversion kit, tool, accessory, or device. The enrolled bill clarifies that "trigger activator" includes a bump stock, trigger crank, hellfire trigger, binary trigger system, burst trigger system, or a copy thereof, but does not include a semi-automatic replacement trigger, designed for use in competitive shooting, that improves performance and functionality over the stock trigger. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 886. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1660, which modifies the definition of a trigger activator.

The General Assembly implemented the current definition of a trigger activator in 2020, seeking to ensure that devices that could modify semi-automatic firearms to fire faster were prohibited in Virginia. The proposed legislation fails to achieve its intended purpose and is unnecessary. The existing legal framework addresses trigger activators.

Additionally, terms used in the bill capture commonly used modifications for firearms that civilians regularly use that do not turn semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic firearms.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1693. Real estate appraisers; educational requirements for licensure; fair housing and appraisal bias course. The enrolled bill requires applicants for licensure as a certified residential real estate appraiser, a certified general real estate appraiser, or a licensed residential real estate appraiser to successfully complete a minimum of two hours of education on fair housing and appraisal bias administered or approved by the Real Estate Appraiser Board prior to licensure. The enrolled bill requires any such educational course on fair housing and appraisal bias to be audited annually by the Fair Housing Board. This bill is identical to SB 995. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1693, which mandates additional coursework on fair housing and appraisal bias for new applicants seeking licensure as real estate appraisers.

Virginia has already taken meaningful steps to ensure fairness in real estate appraisals, such as through House Bill 284 from 2022, which includes continuing education requirements that address fair housing and appraisal bias.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1713. Jurisdiction of district courts in felony cases; specialty dockets; Behavioral Health Docket Act. The enrolled bill authorizes a general district court and a juvenile and domestic relations district court to retain jurisdiction over a felony offense for the purpose of allowing the accused to complete a specialty docket or behavioral health docket established pursuant to relevant law. Current law only explicitly provides such courts with the ability to certify felony charges to the circuit court or dismiss such charges after a preliminary hearing to determine if probable cause exists for such charges. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1713, which would allow general district courts and juvenile and domestic relations district courts to retain jurisdiction over felony cases for the purpose of referring the accused to a specialty docket.

This proposal would grant unprecedented jurisdiction to courts that are not designed to handle the most serious crimes. Additionally, circuit courts retain the authority to refer certain individuals accused of a felony to a specialty docket if it deems this approach appropriate.

Virginia boasts one of the most robust court systems in the United States. General district courts were specifically established to handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses. While I am deeply committed to expanding opportunities for rehabilitation and successful reentry within Virginia's justice system, it is essential that these efforts do not compromise public safety. Furthermore, the restructuring of jurisdictions would delay closure for victims.

Felony cases should remain within courts of record that are properly equipped with the necessary processes to manage such serious cases.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1718. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; enforcement by localities. The enrolled bill provides that if a condition exists in a rental dwelling unit that constitutes a material noncompliance by the landlord with the rental agreement or with any provision of law that, if not promptly corrected, constitutes a fire hazard or serious threat to the life, health, or safety of tenants or occupants of the premises, a locality may institute an action for injunction and damages to enforce the landlord's duty to maintain the rental dwelling unit in a fit and habitable condition, provided that (i) the property where the violation occurred is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the locality and (ii) the locality has notified the landlord who owns the property, either directly or through the managing agent, of the nature of the violation and the landlord has failed to remedy the violation to the satisfaction of the locality within a reasonable time after receiving such notice. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1718, which creates redundant provisions already covered by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.

Existing laws, including the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (VRLTA), already grant localities enforcement authority over both landlords and tenants, ensuring safe and sanitary housing. This bill unnecessarily

expands the risk that landlords are subject to suits in equity under their already defined duty to maintain dwellings under the VRLTA.

Under the USBC and the VRLTA, landlords and tenants both have responsibilities to maintain safe, decent, and sanitary housing. This legislation seeks to accomplish something already mandated by state law.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1719. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; landlord remedies; noncompliance with rental agreement. The enrolled bill increases from five days to 14 days the mandatory waiting period after a landlord serves written notice on a tenant notifying the tenant of his nonpayment of rent and of the landlord's intention to terminate the rental agreement if rent is not paid before the landlord may pursue remedies for termination of the rental agreement. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 812. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1719, which extends the waiting period before a landlord can initiate lease termination.

Current law already provides for a waiting period before eviction proceedings can begin, ensuring that tenants have an opportunity to address missed payments. Since tenants may already halt eviction proceedings by paying any amount of overdue rent this bill is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ashley Binns | abinns@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1812

HB 1724. Prescription Drug Affordability Board established; drug cost affordability review. The enrolled bill establishes the Prescription Drug Affordability Board for the purpose of protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth and other stakeholders within the health care system from the high costs of prescription drug products. The enrolled bill requires the Board to meet in open session at least four times annually, with certain exceptions and requirements enumerated in the enrolled bill. Members of the Board are required to disclose any conflicts of interest, as described in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill also creates a stakeholder council for the purpose of assisting the Board in making decisions related to drug cost affordability. The enrolled bill tasks the Board with identifying prescription, generic, and other drugs, as defined in the enrolled bill, that are offered for sale in the Commonwealth and, at the Board's discretion, conducting an affordability review of any prescription drug product. The enrolled bill lists factors for the Board to consider that indicate an affordability challenge for the health care system in the Commonwealth or high out-of-pocket costs for patients. The enrolled bill also provides that any person aggrieved by a decision of the Board may request an appeal of the Board's decision and that the Attorney General has authority to enforce the provisions of the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill provides that the Board shall establish no more than 12 upper payment limit amounts annually between July 1, 2026, and January 1, 2029.

The enrolled bill requires the Board to annually report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, beginning on December 31, 2026. Provisions of the enrolled bill apply to state-sponsored and state-regulated health plans and health programs and obligate such policies to limit drug payment amounts and reimbursements to an upper payment limit amount set by the Board, if applicable, following an affordability review. The enrolled bill specifies that Medicare Part D plans are not bound by such decisions of the Board.

The enrolled bill also requires the nonprofit organization contracted by the Department of Health to provide prescription drug price transparency to provide the Board access to certain data reported by manufacturers. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1724, establishing a Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

I previously vetoed this legislation during the 2024 session. This legislation risks limiting patient access to essential medication by prioritizing costs over medical necessity. Affordability of prescription drugs is a critical issue, but this proposal would instead compromise patient welfare in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The proposed authority granted to the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) would allow medication availability to be determined based solely on cost considerations rather than accounting for the expert opinions of healthcare professionals and the unique medical needs of individual patients. This approach could limit access to treatments and hinder medical innovation, especially for life-threatening or rare diseases. The implications of the proposed upper payment limits (UPLs) are detrimental for patients with life-threatening diseases such as cancer.

Life-saving treatments often entail the use of high-cost drugs targeted by these affordability measures; bringing down the costs of these drugs will require full transparency of prices and discounts and more competition and economic freedom, not price controls. PDABs enacted in other states, including for example Maryland and Colorado, demonstrate, that due to the pharmaceutical supply chain's complexity, imposing arbitrary UPLs will limit access to life-saving pharmaceuticals and harm patients' health, without producing the savings promised by the supporters of the legislation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1726. Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention; creation. The enrolled bill creates the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention within the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The enrolled bill states that the Center will serve as the primary resource for research, best practices, and strategies for the implementation of firearm violence intervention, community-based intervention, and group violence intervention programs designed to reduce violence in communities. The enrolled bill also requires that the Center evaluate state and community based violence intervention programs and policies that receive

funding through the Center, apply for and accept federal grants, and provide technical assistance. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1736, which creates the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention within the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

The creation of this center would duplicate efforts that are currently funded and operating as designed within the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia Department of Health, and Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The Commonwealth has made great strides in addressing crimes committed with firearms by establishing programs such as the existing Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund, as well as the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund and Safer Communities Fund. These programs all partner with local communities to implement proven methods to reduce gang violence programs, and support nonprofits engaged in group violence intervention.

The Office of Safer Communities at DCJS already coordinates the interaction of these funds and implements evidence-based approaches to prevent gang and group violence by prevention. Preventing firearm violence is a statewide inter-agency issue that requires the expertise of each relevant entity. Duplicating the ongoing efforts in this field would only serve to decrease efficiency and quality of research.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1764. Disposable plastic bag tax; distribution to towns. The enrolled bill provides that any town located within a county that has imposed a disposable plastic bag tax shall receive a distribution of revenues collected by the county based on the local sales tax distribution formula for appropriations to towns. The enrolled bill requires that towns use such revenues for the same purposes allowable for a county or city. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1764, which distributes revenues collected from the plastic bag tax to towns.

Plastic bag taxes fail to achieve their intended goals and burden Virginians with higher prices at the grocery store. Redirecting tax revenues to towns may further encourage governments to rely on these taxes, exacerbating the issue.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 1769. Chronic Absenteeism Task Force; examination of chronic student absenteeism; report. The enrolled bill directs the Chronic Absenteeism Task Force convened by the Department of Education, in consultation with such interested stakeholders as it deems appropriate, to (i) examine chronic student absenteeism and its effects on local school divisions

and (ii) make recommendations to the Board of Education, the Governor, and the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of amending the Board of Education's regulations to exclude certain student absences from the calculation of chronic student absenteeism for the purpose of balancing the importance of student attendance with the need for administrative flexibility for local school divisions. The enrolled bill incorporates HB 1788. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1769, which directs the Chronic Absenteeism Task Force convened by the Department of Education to examine chronic student absenteeism and make recommendations to exclude certain student absences from the calculation of chronic student absenteeism.

Ensuring Virginia's students are proficient in essential areas, especially considering the negative effects of closing schools during the pandemic, is of the utmost importance to my administration. The State Board of Education's recent changes to the review of school district performance shed light on critical needs for our students. In order to address these needs, students must be in the classroom, a task that my Chronic Absenteeism Task Force is working to address.

This bill places Virginia out of alignment with federal education standards and changes the metrics related to absenteeism rather than working to address barriers to school attendance.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 1775. Divorce; adultery; filing; parties living separate and apart. The enrolled bill specifies that a divorce may be decreed on the grounds of adultery, provided that such adultery occurred prior to the final separation of the parties. The enrolled bill further allows for a divorce from bed and board to be decreed on the application of either party upon the parties living separate and apart; under current law, a divorce from bed and board may only be decreed for cruelty, reasonable apprehension of bodily hurt, willful desertion, or abandonment. The enrolled bill specifies that no waiting period is required for the filing of such a divorce, but the decree of such a divorce may only be decreed pursuant to certain requirements otherwise specified in the law. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1775, which allows for adultery before the final decree of divorce is issued.

Parties may obtain a divorce if they have lived separate and apart without cohabitation for either six months with a signed separation agreement in place and no children in common, or one year without a separation agreement regardless of parental status.

During this separation period many partners reconcile and go on to celebrate the sacred bond of marriage for the rest of their lives. I find this period to be important.

In the Commonwealth, a divorce from the bond of matrimony may be decreed immediately for adultery. Under current law, adultery during the separation period can confer a divorcing party a right to immediate relief.

During the time a couple is lawfully married, the Commonwealth should take no actions to lessen the legal consequences to a party engaging in adultery. Therefore, I believe the act of adultery during the one-year period of separation should remain a ground for divorce.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sabrina Miller-Bryson | smiller-bryson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1876

HB 1791. Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund created. The enrolled bill creates the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund to assist private developers with non-utility costs associated with the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (i) in certain localities; (ii) on eligible public land, as defined in the bill; or (iii) within one mile of the boundary of eligible public land. The enrolled bill provides that a private developer may apply for a grant in an amount equal to 70 percent of the private developer's non-utility costs for the installation of such public electric vehicle charging stations. The awarding of a grant under the Program would be conditional upon an agreement with the applicant that any cost of a project not funded by a grant awarded by the Program be funded by non-federal funds. The Department of Energy shall establish guidelines for the administration of the Program, including guidelines related to the application for and award of grants. The enrolled bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2030. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1791, which would establish the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund which would be administered through the Virginia Department of Energy.

Many programs currently exist to support the development of charging infrastructure from federal programs administered through the Virginia Department of Energy, to the misguided attempts to allow Virginia's electric utilities to develop charging networks to support the adoption of electric vehicles and its infrastructure. Ultimately, the ever-present ability for private industry to construct charging stations as is done by many such as Buc-ee's, Sheetz, etc. Finally, the state funded program is not a good use of state resources.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1794. Elections; primary dates; presidential year primaries. The enrolled bill provides that all primaries for offices to be filled at the November election in presidential election years shall be held on the date of the presidential primary. With respect to candidates for election in November of a presidential election year, the enrolled bill also lifts the requirement that petition signatures must be collected after January 1 of the presidential election year. The enrolled bill adjusts campaign finance filing deadlines for candidates in presidential year elections to account for the March primary date. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1119. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1794, which moves all nonpresidential primaries in a presidential election year to the same date as the presidential primary in March.

By creating different filing deadlines for candidates depending on whether their election falls in a presidential or nonpresidential year, this bill increases the risk of missed deadlines, ballot access issues, and campaign finance compliance errors.

Candidates with general elections during presidential years would have to collect petitions, file ballot access documents, and file campaign finance reports on a schedule different from candidates with general elections during nonpresidential years.

This creates two classes of candidates and uniformity issues since the filing deadlines change based on when a candidate's general election occurs.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 1797. Concealed handgun permits; reciprocity with other states. The enrolled bill provides that the Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, shall determine whether other states meet the statutory qualifications for Virginia to recognize the concealed handgun permit of a person from such other state. Under current law, any out-of-state permit is recognized in the Commonwealth, provided that (i) the issuing authority provides the means for instantaneous verification of the validity of all such permits or licenses issued within that state, accessible 24 hours a day; (ii) the permit or license holder carries a photo identification issued by a government agency of any state or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. Department of State and displays the permit or license and such identification upon demand by a law-enforcement officer; and (iii) the permit or license holder has not previously had a Virginia concealed handgun permit revoked. The enrolled bill prevents a Virginia resident, except for an active duty service member or such service member's spouse, who has not been issued a valid resident concealed handgun permit from using a concealed handgun or concealed weapon permit or license issued by another state to carry a concealed handgun in the Commonwealth. The foregoing provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.

The enrolled bill requires the Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to review any agreements for reciprocal recognition that are in place with any other states as of July 1, 2025, to determine whether the requirements and qualifications of those states' laws are adequate to prevent possession of a permit or license by persons who would be denied a permit in the Commonwealth and revoke any reciprocity agreement or recognition of any states that do not meet such requirements or qualifications by December 1, 2025. The enrolled bill requires the Attorney General to provide a written explanation for any determination that a state's laws are adequate to prevent possession of such permit or license by persons who would be denied such permit in the Commonwealth. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1797, which changes how Virginia recognizes concealed-carry permits from other states.

Virginia's current system of concealed handgun permit reciprocity with other states works well. The Commonwealth recognizes valid concealed weapon permits issued by other states that meet certain conditions, and a sizeable majority of other states recognize Virginia's concealed handgun permits.

The proposed legislation, however, targets law-abiding Virginia gun owners by restricting the number of states in which permit holders can carry handguns for self-defense, potentially discouraging gun owners from visiting the Commonwealth. In addition it places additional, unnecessary burdens on the Virginia State Police.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1802. Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity; employment services organizations. The enrolled bill amends provisions related to the powers and duties of the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity to allow the Department to implement any remediation or enhancement measure for employment services organizations as may be authorized by the Governor pursuant to existing law and develop regulations for program implementation. The enrolled bill also directs the Department to amend relevant regulations of the Virginia Administrative Code to reflect the intent of the General Assembly to specifically reference "employment services organizations" in such regulations. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Disability Commission. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1802, which updates the powers and duties of the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity.

Employment services organizations are already considered to be a part of SWaM. Therefore, employment services organizations currently receive similar treatment under law that are afforded to SWaM businesses.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1803. Department of Human Resource Management; stakeholder advisory group; establishing a career group for licensed behavior analysts; report. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Human Resource Management to convene a stakeholder advisory group to provide advice to the Department on establishing a career group and any other necessary associated defined roles within the health and human services occupational family for licensed behavior analysts employed by the Commonwealth. The enrolled bill directs the advisory group to submit its findings and recommendations to the Department no later than November 1, 2025. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1803, which directs the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) to convene an advisory group to provide advice on the establishment of a career group for this occupation.

This legislation is unnecessary. The Department of Human Resource Management already has the authority to research the role of behavioral analysts who are employed by the state and thus the issue does not require legislative action.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Lily Jones | ljones@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1888

HB 1827. Comprehensive plan; social determinants of health. The enrolled bill encourages localities to utilize relevant and available data and research related to social determinants of health to consider how a locality's adopted comprehensive plan will impact the locality's overall public health and access to health care services. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1827, which relates to localities implementing social determinants of health within their comprehensive plans.

Localities have more than sufficient powers to regulate their communities through the comprehensive planning process under existing law.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 1830. School board policies; unpaid educational leave for certain employee association officers; purchase of service credit. The enrolled bill requires each school board to adopt a policy that requires the school board to approve unpaid educational leave for school board employees who are state employee association officers and for at least two school board employees who are local employee association officers for a maximum of four years per officer. The enrolled bill permits employee association officers approved for such leave to purchase service credit with the Virginia Retirement System for such period of leave. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1830, which would provide unpaid leave for school division employees to participate in professional organizations.

Ensuring that teachers remain in the classroom, providing high class instruction to Virginia students, is a top priority. The work of professional organizations cannot take precedence over ensuring that teachers remain in the classroom. School districts would be unfairly burdened by the requirements contained in the bill, including providing substitute teachers to replace those taking leave.

The decision to grant leave should ultimately reside with the employer, the local school board, not state government.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 1869. Purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm; assault and battery of a family or household member or intimate partner; penalties. The enrolled bill adds to the definition of "family or household member," as such definition relates to juvenile and domestic relations district court, a person's intimate partner, defined in the bill as an individual who, within the previous 12 months, was in a romantic, dating, or sexual relationship with the person as determined by the length, nature, frequency, and type of interaction between the individuals involved in the relationship. The enrolled bill also adds to the definition of "family or household member," as such definition relates to a person's purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following an assault and battery of a family or household member, any individual who cohabits or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabitated with the person. Finally, the enrolled bill provides that any person who knowingly and intentionally purchases, possesses, or transports any firearm following a misdemeanor conviction for an offense that occurred on or after July 1, 2025, for the offense of assault and battery against an intimate partner or an offense substantially similar under the laws of any other state or of the United States is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 883. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1869, which relates to the purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following a misdemeanor conviction of assault and battery.

This exact bill was brought to me last year and I will reiterate that I join the patrons in their pursuit of condemning domestic abuse; it is unequivocally deplorable. Virginia should ensure that convicted domestic abusers are dealt with appropriately and those who resort to illegal firearm use, especially, should face severe and harsh punishments. To that end, Virginia already has mechanisms for disarming dangerous individuals, such as through protective orders.

Individuals convicted of felony assault and battery already automatically lose their firearm rights. This proposal, however, aims to extend the prohibition of firearm possession for misdemeanors beyond existing restrictions for family and household members. It would now encompass a vaguely defined category of intimate partners without an objective standard.

Additionally, changing the definition of family or household member has far-reaching effects, such as the jurisdiction of juvenile and domestic courts, petitions for relief of custody, and whom a court may prohibit contact with following a conviction for recruitment for criminal street gangs.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1872. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; adverse action by landlord; tenant remedies. The enrolled bill prohibits a residential landlord who owns more than four rental dwelling units or more than a 10 percent interest in more than four rental dwelling units,

whether individually or through a business entity, in the Commonwealth from taking adverse action, as defined in the bill, against a prospective tenant due to the prospective tenant's history of a dismissed, nonsuited, or expunged unlawful detainer case or an unlawful detainer case that is eligible for expungement. The enrolled bill allows a prospective tenant to recover, as a result of any such adverse action, (i) actual damages, (ii) statutory damages of \$1,000, and (iii) reasonable attorney fees. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 815. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1872, which restricts landlords from considering dismissed or nonsuited evictions in rental decisions.

Current law, passed last year, already allows for the expungement of dismissed evictions after 30 days and nonsuited evictions after 6 months, ensuring fairness for prospective tenants. This legislation unfairly increases legal risks for landlords, penalizes them for using valid credit information, and creates opportunities for misuse of the legal process.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1873. Release of accused on secured or unsecured bond. The enrolled bill removes the conditions requiring that any person arrested for a felony (i) who has previously been convicted of a felony, (ii) who is presently on bond for an unrelated arrest in any jurisdiction, or (iii) who is on probation or parole be released only upon a secure bond. Additionally, the enrolled bill adds to the factors a judicial officer shall consider in making a bail determination (a) the person's current bond status for an unrelated arrest in any jurisdiction and (b) the person's current status on probation or parole. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Criminal Justice Conference. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1873, which removes the conditions requiring that any person arrested for a felony who has previously been convicted of a felony, who is presently on bond for an unrelated arrest in any jurisdiction, or who is on probation or parole, be released only upon a secure bond.

These individuals facing another felony charge present a clear flight risk and a threat to public safety, necessitating a secure bond requirement for a pre-trial release.

Supporters of the bill contend that the law ignores the possibility of successful rehabilitation and reentry for an individual previously convicted of a felony. However, the bill includes not only individuals who have successfully completed probation on a previous conviction, but also two additional groups of individuals who, when probable cause is found that a new offense has been committed, are either currently undergoing the rehabilitative efforts of probation for a recent conviction, or already subject to a bond for a pending criminal offense.

Furthermore, under current law, the secure bond requirement can be waived if the judicial officer approves, and the concurrence of the Commonwealth's Attorney is obtained. This legislation is unnecessary and would pose a risk to public safety if enacted.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

HB 1876. Carrying a firearm or explosive material within Capitol Square or building owned or leased by the Commonwealth; exemptions; public institutions of higher education; penalty. The enrolled bill permits the governing board of a public institution of higher education to adopt a policy prohibiting the carrying of any firearm, ammunition, or components or combination thereof within any building owned or operated by such public institution of higher education. The enrolled bill allows such policy to include security measures that are designed to reasonably prevent the unauthorized access of buildings that are open to the public. Finally, the enrolled bill exempts certain activities, defined in the bill, operated at public or private institutions of higher education from any policy created by a governing board. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1182. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1876, which criminalizes an individual's possession of a firearm in a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education.

My position on this policy is unchanged since it came to my desk last year. While I am committed to ensuring well-secured and safe college campuses in Virginia, this legislation does not adequately consider the numerous variations in Virginia's diverse geographic, cultural, and societal norms across different regions of the Commonwealth.

While these institutions may be partially government-owned, funding comes from various sources, including student-paid tuition. In this context, the autonomy of these campuses is crucial, and the Boards of Visitors at Virginia's institutions of higher education already have the authority to regulate their respective campuses, including implementing firearms prohibitions which are currently in place on most of Virginia's college campuses. This allows for the flexibility to consider the differences across regions and students' unique circumstances.

In the case of a threat, law enforcement can legally retrieve a firearm through avenues such as a search warrant or a substantial risk order.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1886. Payment of costs when proceedings deferred and defendant placed on probation. The enrolled bill provides that a circuit or district court that has deferred proceedings pursuant to relevant law and imposed costs shall not enter a judgment of guilty against a defendant solely for his failure to pay such costs or other fees but shall comply with the terms agreed upon for the deferral if all other terms and conditions of such agreement are satisfied, provided that such costs or other fees remain due. Current law requires such costs to be paid prior to dismissal. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1886, which removes the court's ability to enforce payment of court costs in deferred judgment cases.

The enforcement of court-imposed financial obligations is a critical component of the judicial system, ensuring accountability and consistency in legal proceedings. This legislation undermines that principle by requiring charges to be dismissed even if a defendant has failed to pay mandated court costs or fees, leaving courts without any mechanism to impose or collect unpaid amounts.

Additionally, while the bill states that "costs or other fees remain due," it fails to establish a clear process for converting those unpaid costs into a civil judgment. Without this mechanism, courts will be unable to enforce financial penalties, creating inconsistencies in how deferred judgment cases are handled across jurisdictions and weakening the deterrent effect of court-imposed costs.

By removing the court's ability to enforce these financial obligations, this bill sets a precedent that financial penalties in deferred judgment cases are optional.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1894. State correctional facilities; cell conditions; temperature monitoring; report. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Corrections to require that heat and air conditioning be provided in all state correctional facilities that are capable of controlling the interior temperature of such facilities so that a temperature of not less than 65 degrees Fahrenheit or more than 80 degrees Fahrenheit is maintained in each such facility. The enrolled bill also directs the Department of Corrections to evaluate the implementation of remote temperature monitoring and to report its findings to the General Assembly by October 1, 2025. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1894, which mandates the Department of Corrections to maintain certain temperatures in state correctional facilities.

This bill imposes a costly mandate without assessing the financial and operational burdens on the Department of Corrections. Furthermore, existing Department of Corrections data does not substantiate the claims of extreme temperatures or health risks used to justify this legislation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

HB 1915. Public school teachers; written notice of noncontinuation of continuing contract. The enrolled bill provides that written notice of noncontinuation of a continuing teacher contract by the teacher must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise, the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year in conformity with local salary stipulations, including increments. Current law provides that written notice of noncontinuation of a continuing teacher contract by either the teacher or the school board must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise, the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year in conformity with local salary stipulations, including increments. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1032. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1915, which removes the ability of local school divisions to provide written notice of noncontinuation for teachers on continuing contracts and shifts this responsibility solely to the teacher.

Currently, either the teacher or the school division must provide written notice of noncontinuation by June 15. If neither party provides notice, the contract automatically renews. This bill eliminates the school division's authority to provide such notice, thereby limiting its ability to make personnel decisions and effectively manage staffing needs.

This legislation arises from a single legal case in 2017 in Chesapeake City Schools, in which the court upheld the school division's actions. There is no widespread issue necessitating this statutory change, and no evidence suggests that the current process is flawed. The bill is a solution in search of a problem.

Further, removing school boards' ability to notify teachers of noncontinuation would create operational challenges, particularly in school divisions that need flexibility to adjust staffing. It is essential to preserve local decision-making authority in personnel matters rather than shift it entirely to the teacher.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

HB 1919. Workplace violence policy required for certain employers; civil penalty. The enrolled bill requires any employer of 100 or more employees to develop, implement, and maintain a workplace violence policy no later than January 1, 2027. The enrolled bill includes requirements for such a policy, such as procedures and methods for employee reporting of incidents and post-incident investigations. Employers subject to the enrolled bill are required to maintain documentation of workplace violence incidents for not less than five years. An employer that violates the provisions of the enrolled bill shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 per violation. The enrolled bill prohibits retaliation from an employer on the basis of reporting a workplace violence incident and provides that any employee who makes a report of workplace violence shall be immune from civil liability. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1919, which mandates that employers with 100 or more employees implement workplace violence policies and reporting mechanisms.

While workplace safety is critical, this bill misclassifies workplace violence as a regulatory issue rather than a criminal matter. Employers already have the ability to establish workplace policies, and existing law provides recourse for victims through law enforcement and civil courts. Additionally, the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health program can already address workplace hazards, making this mandate duplicative and burdensome.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1921. Employment; paid sick leave; civil penalties. The enrolled bill expands provisions of the Code that currently require one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked for home health workers to cover all employees of private employers and state and local governments. The enrolled bill requires that employees who are employed and compensated on a fee-for-service basis accrue paid sick leave in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The enrolled bill provides that employees transferred to a separate division or location remain entitled to previously accrued paid sick leave and that employees retain their accrued sick leave under any successor employer. The enrolled bill allows employers to provide a more generous paid sick leave policy than prescribed by its provisions. Employees, in addition to using paid sick leave for their physical or mental illness or to care for a family member, may use paid sick leave for their need for services or relocation due to domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

The enrolled bill provides that certain health care workers who work no more than 30 hours per month may waive the right to accrue and use paid sick leave. The enrolled bill also provides that employers are not required to provide paid sick leave to certain health care workers who are employed on a pro re nata, or as-needed, basis, regardless of the number of hours worked. The enrolled bill requires the Commissioner to promulgate regulations regarding employee notification and employer recordkeeping requirements.

The enrolled bill authorizes the Commissioner, in the case of a knowing violation, to subject an employer to a civil penalty not to exceed \$150 for the first violation, \$300 for the second violation, and \$500 for each successive violation. The Commissioner may institute proceedings on behalf of an employee to enforce compliance with the provisions of this enrolled bill. Additionally, an aggrieved employee is authorized to bring a civil action against the employer in which he may recover double the amount of any unpaid sick leave and the amount of any actual damages suffered as the result of the employer's violation. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1921, which mandates paid sick leave for all employees in the Commonwealth and imposes civil penalties for violations.

Employers must have the flexibility to design leave and benefit policies that fit their workforce rather than be subject to a one-size-fits-all government mandate. Indeed, many employers choose to offer paid sick leave as an employee benefit.

Small employers may be unable to comply with this mandate, leading to them to cut back on the number of employees or close altogether. Certain businesses are also justifiably concerned the legislation will impose complicated and unnecessary compliance challenges from their multi-state operations.

Ultimately, the bill would increase the cost of doing business in the Commonwealth and adversely impact our business climate..

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1922. Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity; Small SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program established. The enrolled bill establishes the Small SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program with a statewide goal of 42 percent of certified small SWaM business, as such term is defined in the enrolled bill, utilization in all discretionary spending by executive branch agencies and covered institutions in procurement orders, prime contracts, and subcontracts, as well as a target goal of 50 percent subcontracting to small SWaM businesses in instances where the prime contractor is not a small SWaM business for all new capital outlay construction solicitations that are issued. The enrolled bill provides that executive branch agencies and covered institutions are required to increase their small SWaM business utilization rates by three percent per year until reaching the 42-percent target or, if unable to do so, to implement achievable goals to increase their utilization rates. In addition, the enrolled bill provides for a small SWaM business set-aside for executive branch agency and covered institution purchases of goods, services, and construction, requiring that purchases up to \$100,000 be set aside for award to certified small SWaM businesses.

The enrolled bill creates the Division of Procurement Enhancement within the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity for purposes of collaborating with the Department of General Services, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, the Department of Transportation, and covered institutions to further the Commonwealth's efforts to meet the goals established under the Small SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program, as well as implementing initiatives to enhance the development of small businesses, microbusinesses, women-owned businesses, minority-owned businesses, and service disabled veteran-owned businesses in the Commonwealth.

Finally, the enrolled bill requires the Director of the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity to conduct, or contract with an independent entity to conduct, a disparity study every five years, with the next disparity study due no later than January 1, 2026. The enrolled bill specifies that such study shall evaluate the need for enhancement and remedial measures to address the disparity between the availability and the utilization of women-owned and minority-owned businesses. The provisions of the enrolled bill other than those requiring such study have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026, and apply to covered institutions beginning July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1922, which seeks to establish the Small Women and Minority (SWaM) Business Procurement Enhancement Program.

In 2024, the General Assembly sent similar legislation to my desk, which codifies programs already in effect by executive order.

I offered a recommendation to add a reenactment clause and directed study of the proposal which was ultimately conducted by the Public Body Procurement Workgroup.

This legislation disregards every recommendation from the Public Body Procurement Workgroup. The Workgroup did not recommend codifying the program as stated in the House Bill 1922 due to the lack of resolution on complex issues such as the definition of a small business, completion and review of the disparity study directed by the 2024 legislation, and confusion over terminology and conflicts with existing code in the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

This bill would increase the cost of doing business across all state agencies and reduce the efficiency of government procurement.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1928. Minimum wage. The enrolled bill increases the minimum wage incrementally to \$15.00 per hour by January 1, 2027. The enrolled bill codifies the adjusted state hourly minimum wage of \$12.41 per hour that is effective January 1, 2025, and increases the minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour effective January 1, 2026, and to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2027. The enrolled bill requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to establish an adjusted state hourly minimum wage by October 1, 2027. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1928, which mandates an arbitrary increase in the minimum wage in Virginia.

The free market for salaries and wages works. It operates dynamically, responding to the nuances of varying economic conditions and regional differences. This wage mandate imperils market freedom and economic competitiveness.

Current law mandates periodic increases in the minimum wage in the Commonwealth, indexing it to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as certified by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. On January 1, 2025, the minimum wage increased from \$12-per-hour to \$12.41-per-hour. This approach is preferable, allowing wages to adjust over time in response to economic conditions.

This proposal is an arbitrary, mandatory increase in the starting wages of all employees. Such a substantial increase will raise business operational costs. In response, businesses will raise prices, creating more inflation, and implement hiring freezes and layoffs, ultimately hurting the workers the proposal seeks to assist.

Implementing an arbitrary \$15-per-hour wage mandate may not impact Northern Virginia, where economic conditions lead to historically higher wages, but this approach is detrimental for small businesses across the rest of Virginia, especially in Southwest and Southside. A one-size-fits-all mandate ignores the vast economic and geographic differences and undermines the ability to adapt to regional cost-of-living differences and market dynamics.

Successful states recognize that the government does not need to set labor prices; instead, they prioritize creating an economic environment conducive to wage and employment growth. Over the past three years, the Commonwealth has adopted this approach, providing tax relief, reducing

regulations, reforming workforce programs, and investing in public education, resulting in wage growth that has outpaced the national average, as well as net-immigration and jobs migration among the top ten states in the country. Continuing these successful policies, not imposing new government mandates, will lead to job growth and wage growth in Virginia.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 1932. Department of Housing and Community Development; Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity. The enrolled bill creates the Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity to study the misvaluation and undervaluation of real property owned by minority individuals to combat bias in real property appraisal and valuation. The enrolled bill requires the Task Force to meet at least annually and to report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1 of each year regarding its activities and any recommendations. The enrolled bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2028. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1932, which creates a task force to examine the valuation of property owned by minority individuals.

Current law already prohibits bias in appraisals as found in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. These standards are enforceable through the Real Estate Appraiser Board housed under the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. This task force is duplicative since any individual who believes an appraiser has committed bias during an appraisal or valuation can report this to the Board. Licensees can be disciplined for violations of state and federal law already.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1935. Department of Housing and Community Development; Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force established; report. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish, in collaboration with the Department of Energy, and with assistance from the Department of Social Services, the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force to determine barriers to access and enrollment in the current energy efficiency programs for income-qualified energy customers and to evaluate and develop a plan to address any necessary improvements regarding coordination among state and federal government agencies for utility services and resources to more effectively deliver energy-efficient housing, weatherization resources, and energy efficiency upgrades for income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth. The enrolled bill requires the Task Force to meet at least six times between July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations no later than September 30, 2026. The enrolled bill specifies that such report shall include policy recommendations and a plan to ensure that weatherization-ready repairs and whole-home energy efficiency retrofits are provided to all eligible income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth

residing in multifamily buildings, single-family dwellings, and manufactured homes by December 31, 2033. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 777. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1935, which establish the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force, comprised of the Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Energy, Department of Social Services, the State Corporation Commission, and the Clean Energy Advisory Board.

The agencies named in this bill already meet as needed to discuss issues related to the coordination of government efforts, services, and resources related to energy efficiency, weatherization, and access for low-income households. Therefore, the establishment of a dedicated task force related to these issues is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1939. Tangible personal property tax; electric landscaping equipment. The enrolled bill establishes a separate classification of tangible personal property for electric-powered landscaping equipment employed in a trade or business and used to maintain commercial, public, or private gardens, lawns, trees, shrubs, or other plants, including lawn mowers, edgers, trimmers, leaf blowers, and chainsaws. Such property may be taxed by a locality at a rate not to exceed that applied to the general class of tangible personal property. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1939, which would lower the tangible personal property tax rate for landscaping companies who use electric lawn equipment.

While this bill is permissive in nature, it does not take into account landscaping companies who may benefit from the lowered property tax but cannot afford to replace their current equipment. Further, opposition to legislation introduced in 2024 that would have allowed localities to ban gas powered equipment rightfully cited low battery life and decreased performance in electric equipment when compared to their gas-powered counterparts.

Finally, this bill does not account for the additional costs many landscaping companies would need to incur to sustain battery-powered equipment throughout the day.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Rebecca Schultz | rschultz@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1863

HB 1960. Firearm transfers to another person from a prohibited person. The enrolled bill provides that a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm because such person is subject to a protective order or has been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member may transfer a firearm owned by such prohibited person to any person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing such firearm, provided that such person who is

not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing such firearm is 21 years of age or older and does not reside with the person who is subject to the protective order. Under current law, there is no requirement that such transferee cannot be younger than 21 years of age and cannot reside with such prohibited person. The enrolled bill also provides that such prohibited person who transfers, sells, or surrenders a firearm pursuant to the provisions of the bill shall inform the clerk of the court of the name and address of the transferee, the federally licensed firearms dealer, or the law-enforcement agency in possession of the firearm and shall provide to the transferee a copy of the form certifying that such person does not possess any firearms or that all firearms possessed by such person have been surrendered, sold, or transferred. The enrolled bill also provides that a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm because such person is subject to a protective order or has been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member shall be advised that a law-enforcement officer may obtain a search warrant to search for any firearms from such person if such law-enforcement officer has reason to believe that such person has not relinquished all firearms in his possession. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 744. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1960, which relates to firearm transfers to another person from a person subject to a protective order or convicted of a misdemeanor.

I continue to join the patrons in their pursuit of condemning domestic abuse, it is unequivocally deplorable. Make no mistake, Virginia should ensure that domestic abusers are dealt with appropriately, and those who resort to illegal firearm use, especially, should face severe and harsh punishments.

When making my decision on this bill both times it has come to my desk, I considered public safety, enforceability, efficacy, and individual liberty. Regrettably, I stated last year, the legislation fails to achieve its intended purpose and is identical to last year's.

Furthermore, the necessity of this legislation is uncertain. The existing legal framework addresses firearm possession in cases of domestic abuse. Courts have the power to require the transfer of firearms from individuals, and law enforcement can obtain a search warrant to seize for illegally possessed weapons.

Avoiding inadvertent compromises to public safety, policies should refrain from disarming individuals not subject to a court order, making other family members less safe, which contradicts our shared goal. The arbitrary age prohibition on certain transfers adds further complications. Finally, the proposal results in intrusive government actions that affects the entire household, not just the individual under the order.

As we have reached the end of my final legislative session in office, I am disappointed that I have not received more legislation to increase mandatory minimums for armed criminals. I urge the General Assembly to accept my amendments on a number of bills that would tangibly decrease acts of heinous firearm violence without punishing law abiding citizens.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1973. Preservation of affordable housing; definitions; civil penalty. The enrolled bill creates a framework for localities to preserve affordable housing by exercising a right of first refusal on publicly supported housing, defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill authorizes localities to implement an ordinance that requires an owner to accept a right of first refusal offer by the locality or qualified designee, defined in the enrolled bill, in order to preserve affordable housing for at least 15 years. The enrolled bill requires that any locality adopting such an ordinance to preserve affordable housing submit an annual report to the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to existing law. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1973, which grants localities a right of first refusal on publicly supported housing.

This legislation represents an unnecessary and excessive intrusion by local governments into property transactions, interfering with negotiations between private parties and prioritizing public entities over private buyers. While the goal of preserving affordable housing is important, this approach sets a dangerous precedent for government intervention in property sales.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 1977. Weapons; possession prohibited in a hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services; penalty. The enrolled bill makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly and intentionally possess in the building of any hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, a (i) firearm, (ii) knife with a blade over three and one-half inches, or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The enrolled bill also provides that notice of such prohibitions shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance of any hospital and no person shall be convicted of the offense if such notice is not posted, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions. The enrolled bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and forfeited to the Commonwealth and specifies exceptions to the prohibition. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1110. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1977, which would have made possessing or transporting firearms or other weapons in a hospital providing mental health services a Class 1 misdemeanor.

While this version of the bill attempts to address several of my concerns from last year such as exemptions for public safety and security officers within the roles of their official duties and increased definitions of weapons to avoid some of the unintended consequences, the fact remains that this legislation is unnecessary.

Current law prohibits firearms in state-owned or operated hospitals prohibiting firearms or explosives on-premises, while private hospitals already possess the authority to ban firearms, with violators subject to trespassing penalties. The proposal also removes a hospital's discretion to permit employees to carry stun guns for safety.

Increased investments in behavioral mental health are vital to increasing public safety and the wellbeing of Virginians. However, increasing unnecessary restrictions on law abiding citizen's right to protect themselves has yet to be proven to accomplish this goal.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 1990. Election of certain governing bodies; conversion to single-member districts. The enrolled bill allows the governing body of a locality that has been subject to a court order imposing a remedial election system under voting rights laws to adopt an ordinance to convert one or more at-large members of such body to single-member districts. The enrolled bill provides that members of such governing body in office on the effective date of such ordinance shall complete their terms of office. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1990, which allows localities, subject to court-ordered remedial election systems, to convert at-large seats to single-member districts by ordinance.

Allowing localities to unilaterally alter their districting structure without sufficient checks and balances could lead to inconsistencies in representation, further complicating efforts to ensure fair and equitable electoral systems. Such significant changes should be carefully considered through established processes that prioritize public input and deliberation.

A more balanced approach would preserve flexibility for local governments while ensuring that any changes to districting structures are made transparently and with full community participation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 1994. Alcoholic beverage control; requirements for restaurant retail licensees; provision of free potable water. The enrolled bill requires persons licensed to sell alcoholic beverages at retail for on-premises consumption to ensure that free potable water is available upon request to customers who have placed an order, with some exceptions specified in the bill. The enrolled bill provides that any person determined to have violated such provisions shall be subject to a (i) written warning for a first offense and (ii) civil penalty for any second or subsequent offense that occurs within three years of the first offense. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1994, which mandates that establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption provide free potable water to customers upon request.

Small businesses, particularly bars and restaurants, already operate under significant financial and regulatory pressures. This legislation imposes an additional mandate that increases costs for these businesses. Many establishments already provide free drinking water voluntarily, making this bill an example of government overreach that places an undue burden on business owners without clear justification.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

HB 2002. Voter registration; cancellation of registration; sources of data. The enrolled bill requires that, except for a written request from the voter to have his registration cancelled, the general registrar may not cancel the registration of any voter based on data or reports provided to him by any source other than the Department of Elections or a state agency approved to provide such data or reports by the State Board of Elections. The enrolled bill also reinstates a provision prohibiting the general registrar from cancelling the registration of (i) certain members of the uniformed service of the United States who are on active duty; (ii) certain persons who reside temporarily outside of the United States; or (iii) any spouse or dependent residing with such persons. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2002, which unnecessarily restricts voter list maintenance and undermines the secure, fair and accurate conduct of elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Virginia's voter registration system is nationally recognized for its accuracy and security. General registrars rely on a range of verified sources, including the Virginia Department of Elections and the Virginia Department of Health, while also using obituaries and family reports to confirm voter deaths. This bill eliminates those effective tools, making it harder to maintain accurate voter rolls and creating unnecessary bureaucratic barriers.

Additionally, while the bill seeks to protect Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters, it lacks a clear enforcement mechanism, creating administrative confusion rather than strengthening protections.

This legislation weakens election administration, limits registrars' flexibility, and increases the risk of outdated voter rolls.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 2037. Land development; solar canopies in parking areas. The enrolled bill provides that any locality may include in its land development ordinances a provision that requires that an applicant must install a solar canopy over designated surface parking areas. Such provisions shall

apply only to nonresidential parking areas with 100 parking spaces or more and may require coverage of up to 50 percent of the surface parking area. The enrolled bill provides that localities shall allow for deviations, in whole or in part, from the requirements of the ordinance when its strict application would prevent the development of uses and densities otherwise allowed by the locality's zoning or development ordinance. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2037, which would allow a locality to include in its land development ordinances a provision that requires that an applicant must install a solar canopy over a designated surface parking area.

Parking lot solar is an expensive form of electricity generation, and if it were economically viable, developers would already be incorporating it into their projects. Mandating the construction of these facilities not only undermines the economics of new development opportunities but also limits flexibility. If, in the future, advancements make the technology more cost-effective, developers could then choose to deploy it without being burdened by premature regulatory mandates.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 2039. Department of Criminal Justice Services; Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council; Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee; encrypted telecommunications. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to, in consultation with the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council and the Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, establish a model policy on the use of encrypted telecommunications by law-enforcement agencies. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish and publish such model policy by January 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2039, which requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to establish a model policy on the use of encrypted telecommunications by law-enforcement agencies.

Encrypted communications by public safety often protects sensitive information, including information pertaining to sexual assaults, crimes against children, and possible personal information about members of the public that law enforcement interacts with.

The best place for departments to choose how to use encrypted communication is at the local level.

I remain committed to ensuring that our law enforcement and public safety partners have the tools they need to address violent crime and support the vital work they do protecting our communities.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2054. Affordable housing; assisted living facilities. The enrolled bill allows localities that have adopted an affordable housing program to negotiate that in an application for a special exception or special use permit affordable rental units be included for any proposed development of an assisted living facility. Such ordinance shall apply to applications approved on or after January 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2054, which allows for affordable housing unit set-asides in new assisted living facilities.

Although the bill references "negotiation" with builders, it could allow localities to adopt, by ordinance, overly burdensome regulations that lack any meaningful concessions or incentives.

While increasing affordable housing for Virginia's senior citizens is an important goal, the best approach is to encourage development, rather than impose cost-raising regulations on builders.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 2056. Absentee voting in person; voter satellite offices; days and hours of operation.

The enrolled bill authorizes the governing body of any county or city establishing voter satellite offices for absentee voting in person to prescribe, by ordinance, the dates and hours of operation for such offices. The enrolled bill requires the governing body to provide notice to the general registrar of the county or city at least two weeks prior to the enactment of any such ordinance. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2056, which transfers authority over the dates and hours of operation for voter satellite offices from local electoral boards to governing bodies.

Election administration should remain in the hands of those directly responsible for managing elections. Local electoral boards are best equipped to determine satellite office schedules based on voter needs, commuting patterns, and operational considerations.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 2064. Firearm locking device required for sale or transfer of firearm; warning against accessibility to children; penalty. The enrolled bill makes it a Class 3 misdemeanor for any licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer to sell, deliver, or transfer any firearm to any person other than a licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer unless the transferee is provided with a locking device for that firearm and the firearm is accompanied by a warning, in conspicuous and legible type in capital letters printed on a separate sheet of paper included within the packaging enclosing the firearm, that firearms should be locked and kept away from children and that there may be civil and criminal liability for

failing to do so. The enrolled bill provides exceptions for law-enforcement and governmental agencies. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2064, which creates a Class 3 misdemeanor for firearms manufacturers, importers, or dealers who sell, deliver, or transfer a firearm without a locking device.

Currently, there are several federal regulations regarding the sale, transport, or transfer of a firearm. The Child Safety Lock Act of 2005 mandates all licensed firearm importers, manufactures, or dealers to provide a secure gun storage or safety device with any handgun transaction. In 2022, The Department of Justice announced that federal firearms licensees that sell firearms to the general public (non-licensees) must certify that they have available secure gun storage or safety devices.

Moreover, Virginia has implemented several initiatives to incentivize proper firearm storage such as tax credits for the purchase of any firearm safety device. Ensuring that Virginia promotes safe gun ownership and practices is vital to building safer communities and protecting children. However, this legislation would make firearms sales in Virginia operate in a different manner than neighboring states, potentially causing manufacturers to stop selling certain firearms in Virginia.

Furthermore, including a locking device and warning is a practice that many firearms manufacturers already partake in. Requiring these provisions will most likely add an unaccounted cost for firearm manufacturers that will be passed down to consumers, further excluding who can afford to defend themselves by purchasing a firearm.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2090. Multi-family shared solar program; minimum bill. The enrolled bill amends requirements for a shared solar facility for the purposes of the multi-family shared solar program to include facilities that are located on a rooftop of a commercial building that shares a common or adjacent substation of the investor-owned utility with the multi-family shared solar subscriber. The enrolled bill also adds requirements for the minimum bill for the multi-family shared solar program requiring that a subscriber's net bill not fall below the minimum bill and requiring that the calculation of a subscriber's minimum bill be based on the amount of kilowatt-hours billed by the utility. The enrolled bill requires the State Corporation Commission, by December 31, 2025, to adopt amendments to its regulations governing the multi-family shared solar program to reflect the bill's provisions. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2090. The bill amends the requirements for shared solar facilities for the purposes of the multi-family shared solar program. It would include facilities that are located on a rooftop of a commercial building that shares a common or adjacent substation of the investor-owned utility with the multi-family shared solar subscriber.

Amending the existing code to include projects on adjacent substations undermines the intent of the present program to develop onsite or near onsite projects at multi-family properties and would reduce or eliminate the purported distribution network benefits of the shared-solar program. Furthermore, the inclusion of the low-income exemption from the minimum bill presents a potential cost-shift to non- participants, raising their electricity bills.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2094. High-risk artificial intelligence; development, deployment, and use; civil penalties. The enrolled bill creates requirements for the development, deployment, and use of high-risk artificial intelligence systems, defined in the enrolled bill, and civil penalties for noncompliance, to be enforced by the Attorney General. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2094, which would establish a burdensome artificial intelligence regulatory framework.

I support responsible governance of artificial intelligence (AI). Through Executive Order 30 (2024), we have established that responsible governance across the Executive Branch, establishing safeguards and oversight for AI use, and assembling a highly skilled task force comprised of industry leading experts to work closely with our Administration on key AI governance issues.

Our Administration has worked tirelessly to build the Commonwealth into a place where companies of all sizes can thrive, including AI innovators. We secured our goal of helping to launch 10,000 new startups in August of 2024. Our efforts have added thousands of tech jobs, and secured hundreds of millions in new economic growth from businesses moving to or expanding in Virginia. The regulatory framework called for by HB 2094 would undermine this progress, and risks turning back the clock on Virginia's economic growth, stifling the AI industry as it is taking off.

There are many laws currently in place that protect consumers and place responsibilities on companies relating to discriminatory practices, privacy, data use, libel, and more. HB 2094's rigid framework fails to account for the rapidly evolving and fast-moving nature of the AI industry and puts an especially onerous burden on smaller firms and startups that lack large legal compliance departments.

The role of government in safeguarding AI practices should be one that enables and empowers innovators to create and grow, not one that stifles progress and places onerous burdens on our Commonwealth's many business owners. This bill would harm the creation of new jobs, the attraction of new business investment, and the availability of innovative technology in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

HB 2098. Labor and employment provisions; application of law; payment of wages; definition of employer. The enrolled bill provides that the exemption for the Commonwealth or any of its agencies, institutions, or political subdivisions, or any public body, under Title 40.1 does not apply when expressly provided otherwise. The enrolled bill provides a definition of "public body" for Title 40.1. Additionally, the enrolled bill provides that for the purposes of various requirements related to the protection of employees, including the payment of wages, "employer" includes the Commonwealth and its agencies, institutions, and political subdivisions, or any public body. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2098, which expands wage payment requirements to include all employees of the Commonwealth, its agencies, institutions, political subdivisions, school boards, and public bodies.

The Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) properly oversees wage payment matters for state employees, ensuring that payroll operations function effectively. Shifting oversight to the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) introduces unnecessary redundancy, increases administrative burden, and creates confusion regarding agency responsibilities. The Commonwealth's payroll system is well-regulated, and this bill imposes an unwarranted layer of bureaucracy.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2113. Solar Interconnection Grant Fund and Program; established; sunset. The enrolled bill establishes the Solar Interconnection Grant Program for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis to public bodies to offset costs associated with the interconnection of solar facilities to the grid. The Program is administered by the Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of the Department of Energy. The enrolled bill requires that priority be given to solar facilities located on previously developed project sites. The enrolled bill requires the Division to establish and publish guidelines and criteria for the awarding of grants and general requirements of the Program. The provisions of the enrolled bill expire on July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2113, which would establish the Solar Interconnection Grant Program to award grants to public bodies to offset costs associated with the interconnection of solar facilities on the grid.

Numerous funding sources already exist for solar projects and this legislation is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2122. Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; landlord obligations. The enrolled bill requires a landlord to provide a copy of any written rental agreement and the statement of tenant rights and responsibilities within 10 business days of the effective date of the written rental

agreement; current law requires a landlord to provide such copies within one month of such effective date. The enrolled bill outlines required notice language to be included by the landlord in the rental agreement and provides that failures of the landlord to provide notice shall not affect the validity of the rental agreement.

The enrolled bill also requires a fee disclosure statement to be provided on the first page of the written rental agreement under the Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act. The enrolled bill applies to rental agreements that are entered into, extended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2025. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2122, which mandates that landlords provide a written copy of the rental agreement within ten business days of the agreement start date.

There is no substantial difference between the proposed 10-business-day and the current one-month requirement. Additionally, the requirement for specific notice language adds unnecessary regulatory hurdles and creates additional administrative actions for landlords to complete.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2136. Office of the Public Utility Ombudsman; established. The enrolled bill requires the State Corporation Commission to establish the Office of the Public Utility Ombudsman to protect the interests of residential customers of public utilities. The Office of the Public Utility Ombudsman shall serve (i) residential customers of public utilities that are jurisdictional or of limited jurisdiction and (ii) residential customers who cannot be assisted by other Commission staff due to a potential conflict of interest. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2136, which would require the State Corporation Commission to establish the Office of the Public Utility Ombudsman.

This bill is unnecessary. The Office of the Attorney General already serves as a highly competent consumer advocate, balancing utility and industry interest and reliable service with the interests of the ratepayer.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2229. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; material noncompliance by landlord; rent escrow; relief. The enrolled bill removes the requirement that, prior to the granting of any relief, a tenant shall pay into escrow any amount of rent called for under the rental agreement. The enrolled bill requires the tenant, during the pendency of the action, to pay into escrow the amount of rent that becomes due within five days of the date due under the rental agreement, unless or until such amount is modified by a subsequent order of the court. The

enrolled bill also provides that a failure of the tenant to make timely payments into escrow shall not be grounds for dismissal of the underlying action but may be considered by the court when issuing an order. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2229, which permits tenants to be delinquent on their rent prior to filing a tenant's assertion.

This bill creates an unbalanced legal environment by applying separate standards to providers, who must continue to comply with a rental agreement, and tenants, who would not. The creation of an unbalanced legal framework that imposes stricter obligations on housing providers than tenants will disrupt housing stability, discourage property investment, and reduce the availability of rental housing.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2237. Public school employees; suspension; conditions for continued receipt of salary.

The enrolled bill clarifies that no school board employee shall be suspended without notice and, if applicable, an opportunity to be heard and that any individual who is so suspended, regardless of the length of such suspension, shall continue to receive his then applicable salary unless and until the school board, after a hearing, determines otherwise. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2237, which prevents a local school board from placing an employee on unpaid leave unless they are accused or convicted of a crime.

Ensuring Virginia's students are safe while at school is of the utmost importance. Local school boards enact policies to govern the conduct of their employees, ensuring that students are safe and that their educational needs are met.

Decisions related to placing an employee on leave, whether with or without pay, should reside with the employer, who better knows the needs of the school and the local procedures in place.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 2241. Possession or transportation of firearms, firearms ammunition, stun weapons, or explosives or carrying concealed weapons by persons convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime prohibited; penalty.

The enrolled bill prohibits any person who has been convicted, on or after July 1, 2025, of assault or assault and battery if it appears on the face of the warrant upon such conviction that such person intentionally selected the person against whom the offense was committed because of his race, religious conviction, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, or ethnic or national origin from knowingly and intentionally possessing or transporting any firearm or ammunition for a firearm, any stun weapon, or any explosive

material or carrying a concealed weapon, a violation of which is a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2241, relating to the purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following a misdemeanor conviction of a hate crime.

I join the patrons in the unyielding condemnation of anyone who attacks or discriminates against another because of their race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability. The people who commit these heinous crimes should be punished by the full extent of the law. This is why I signed bipartisan legislation last year to further safeguard all individuals within the Commonwealth from unlawful discrimination.

Hate crimes are the most serious of offenses, which is why, under current Virginia law, there are extremely limited instances in which a hate crime remains a Class 1 misdemeanor instead of a felony. If an offense deemed a hate crime is violent or results in the injury of another person then that offense is automatically elevated to a felony, at which point gun rights are stripped. If the legislature seeks to prevent individuals convicted of hate crimes from accessing firearms, a more effective and constitutional approach would be to elevate all hate crimes to felonies, rather than prevent those convicted of misdemeanors from possessing firearms without a statutory process for restoring their constitutional rights.

This bill proposes to remove constitutional rights from persons convicted of misdemeanors without clear provisions outlining the timeline or procedure for those rights to be restored. While I remain committed to ensuring that the most serious crimes are met with punishments that effectively promote prevention and safeguard our communities, I do not support the practice of stripping constitutional rights for offenses deemed misdemeanors by our courts, particularly without clear provisions ensuring that the restoration process for those rights aligns with the procedures already in place for felonies.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Fry | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2244. Standards of Quality; standards of accreditation; measurement of student educational performance and academic achievement; calculation of proportionality score required. The enrolled bill directs the Board of Education (the Board), in consultation with the Department of Education (the Department), to establish and implement standards for determining and recognizing student educational performance and academic achievement in the form of a weighted proportionality score for each school, to account for no less than five percent of such school's accreditation rating score or metric under the current school accountability system, for the purpose of identifying, accounting for in determining accreditation ratings, and addressing disparities in access to educational resources across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in public schools in the Commonwealth. The enrolled bill requires the Department to (i) develop a metric for calculating the weighted proportionality score for each school using certain variables calculated by the Department; (ii) develop a metric for calculating the improvement of a school's

proportionality score received year over year; (iii) assign for each school based on such school's proportionality score a proportionality designation of "highly proportional," "proportional," "somewhat disproportional," and "highly disproportional"; and (iv) require any school board that contains within the school division a school assigned a proportionality designation of "highly disproportional" to develop and submit to the Department a remediation plan detailing the actions such school board will take to reduce disparities in access to education resources. The enrolled bill directs the Board to (a) amend its regulations to include as a school quality indicator the weighted proportionality score developed in accordance with the bill and (b) submit to the U.S. Department of Education within 90 days of the effective date of the enrolled bill any amendments necessary to its state plan pursuant to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, that are necessary to implement the provisions of the act. Finally, the enrolled bill requires its provisions to be implemented beginning with the 2025–2026 school year. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2244, which directs the State Board of Education to establish standards for recognizing student educational performance addressing disparities in access to educational resources across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in public schools in the Commonwealth.

Ensuring Virginia schools are adequately reviewed to ensure student success has been a top priority of my administration, with the State Board of Education recently implementing the School Performance and Support Framework. This system is providing new insight that addresses the support needed for students struggling the most.

The changes in the bill would violate federal law and accountability requirements, possibly leading to Virginia's state plans being denied by the U.S Department of Education. Further, the bill would unfairly punish schools based on things outside their direct control and could push schools to focus on increasing this metric instead of addressing student needs in the classroom.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 2264. Department of Taxation; free tax filing program. The enrolled bill directs the Tax Commissioner to terminate the Virginia Free File program and the related agreement with the Consortium for Virginia. The enrolled bill also requires the Tax Commissioner to develop and offer a free individual state income tax filing program, effective beginning in taxable year 2028, that is similar to and compatible with the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Direct File program. To implement the new program, the enrolled bill requires the Tax Commissioner to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the IRS and coordinate with the IRS in program development. The enrolled bill contains technical amendments that remove obsolete language regarding fillable forms. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1306. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2264, which would require the Virginia Department of Taxation to develop a state-sponsored free electronic tax filing system and enter into an agreement with the IRS to join its Direct File program.

This bill is unnecessary given budget language requiring the Department of Taxation's system upgrade to include this functionality.

Virginia taxpayers currently have no-cost options for filing their state and federal taxes, including the Virginia Free File program, which has been in place for over a decade. The IRS Direct File initiative has faced scrutiny regarding its implementation, statutory authority, and cost projections. Additionally, the IRS has announced a pause in technology upgrades, signaling further uncertainty about the program's future direction.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Rebecca Schultz | rschultz@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1863

HB 2276. Voter registration; list maintenance activities; cancellation procedures; record matches; required identification information; data standards. The enrolled bill requires certain, specified identification information to be included on the lists or records received by the Department of Elections for list maintenance purposes and requires the Department, upon receiving any such list or record, to do an initial comparison of the information included on such list or record with the list of registered voters and determine the confidence score for any match. The enrolled bill specifies that only records with matches with a confidence score of at least 80 are transmitted to the appropriate general registrars. The enrolled bill prohibits the use of voter data received from another state or jurisdiction or through a list comparison for list maintenance purposes when the data file does not include a unique identifier for each individual whose information is contained in the data file. The enrolled bill requires the Department to annually review all sources of data utilized for list maintenance activities for the purpose of determining the validity, completeness, accuracy, and reliability of the data received from each source, and to include the results of such review in its annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections regarding its list maintenance activities. The enrolled bill prohibits the cancellation within 90 days of any election of any registration identified as belonging to a person no longer residing in the Commonwealth or otherwise no longer entitled to vote by a data match program conducted using lists of registered voters exchanged with other states. The enrolled bill requires the general registrars to send notice prior to cancelling a voter's record regardless of the reason for cancellation. Lastly, the enrolled bill clarifies that when a voter's registration is canceled, a cancellation record must be created and that such records are public in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the National Voter Registration Act. The enrolled bill includes numerous technical amendments for organizational purposes. Certain provisions of the enrolled bill have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2276, which makes multiple changes to the Department of Elections' list maintenance practices.

Virginia's elections remain safe and secure. Maintaining accurate voter rolls is essential. This bill fails to address the root issue the reliability of data provided to ELECT by other state agencies.

Raising the matching threshold to 80 points reduces the number of list maintenance data matches provided to general registrars, limiting necessary cancellations and reducing voter roll accuracy. By centralizing all matching within ELECT, registrars lose the ability to research potential discrepancies, weakening local election oversight. The bill also removes the 30-day deadline for processing cancellations, increasing the risk of outdated records remaining on the rolls. Additionally, requiring two mailed notices for most cancellations imposes an unfunded burden on local election offices with no clear benefit.

Virginia has already made significant improvements to voter list maintenance through audits, new data-sharing agreements, and interagency collaboration efforts recognized nationally. Executive Order 31 established a workgroup to strengthen data-sharing practices across agencies, ensuring improvements at the source. This bill ignores that progress and creates unnecessary bureaucracy.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 2277. Elections administration; duties of local electoral board; certification of election; grounds for removal; civil penalty. The enrolled bill provides that the certification of the results of an election is a clear ministerial duty of the local electoral boards and that a member of the local electoral board who neglects or refuses to perform such duty in accordance with law shall be subject to removal proceedings by the State Board of Elections and assessed a penalty not exceeding \$1,000. The enrolled bill also authorizes the State Board of Elections to intervene and carry out the duties related to election certification in the event a local electoral board fails or refuses to do so. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2277, which creates a process for the State Board of Elections to remove members of any electoral board.

The instances in Virginia that brought this bill forward were resolved by the process set in current code. This bill is unnecessary and duplicative, as it introduces an alternate process despite the current system functioning effectively.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 2341. Department of Education; culturally responsive and language-appropriate mental health support and services; guidance and policies. The enrolled bill requires, no later than October 1, 2026, the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and provide to each local school board guidance on the adoption of policies governing the provision of culturally responsive and language-appropriate mental health support and services for students in the local school division and permits any school board to develop and adopt policies in the local school

division that are consistent with the guidelines adopted and provided by the Department of Education. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2341, which requires the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to develop guidance on culturally responsive and language-appropriate mental health support and services for students.

The Commonwealth has already prioritized expanding mental health resources for students through the Right Help, Right Now initiative, which provides substantial investments in behavioral health services. This bill, however, introduces unnecessary bureaucratic mandates that duplicate existing efforts and create additional administrative burdens without demonstrating a clear benefit for students.

Additionally, the bill's focus on cultural responsiveness could introduce subjective and divisive criteria into school-based mental health programming, conflicting with existing federal executive orders.

Given the bill's redundancy, administrative burden, and potential to complicate rather than enhance student mental health services, it does not represent an effective policy solution.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Julia Bergamini | jbergamini@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1867

HB 2356. Prevailing wage rate; apprenticeship requirements; RPS-eligible source work; penalties. The enrolled bill requires each public service company, including its contractors and subcontractors, or third-party developer to ensure payment at the prevailing wage rate set by the Department of Labor and Industry for any mechanic, laborer, or worker employed, retained, or otherwise hired to perform construction, maintenance, or repair work for certain electricity generating sources. The enrolled bill requires each public service company to (i) ensure that 15 percent of the total labor hours of such work is performed by qualified apprentices and (ii) employ at least one qualified apprentice if four or more individuals are employed to perform such work. Under the bill, a public service company that fails to meet the requirements of its provisions is required to make penalty payments to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 853. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2356, which would require the Phase I and Phase II electric utilities to pay a prevailing wage to workers for construction, maintenance, or repair work for RPS eligible electricity resources. Additionally, it would mandate apprentice hours.

This bill will increase the construction costs which will ultimately be passed along to ratepayers, raising costs for consumers.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2397. Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act; eligibility for grants. The enrolled bill expands eligibility for regional councils to receive grants from the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund. The enrolled bill allows regional councils to apply for and utilize grant funds for regional activities that substantially promote the objectives of the regional council's economic growth and diversification plan where there exists a demonstrable gap in services that negatively impacts a region's ability to grow one or more trade sector industry clusters. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2397, which expands grant eligibility under the GO Virginia program.

I stand strongly in support of initiatives that unleash economic growth in Virginia, including the work of GO Virginia that encourages collaboration between all facets of government, private industry, and the workforce.

The changes made in the bill raise questions concerning the program's emphasis on measurable economic outcomes as it permits funding for activities outside Growth and Diversification Plans. These changes risk blurring the lines between GO Virginia's mission and other state-led initiatives.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Stephen Kindermann | skindermann@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1880

HB 2413. Electric utilities; integrated resource plans. The enrolled bill makes various changes related to the content and process for an integrated resource plan (IRP) developed by an electric utility that provides a forecast of its load obligations and a plan to meet those obligations. The enrolled bill (i) extends the planning timeframe from 15 to 20 years; (ii) requires Appalachian Power to file an IRP by removing an exception from the definition of "electric utility"; (iii) changes the frequency a utility is required to file an IRP from biennially to triennially; and (iv) requires utilities to consider the use of grid-enhancing technologies as alternatives to new transmission infrastructure, and when new transmission lines are envisioned, to provide the reasons grid-enhancing technologies are not sufficient to defer or eliminate the need for new transmission infrastructure.

The enrolled bill requires that the current stakeholder review process for integrated resource plans be facilitated by a third-party facilitator selected by the State Corporation Commission and compensated by the utility. The enrolled bill requires, as part of the stakeholder review process, the utility to provide stakeholders with reasonable access to the same modeling software, modeling assumptions, modeling inputs, and data used by the utility to evaluate supply and demand resources in its integrated resource plan to enable stakeholders to create modeling scenarios for the utility's consideration during the development of its integrated resource plan.

The enrolled bill requires the Commission to (a) establish guidelines that ensure that utilities develop comprehensive integrated resource plans and provide meaningful public engagement and maximum transparency during the planning process; (b) conduct a proceeding by July 1, 2026, and at least once every five years thereafter, to identify and review each of its existing

orders relevant to integrated resource plans to determine if such orders remain necessary and effective and are not overly burdensome; and (c) to convene a work group to make recommendations on the required guidelines.

Finally, the enrolled bill requires any petition to permit the construction and operation of electrical generating facilities filed by an electric utility that is required to file an integrated resource plan to (1) incorporate the intent to construct and operate such generating facilities or (2) if the utility's intent to construct and operate such generating facilities was not identified in the utility's most recently approved integrated resource plan, provide a detailed explanation of why the utility did not anticipate the need for such generating facilities.

As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1021. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2413, which would modify the integrated resource plan process by extending the planning timeline from 15 to 20 years, requiring Appalachian Power to file an integrated resource plan, and changing the filing to every three years. The bill also requires the consideration of a number of other factors including grid enhancing technologies, the social cost of carbon, and demand side resources in meeting growing electricity demand.

The State Corporation Commission has the expertise and the authority to make requirements and changes to the integrated resource plan process. The Virginia Clean Economy Act is failing Virginia and those that champion it should stop trying to buttress this failing policy. But rather should be focused on procuring the dependable power needed to meet our growing demand through optimizing for reliability, affordability, and increasingly clean power generation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2466. Hampton Roads Interstate Highway Corridor Improvement Program and Fund; Hampton Roads Highway Coastal Resilience Program and Fund; Planning District 23. The enrolled bill creates (i) the Hampton Roads Interstate Highway Corridor Improvement Program for the purpose of planning, developing, financing, building, constructing, and otherwise making infrastructure and safety improvements to, or maintaining the infrastructure of, certain new or existing highway corridors, highways, bridges, and tunnels in Planning District 23 (Hampton Roads) and (ii) the Hampton Roads Highway Coastal Resilience Program for the purpose of planning, developing, financing, building, constructing, and maintaining infrastructure to address transportation infrastructure that is at risk due to recurrent and coastal flooding in Planning District 23. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2466, which establishes two new significant highway infrastructure programs in Planning District 23 to be managed and administered by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, but without funding to support the programs.

The legislation establishes (i) the Hampton Roads Interstate Highway Corridor Improvement Program for the purpose of planning, developing, financing, building, constructing, and otherwise making infrastructure and safety improvements to, or maintaining the infrastructure of, new or existing highway corridors connected to, surrounding, or paralleling interstate highways and new or existing highways, bridges, and tunnels that are components of certain interstate highways in Planning District 23 and (ii) the Hampton Roads Highway Coastal Resilience Program for the purpose of planning, developing, financing, building, constructing, and maintaining infrastructure to address transportation infrastructure that is at risk due to recurrent and coastal flooding in Planning District 23.

The two highway programs established by the legislation would be significant in scope and impact, but without a dedicated funding source to support the programs, planning and other efforts to implement the legislation would risk diversion of resources from existing programs and functions of the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Further, significant issues and ambiguities are presented by the legislation, including but not limited to issues relating to the division or assignment of roles and responsibilities over highways and infrastructure owned, operated, and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, issues relating to the means and methods of identifying relevant infrastructure construction and maintenance needs, and issues relating to the appropriate sources and distribution of funding. Such issues warrant further exploration and clarification prior to enactment of this legislation.

As written, the bill undermines the Commonwealth Transportation Board by establishing two programs over major infrastructure programs to the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, bypassing the CTB's established role in prioritizing and managing transportation projects.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

HB 2469. Overtime for certain employees; domestic service workers and live-in domestic workers. The enrolled bill adds domestic workers, as defined in the bill, to provisions related to overtime pay. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 897. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2469, which would require employers to pay overtime to domestic service employees.

Certain domestic service employees have compensation arrangements, such as housing, transportation, and meals, that differ significantly from typical employment arrangements. This legislation introduces significant confusion for both families and employees and could lead to unintended consequences of workers losing their jobs.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2477. Property under common ownership; creation of easements. The enrolled bill provides that a private appurtenant easement may be created for any purposes by the owner of the dominant and servient estate by the recordation of an instrument that grants or reserves such easement. The enrolled bill further provides that the rule of property law known as the doctrine of merger shall not prevent such grant or reservation. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2477, which allows the owner of a dominant and servient estate to grant an appurtenant easement to himself.

The common law doctrine of merger has been recognized by the Commonwealth for centuries. It is unnecessary to alter this long existing and well understood legal principle when there are reasonable alternative solutions to the issue this bill seeks to solve.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sabrina Miller-Bryson | smiller-bryson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1876

HB 2479. Elections; political campaign advertisements; synthetic media; penalty. The enrolled bill prohibits electioneering communications containing synthetic media, as those terms are defined in the enrolled bill, from being published or broadcast without containing the following conspicuously displayed statement: "This message contains synthetic media that has been altered from its original source or artificially generated and may present conduct or speech that did not occur." The enrolled bill creates a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for a violation of such prohibition and, for a willful violation, a Class 1 misdemeanor. The enrolled bill permits any registered voter who receives an electioneering communication in violation of this requirement to institute an action for preventative relief to prohibit the publication or dissemination of such electioneering communication, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 775. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2479, which establishes disclosure requirements for electioneering communications containing synthetic media and assigns enforcement responsibilities to the State Board of Elections.

Ensuring transparency in political communications is a worthy objective, particularly as artificial intelligence continues to evolve. However, this legislation imposes an impractical enforcement structure that lacks clear, workable mechanisms and raises significant constitutional and logistical concerns.

The bill requires the State Board of Elections and ELECT to determine whether electioneering materials contain synthetic media and whether the required disclosures have been properly applied. Unlike traditional campaign finance and advertising regulations, these determinations involve highly technical assessments that the agency is not equipped to handle. Further, identifying the sponsors of AI-generated communications especially in a rapidly evolving digital landscape would be extraordinarily difficult, limiting the bill's effectiveness.

Additionally, the bill allows recipients of electioneering communications to seek injunctive relief, which could result in politically motivated legal actions and inconsistent enforcement. The potential for increased litigation, coupled with the lack of clarity regarding enforcement, creates unnecessary burdens on both regulators and political participants.

Other states have sought to regulate AI-generated political content, but this bill's broad and vague approach lacks the precision necessary to ensure fair and enforceable application. The constitutional concerns surrounding political speech, combined with the significant administrative challenges this bill presents, make it an unworkable solution.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 2482. Virginia Public Procurement Act; additional public works contract

requirements. The enrolled bill provides that public bodies shall require the contractor and its subcontractors for any capital outlay project, as defined in the enrolled bill, to complete certain safety training programs, maintain records of compliance with applicable laws, and participate in approved apprenticeship training programs. The enrolled bill provides exemptions from such requirements for reasons related to lack of availability of apprentices and high costs. The provisions of the enrolled bill do not apply to transportation-related construction projects. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 962. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2482, which require that 8 percent of total hours for non-transportation capital projects must be completed by apprentices.

Requiring an arbitrary percentage of hours be provided to apprentices in public projects does not guarantee further development of the skilled trades and creates financial barriers for public projects. Further, some trades lack formal apprenticeship programs to ensure that the requirements of the bill are met.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2485. Cannabis control; retail market; penalties. The enrolled bill establishes a framework for the creation of a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth, to be administered by the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority. The enrolled bill allows the Authority to begin issuing all marijuana licenses on September 1, 2025, but provides that no retail sales may occur prior to May 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 970. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2485, which establishes framework for creating a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth.

The proposed legalization, which was vetoed last year, would establish the framework for retail marijuana, which endangers Virginians' health and safety. States following this path have seen adverse effects on children's and adolescent's health and safety, increased gang activity and violent crime, significant deterioration in mental health, decreased road safety, and significant costs associated with retail marijuana that far exceed tax revenue. It also does not eliminate the illegal black-market sale of cannabis, nor guarantee product safety. Addressing the inconsistencies in enforcement and regulation in Virginia's current laws does not justify expanding access to cannabis, following the failed paths of other states and endangering Virginians' health and safety. Law enforcement officials from across the Commonwealth have warned that this proposal poses a serious threat to public safety, attesting to increases in crime, arrests, and DUI incidents. Our local and state law enforcement agencies lack the necessary funding and staffing to effectively manage the emergence of a cannabis industry, fueling an international drug trade dominated by organized crime.

I. The Adverse Effects on Children's Health & Safety

The most concerning consequence of cannabis commercialization is its impact on adolescents and our children. Since 2016, poison center calls for children who have overdosed on edible cannabis products have skyrocketed by 400%. In Virginia alone, the Blue Ridge Poison Control Center has reported an 85% increase in minors overdosing on cannabis edibles since the Commonwealth legalized cannabis possession.

States with legal retail markets, such as Colorado, Washington, Ohio, and Massachusetts, have seen dramatic increases in cannabis-related poison control calls and emergency room visits for children. New York City schools have experienced an 8% increase in drug-related incidents among students, even as the overall K-12 population declined. Nationally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has found that the five states with the highest rates of youth marijuana use all have legal retail cannabis markets.

Beyond immediate health risks, adolescent cannabis use has long-term consequences. Studies show that individuals who start using cannabis at younger ages are significantly more likely to develop severe and persistent substance use disorders. Research indicates that 11% of juveniles who consumed cannabis in 2023 and 21% of those who used it consistently for three years have developed cannabis use disorder. Doctors at Boston Children's Hospital have reported rising cases of psychosis linked to cannabis use in children, with many experiencing hallucinations or paranoia. Daily cannabis use among high school seniors remains troublingly high, with 6.5% of twelfth graders using cannabis every day. Unlike other substance use disorders, there are no effective medical treatments for cannabis addiction in children, and counseling alone has shown limited success in mitigating the damage caused by early cannabis use.

II. The Failures of States with Legalized Retail Marijuana

States that have attempted to regulate the black market for cannabis have failed catastrophically, leading to widespread crime, unsafe products, and financial losses. While Colorado is often touted as a model for legalization, a decade later, the black market still dominates, accounting for approximately 35% of all cannabis sales. California fares even worse—six years post-

legalization, its legal cannabis market represents only 10% of total cannabis sales. The persistence of illegal operations fuels gang activity, drives violent crime, and undermines public safety.

Even legal cannabis markets fail to ensure product safety. A study conducted by the New York Medical Cannabis Industry Association found that a shocking 40% of tested cannabis products failed to meet regulatory standards, containing dangerous contaminants such as E. coli, salmonella, and heavy metals. Similarly, in California, legal growers routinely evade state environmental regulations, labor laws, and product testing requirements, making the state's legal market no safer than the black market, as reported by PBS NewsHour.

The increasing potency of cannabis has also led to a surge in cannabis-induced disorders. Electronic health records show that in November 2023, cannabis-induced disorder rates had skyrocketed by 50% compared to 2019. Legalization has fueled a dangerous race to produce ever-stronger products— Washington State, for example, saw cannabis extracts gain 150% market share post-legalization, with potencies nearly triple that of traditional flower. The consequences of these high-potency products have become so severe that the Washington legislature is now reassessing the benefits of the legalization.

The promise of a financial windfall from cannabis legalization has been nothing more than a mirage. States with legal retail cannabis markets have consistently failed to convert black-market sales into regulated, taxable revenue. Projections of massive tax gains have fallen flat, with many states now facing the harsh reality of dwindling revenues and mounting social costs. A Colorado state study found that for every dollar generated in cannabis tax revenue, taxpayers spend approximately \$4.50 to address the negative consequences of legalization. These costs include, but are not limited to, healthcare burdens and increased law enforcement spending. Studies have shown that regular cannabis use significantly raises the likelihood of high school dropout rates, further compounding economic losses.

A 2023 analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City confirmed that cannabis legalization has failed on every front—driving up social costs, increasing substance use disorders, exacerbating homelessness, and fueling arrests—all while failing to deliver the promised tax revenues. The financial and societal burdens of legalization have left state governments worse off than before, proving that commercialized cannabis is a failed experiment with devastating consequences.

III. Increase in Violent Crime, Psychiatric Disorders, and Decline in Safety

According to the American Journal of Psychiatry, cannabis poses a greater risk of triggering psychosis than any other illicit drug. Cannabis-induced psychosis manifests in dangerous and unpredictable ways, including severe hallucinations, delusions, and distorted perceptions of reality. The consequences of these effects are not just personal—they have far-reaching implications for public safety and crime.

In 2022 alone, cannabis use was responsible for nearly 12% of all drug-related emergency department visits in the U.S., underscoring the scale of its impact on public health. Even more

alarming is the strong correlation between psychosis and violent crime. Schizophrenia linked to cannabis-induced psychosis

creates a major public safety crisis. Studies show that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia are five times more likely to commit violent crimes and nearly twenty times more likely to commit murder. Those suffering from schizophrenia account for between 6% and 9% of all homicides—an indisputable connection between cannabis use and increased violence.

Cannabis legalization has also fueled a surge in crime across multiple categories. In Oregon, after legalization, violent crime, property crime, larceny, aggravated assault, and burglary all spiked significantly compared to states that maintained laws against commercial marijuana sales. The pattern is undeniable, legalization leads to greater lawlessness, not greater control.

The overwhelming consensus from leading medical journals and decades of research confirm a harsh reality: cannabis is neither safe nor beneficial. The experience of states that have legalized retail cannabis tells the same story—rising cannabis use, especially among minors, dangerously high THC potency levels, and escalating criminal activity.

Beyond the violence and mental health crises, cannabis also poses a deadly risk on the roads. In Colorado, following legalization, fatal crashes involving drivers who tested positive only for THC skyrocketed by 40%. Total marijuana-related traffic deaths surged by a staggering 76.2%, endangering the lives of innocent drivers and pedestrians alike.

Cannabis commercialization has failed, and will continue to fail, to deliver on its promises—it has actively endangered public health, fueled crime, and put lives at risk. States that have embraced legalization are now grappling with the devastating consequences of a failed experiment, and the cost of ignoring these warning signs will only continue to grow.

IV. Virginia's Current Cannabis System

The current illegal cannabis market in Virginia is pervasive and dangerous.

Marijuana carries the same dangers as other drugs; the Commonwealth recognized this when it created a medical marijuana system. Opioids and other controlled substances are highly regulated and require the consultation of a medical provider to mitigate their negative consequences. Even with those protections in place, these drugs have had perverse and dangerous consequences for Virginians. The same is true for marijuana.

Attempting to rectify the error of decriminalizing marijuana by establishing a safe and regulated marketplace is an unachievable goal. The more prudent approach would be to revisit the issue of discrepancies in enforcement, not compounding the risks and endangering Virginians' health and safety with greater market availability.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

HB 2531. Paid family and medical leave insurance program; notice requirements; civil action. The enrolled bill requires the Virginia Employment Commission to establish and

administer a paid family and medical leave insurance program with benefits beginning January 1, 2028. Under the program, benefits are paid to covered individuals, as defined in the enrolled bill, for family and medical leave. Funding for the program is provided through premiums assessed to employers and employees beginning January 1, 2027. The enrolled bill provides that the amount of a benefit is 80 percent of the employee's average weekly wage, not to exceed 120 percent of the state weekly wage, which amount is required to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the statewide average weekly wage. The enrolled bill caps the duration of paid leave at 12 weeks in any application year and provides self-employed individuals the option of participating in the program. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2531, which imposes a new payroll tax on employees and employers and requires the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) to establish and administer a mandatory paid family and medical leave insurance program.

According to VEC, to support the benefit level established in the bill, a premium, in effect a new payroll tax, would be assessed on all employees and employers in the amount of 0.72 percent of wages. VEC estimates that burden of that tax to be \$1.35 billion in FY 2027, increasing \$1.5 billion in FY 2030, while total annual benefits paid are estimated to be approximately \$1.75 billion in FY 2028, increasing to \$2.0 billion by FY 2030.

Including the District of Columbia, only 14 states impose mandatory paid family leave on employers and only 12 of those mandate participation in a government run program. The states that mandate government-run paid family leave programs, such as California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maryland, and Delaware, have struggled to maintain competitive job growth, attract corporate relocation, secure capital investment, and retain population.

In contrast, the Commonwealth of Virginia aligns with high-growth states such as Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas, which have seen strong population and job growth while fostering business-friendly environments. These states promote voluntary, private sector paid family leave solutions rather than imposing broad-based mandates that may deter investment and job creation.

In 2022, I signed bipartisan legislation which gave the Virginia Bureau of Insurance authority to regulate and approve family leave plans offered by life insurance companies, providing benefits such as covering the birth of a child, adoption of a child, or foster care placement by the employee, care for a family member of the employee who has a serious health condition, and when the employee's family member who is a military member is on active duty or has been called to active-duty status.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2550. Noise abatement monitoring systems; local authority; civil penalties. The enrolled bill authorizes counties and cities in Planning Districts 8 (Northern Virginia Regional Commission) and 16 (George Washington Regional Commission) to place and operate noise

abatement monitoring systems, defined in the enrolled bill, for the purpose of recording and enforcing exhaust system violations, also defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill provides that the operator of a vehicle is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$100, but the violation shall not be reported on the driver's operating record or to the driver's insurance agency. Under the enrolled bill, the civil penalty will be paid to the locality in which the violation occurred to be used for the cost of administering the noise abatement monitoring system program and for transportation safety initiatives. The enrolled bill contains the same data privacy and storage requirements as are in current law for photo speed monitoring devices. The enrolled bill requires any locality that places and operates such a noise abatement monitoring system to report on its public website by January 15 of each year on the number of traffic violations prosecuted, the number of successful prosecutions, and the total amount of monetary civil penalties collected. The enrolled bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2550, which allows certain localities to implement noise monitoring systems and impose a fee for violations.

Current law already gives localities sufficient authority to enforce noise restrictions. Additionally, allowing only certain localities to use noise cameras with specific decibel limits would create inconsistent enforcement and confusion for motorists across the state.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

HB 2555. Modification of sentence for marijuana-related offenses. The enrolled bill creates a process by which persons convicted of certain felony offenses involving the possession, manufacture, selling, giving, distribution, transportation, or delivery of marijuana committed prior to July 1, 2021, who remain incarcerated or on community supervision on July 1, 2025, may receive an automatic hearing to consider modification of such person's sentence. The provisions of the enrolled bill sunset on July 1, 2028. This bill incorporates HB 2176. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2555, which mandates sentence reconsideration for individuals convicted of marijuana-related felonies before July 1, 2021. While framed as a measure for non-violent offenders, this bill would allow sentence reductions for individuals convicted of serious crimes, including those involving fentanyl distribution, sales to minors, and violent offenses where marijuana was a factor. The proposal places an undue burden on courts, prosecutors, and victims, requiring hearings even for those whose sentences were enhanced by prior marijuana convictions but were primarily convicted of far more serious offenses.

Public safety must remain the Commonwealth's priority. This bill undermines the justice system by granting automatic sentence reviews regardless of the broader context of an individual's crimes.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2559. Authority of local governments; service employees. The enrolled bill permits any county, city, or town in the Commonwealth to provide for certain requirements concerning incumbent and successor service employers, defined in the enrolled bill, by local ordinance or resolution. For example, such local ordinance or resolution may require that successor service employers retain incumbent service employees during a transition period of 90 days. Under the enrolled bill, service employees are those who perform work in connection with the care or maintenance of property, services at an airport, or food preparation services at schools. The provisions of the enrolled bill do not include any building owned by the Commonwealth or any institution of higher education. The enrolled bill provides that an employer that violates the provisions of a local ordinance or resolution enacted pursuant to the enrolled bill may be subject to a civil action and monetary damages. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1489. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2559, which allows local governments to establish certain requirements on incumbent and successor building service employers when transitioning from one to another.

Ensuring that Virginia is the best place to work, live, and raise a family has been one of my top priorities since day one. This bill would hinder the free market and lead to higher costs for building service employers, reduce competition in the building services market, increase expenses for residential and commercial property owners, and higher costs for residential and commercial tenants.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 2561. Employee protections; minimum wage and overtime wages; civil actions; misclassification of workers. The enrolled bill provides that an employer that violates minimum wage or overtime wages provisions is liable to the employee for the applicable remedies, damages, or other relief available in an action brought pursuant to the civil action provisions currently available for the nonpayment of wages. Such provisions currently available provide that an employee may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover payment of the wages, and the court is required to award the wages owed, an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, plus prejudgment interest thereon, and reasonable attorney fees and costs. Under current law, if the court finds that the employer knowingly failed to pay wages to an employee, the court is required to award the employee an amount equal to triple the amount of wages due and reasonable attorney fees and costs, and such actions are required to be commenced within three years after the cause of action accrued.

The enrolled bill also increases from 300 days to two years the amount of time a complainant has to file an allegation of discriminatory practice with the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Law alleging a violation of the Virginia Human Rights Act or federal statutes governing

discrimination in employment that also falls under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Human Rights Act.

Additionally, the enrolled bill provides that a civil action brought by an individual against his employer for failing to properly classify the individual as an employee under current law shall be commenced within three years after the cause of action accrued. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2561, which relates to existing laws on minimum wage, overtime pay, and worker misclassification in Virginia.

While the stated goal of the legislation is to enhance worker protections, it imposes excessive liabilities and compliance burdens that will harm Virginia's strong business climate.

The bill extends the timeframe for filing wage and misclassification claims, allows for collective lawsuits, and removes key legal protections for businesses acting in good faith. Additionally, it moves Virginia away from federal Fair Labor Standards Act guidelines, creating regulatory hurdles that could deter businesses from moving to or expanding operations in the Commonwealth.

Extending the deadline for discrimination claims from 300 days to two years would put Virginia at odds with nearly every other state, increasing litigation risks and costs for employers. Furthermore, the bill eliminates administrative enforcement options, forcing workers into costly and time-consuming private lawsuits, which may ultimately hinder access to justice for low-wage employees.

To maintain Virginia's pro-business environment and continue attracting employers and investment, it is essential to reject policies that create legal uncertainty and impose excessive penalties. This bill would make Virginia one of the most punitive states for wage violations, discouraging business growth and job creation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2613. Child abuse and neglect; custody and visitation; possession or consumption of authorized substances. The enrolled bill provides that a child shall not be considered an abused or neglected child, and no person shall be denied custody or visitation of a child, based only on the fact that the child's parent or other person responsible for his care, or the person petitioning for custody or visitation of the child, possessed or consumed legally authorized substances. The enrolled bill directs the Board of Social Services to amend its regulations, guidance documents, and other instructional materials to ensure that such regulations, documents, and materials comply with, and that investigations and family assessments are conducted by local departments of social services in accordance with, the provisions of the enrolled bill. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2613, which creates exemptions to the definition of an abused and neglected child and restricts courts from considering an individual's consumption and possession of controlled substances in custody and abuse determinations. The proposed legislation introduces unnecessary complications and risks exposing children to harm.

The bill disregards clear evidence linking substance use to child endangerment, particularly in the wake of increased incidents of children ingesting cannabis-infused substances following the legalization of marijuana. By broadly prohibiting courts from considering parental marijuana use in custody and visitation determinations, HB 2613 risks prioritizing drug use over the health and well being of children.

Child Protective Service (CPS) referrals rarely, if ever, involve screening based solely on a parent's legal use of controlled substances or marijuana. Instead, cases typically involve additional risk factors such as impaired supervision, access to drugs or drug paraphernalia, or a parent's inability to meet a child's basic needs. By restricting the ability of CPS and the courts to fully assess the impact of parental substance use on child safety, this bill could discourage necessary protective measures, ultimately jeopardizing the well-being of vulnerable children.

The proposed exemption to the definition of an "abused or neglected child" needlessly complicates an already complex legal framework. It limits the ability of judges and CPS professionals to evaluate cases based on their unique circumstances, potentially undermining effective decision-making and intervention.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sabrina Miller-Bryson | smiller-bryson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1876

HB 2619. Private companies providing public transportation services; employee protections. The enrolled bill requires the governing body or transportation district commission of any county or city that contracts with a private company to provide transportation services to (i) require such company to provide any employee of such company providing such services compensation and benefits that are, at a minimum, equivalent to the compensation and benefits provided to a public employee, as defined in the enrolled bill, with a position requiring equivalent qualifications and years of service; (ii) provide transportation services through such company's own employees; and (iii) if such transportation district commission, county, or city subsequently elects to provide its own system of public transportation, adopt an ordinance or resolution providing for collective bargaining, ensure all employees of such private company are offered employment with such subsequent public transportation system without loss of compensation or benefits, and ensure the recognition of any lawful collective bargaining representative of such private company's employees. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 919. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2619, which requires private companies to match public employee wages, benefits, and unionization.

The proposal places an undue financial burden on private companies contracted for public transportation, as the government should not be dictating their wages.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2631. Purchase of firearms; waiting period; penalty. The enrolled bill provides that no person shall sell a firearm unless at least five days have elapsed from the time the prospective purchaser completes the written consent form to have a licensed dealer obtain criminal history record information, with exceptions enumerated in relevant law. The amendments to the Code of Virginia in the enrolled bill are identical to the amendments to the Code of Virginia in SB 891. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2631, which requires a waiting period to purchase a firearm.

My position on this legislation is unchanged from last year. The proposed waiting periods would impede individuals facing threats of violence from promptly acquiring a firearm for self-defense.

Virginia's existing background check ensures that individuals prohibited by State or Federal law cannot legally access firearms. The Virginia State Police use federal and state records and databases, including the Central Criminal Records Exchange, one of the most complete records repositories in the nation.

The federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 initially implemented a five-day waiting period between handgun application and sale completion before being found to be unconstitutional.

My commitment to enhancing mental health services is steadfast, reflected in my efforts and record funding to finalize long-neglected mental health systems. These initiatives aim to assist those undergoing mental health crises when an individual needs it most, a reform that is proven to save lives.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2638. Conservation and replacement of trees during development process. The enrolled bill expands certain existing local government authority to conserve or replace trees during the development process by expanding such authority statewide. The enrolled bill allows localities to establish higher tree canopy replacement percentages based on density per acre. The enrolled bill also alters the current process for granting exceptions to a local ordinance by altering a provision that requires the granting of an exception when strict application of the ordinance would result in unnecessary or unreasonable hardship to the developer and requiring that the locality concur with such alteration. The enrolled bill permits localities to monitor and assess the condition and coverage of tree canopies at development sites during the time period up to 20 years' maturity of

the planted trees. The enrolled bill contains technical amendments. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2638, which seeks to increase the number of localities that can impose an ordinance providing for the planting and replacement of trees during the development process.

The current law on tree canopy ordinances strikes a balance between the ability of a locality to hinder residential and commercial development with increased costs and the ability of a locality to preserve tree canopy.

Existing law allows any locality with a population density of at least 75 persons per square mile, or any locality within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, to adopt such an ordinance. According to the Virginia Department of Forestry, sixty percent of Virginia is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed already. This bill is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

HB 2647. Restorative housing and isolated confinement; restrictions on use. The enrolled bill prohibits the use of isolated confinement, defined in the enrolled bill, in state correctional facilities, subject to certain exceptions. The enrolled bill requires that before placing an incarcerated person in restorative housing or isolated confinement for his own protection, the facility administrator shall place the incarcerated person in a less restrictive setting, including by transferring such person to another institution or to a special-purpose housing unit for incarcerated persons who face similar threats. The enrolled bill requires that if an incarcerated person is placed in restorative housing or isolated confinement, such placement shall be reviewed every 48 hours and the facility administrator shall ensure that the incarcerated person receives a medical and mental health evaluation from certified medical and mental health professionals within one working day of placement in restorative housing or any form of isolated confinement. The enrolled bill also requires the facility administrator to notify the regional administrator in writing that an incarcerated person was placed in restorative housing or isolated confinement within 24 hours of such placement. Finally, the enrolled bill requires that formal reviews of an incarcerated person's placement in any form of isolated confinement shall be held in such person's presence, to inform him of any reason or reasons administrative officials believe isolated confinement remains necessary and give him an opportunity to respond to those reasons and that a formal ruling shall be provided to the incarcerated person within 24 hours. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, and is identical to SB 1409. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2647, which regulates the use of restorative housing by the Virginia Department of Corrections.

This is the second time this legislation has been brought to my desk. I continue to stand by the bipartisan reforms enacted during the 2023 legislative session that improved the Department of Corrections' utilization of restorative housing. I supported and signed that legislation, which has

since been implemented by the Department, bringing in best practices that have proven beneficial for correction officers and inmates.

These reforms represented the culmination of significant efforts by the Department and have positioned us as a national leader in correctional innovation. The Department remains committed to developing new programs and fostering collaboration with diverse voices and stakeholders.

Central to the agency's mission is reentry and long-term public safety, guided by data-driven decision-making and evidence-based practices. The restorative housing program, operating within these principles, stands as a component to ensure safety and security for both inmates and staff.

The new definitions and regulations provided in this proposal still pose challenges to the continued success of these reforms. Designating mental health units as isolated confinement without consideration for the informed judgment of mental health professionals undermines effective prison management. Furthermore, imposing arbitrary timeframes for stays in restorative housing, including investigation time, restricts the staff's ability to maintain order and security.

Attempting to legislate prison operational procedures carries inherent risks to inmates, staff, and the public. Corrections professionals are entrusted with oversight for a reason, as they must balance multiple interests while ensuring safety. Congregating individuals without proper management protocols is not a viable solution.

I also have concerns regarding the budgetary implications of implementing this proposal. The provisions required by this bill may potentially divert funding from vital reentry programs and initiatives to reduce recidivism. Additionally, the proposal introduces unnecessary bureaucracy for facility administrators, detracting from the Department's ability to prioritize safety and inmate rehabilitation.

While I remain committed to fostering a correctional system that prioritizes the safety of all stakeholders, including everyday Virginians, inmates, and correctional officers, I do not believe it is currently prudent to proceed with this proposal. My signature on the bipartisan reforms of 2023, and my continued support for reform and innovation within the Department underscore my dedication to this cause.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

HB 2668. Elections; procedures for removal of electoral board members and general registrars. The enrolled bill allows the State Board of Elections to remove any member of an electoral board or general registrar by a recorded two-thirds majority vote of all its members after a public hearing on related matters. The enrolled bill provides that any such removal or any removal proceedings instituted against an electoral board member or general registrar by the State Board shall be based on neglect of a clear ministerial duty of the office, misuse of the office, or incompetence in the performance of the duties of the office, or an unambiguous indication of a future refusal or failure to carry out the duties of the office where such refusal or

failure is likely to have a material adverse effect upon the conduct of the office. Such decision shall be final and not subject to appeal. The enrolled bill also allows an electoral board to remove a general registrar by a unanimous vote of all its members after a public hearing on related matters. A registrar who is so removed may file an appeal to the State Board. The enrolled bill provides that any such removal or any removal proceedings instituted against a general registrar by the electoral board shall be based on the same standards as required for removals by the State Board. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2668, which provides for the removal of electoral board members or the general registrar.

This bill creates a duplicative process to be conducted by the State Board of Elections for the removal of an electoral board member or general registrar. A process set in code already provides for the removal of a member of an electoral board or general registrar. Thus, this bill is redundant, as it introduces an alternative process despite the existing system functioning effectively.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

HB 2743. Prevailing wage rate for underground infrastructure works by public service companies. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Labor and Industry to determine and make available the prevailing wage rate for underground infrastructure work. Under the bill, each public service company shall ensure that its bid specifications or other contracts applicable to underground infrastructure works require payment at the prevailing wage rate. The enrolled bill requires contractors and subcontractors to post the prevailing wage rate in a prominent and accessible place at the work site. The enrolled bill also requires each contractor or subcontractor subject to the provisions of the bill to comply with certain recordkeeping requirements. The provisions of the enrolled bill apply to contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2025. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2743, which would establish a prevailing wage standard for all underground infrastructure projects involving public service companies exceeding \$250,000.

If passed, this proposal would raise the cost of construction for underground public service companies, ultimately raising prices for consumers and ratepayers.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2744. Phase I and Phase II Utilities; energy efficiency upgrades; low-income residents; report. The enrolled bill states that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to reduce, wherever feasible and cost-effective, heating-related costs of living for low-income residents. The enrolled bill requires Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to make best, reasonable efforts to provide by December 31, 2030, prescriptive efficiency measures, as defined in the enrolled

bill, and related efficiency improvements to at least 30 percent of the qualifying households, as defined in the enrolled bill, identified by such utilities, provided that the State Corporation Commission determines that such upgrades are in the public interest. The enrolled bill requires such utilities to report to the Commission its activities, plans, and filings regarding the enrolled bill's provisions no later than January 1, 2027, annually thereafter, and in any recurring filing that the Commission deems appropriate. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1342. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2744, that would require regulated Phase I and Phase II to take action to make efficiency improvements to at least 30% of qualifying households.

The SCC already has the authority to approve energy efficiency and demand side management programs. This bill specifically calls out the use of fuel oils and converting from those units to more electric equipment, potentially restricting consumer energy choice.

Finally, during the 2024 General Assembly Session, I signed HB746 and SB565 into law, stating that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to achieve the greatest energy consumption reductions that are in the public interest.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2746. Incapacitated persons; finding of lack of capacity to understand act of voting. The enrolled bill provides that a finding that a person is incapacitated in a proceeding for guardianship or conservatorship shall not be synonymous with a finding that such person is "mentally incompetent," as such term is used in relevant law, and therefore not qualified to vote in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Virginia. The enrolled bill provides that no person shall be deemed disqualified to vote due to a lack of capacity for the purposes of the Constitution of Virginia unless a court makes a specific finding by clear and convincing evidence that such person lacks the capacity to understand the act of voting. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2746, which attempts to evade the competency requirement for the franchise under Article II, Section 1, of the Constitution of Virginia.

The Constitution of Virginia is clear, "[a]s prescribed by law, no person adjudicated to be mentally incompetent shall be qualified to vote until his competency has been reestablished."

I disagree with placing an additional burden on the court that has previously adjudged an individual to be mentally incompetent. The burden should remain with the disqualified voters to demonstrate they are competent to vote.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

HB 2756. Transportation network companies; publishing and disclosure requirements. The enrolled bill requires a transportation network company (TNC) to (i) issue an annual report to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles containing the aggregate data regarding the average fare collected from passengers, the total time driven by TNC partners while transporting a passenger, and the total amount earned by TNC partners in connection with prearranged rides and (ii) disclose to TNC partners details about the deactivation process and provide a weekly summary that includes the total fare collected from passengers, the total amount earned, and the percentage earned by such TNC partner that week. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 1348. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2756, which imposes reporting and disclosure requirements on transportation network companies.

Mandating disclosures and reports places unnecessary regulatory burdens on private businesses. This bill would create new administrative burdens for both transportation network companies and the Department of Motor Vehicles, requiring additional agency staff and resources.

Furthermore, entangling the Department of Motor Vehicles with overseeing private business data is unwarranted and overreaching. Private businesses should not be forced to disclose data through government mandates but should do so voluntarily based on industry best practices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

HB 2764. Collective bargaining by public employees; exclusive bargaining representatives. The enrolled bill repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The enrolled bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The enrolled bill requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The enrolled bill repeals a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to SB 917. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2764, which establishes mandatory union collective bargaining for state and local government employees.

This bill eliminates the prohibition on collective bargaining by state employees and would require state government entities including most executive branch, independent state authorities, and institutions of higher education to engage in mandatory union collective bargaining. The bill also requires local governments and school divisions to engage in mandatory union collective

bargaining. Finally, the legislation covers some non-state employees, specifically, independent health providers who accept Medicaid payments.

The legislation represents a fundamental shift in employment policy in the Commonwealth of Virginia that would threaten the funding and delivery of critical state and local services and will collectively cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

Furthermore, the bill lacks a funding mechanism for implementation, leaving agencies unprepared to manage the administrative and legal complexities involved. With no comprehensive assessment of financial or operational impact, the proposal introduces significant uncertainty in government workforce management ahead of its July 2026 effective date.

Accordingly, I veto this legislation."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2768. County manager plan of government; county board; powers. The enrolled bill broadens several powers related to the county board size and manner of election for counties that have adopted the county manager plan of government by giving such counties the option of following general law, after voter approval by referendum, rather than the provisions specified in this optional form of county government. Currently, only Arlington County has adopted the county manager plan of government. The provisions of the enrolled bill do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2768, which alters the Arlington County's form of government by allowing for expansion of the county board, a four-year term for the chair, and changes to board election methods.

Arlington County is the only locality governed under this structure, which has functioned with a five-member, at-large board and a one-year rotating chair since the 1930s. The Arlington County Board also formally opposed this bill, citing the need for more time and community engagement before making such significant changes.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

HB 2769. Life insurance; health insurance; unfair discrimination; pre-exposure prophylaxis for prevention of human immunodeficiency virus. The enrolled bill prohibits any person from refusing to insure, refusing to continue to insure, or limiting the amount or extent of life insurance or accident and sickness insurance coverage available to an individual or charge an individual a different rate for the same coverage based solely on the status of such individual as having received pre-exposure prophylaxis for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2769, which prohibits insurance companies from insuring, limiting, or charging different rates for individuals who use pre- exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

Most life insurance policies are subject to underwriting, a process that allows insurers to assess an applicant's risk based on medical history, lifestyle, and occupation. While insurers are rightly prohibited from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or marital status, they retain the ability to assess risk using relevant health and behavioral factors. Singling out one medical treatment for special protection undermines this established process and could set a precedent that invites broader exemptions, potentially destabilizing the insurance market.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sarah Kinzer | skinzer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1838

HB 2781. Affordable housing; county executive form of government. The enrolled bill adds counties with the county executive form of government to the list of localities with authority to provide for an affordable dwelling unit program. Albemarle County, which is already granted such authority under current law, and Prince William County are the only counties that have adopted such form of government. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2781, which authorizes local governments that have adopted the county executive form of government to amend their zoning ordinance to provide for an affordable housing dwelling unit program.

Under current law, localities can mandate that new housing developments include a certain percentage of affordable units, but they must compensate or reduce fees. Rather than mandate developers, counties would see better results following this practice.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

HB 2782. Board of Wildlife Resources; creel limits; blue catfish. The enrolled bill requires the Board of Wildlife Resources to amend regulations to remove the one-fish daily limit for blue catfish longer than 32 inches in the Commonwealth. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2782, which amends regulations to allow anglers to keep unlimited numbers of blue catfish larger than 32" statewide.

Although there are concerns about the overpopulation of blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its associated waterways, requiring the Department of Wildlife Resources to amend their regulations related to catfish statewide does not consider the vibrant recreational fisheries and associated economic benefits. Reviewing the benefit for recreational fisherman, as well as the possible negative impact of the species, should be at the discretion of the Department of Wildlife Resources.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

SB 744. Firearm transfers to another person from a prohibited person. The enrolled bill provides that a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm because such person is subject to a protective order or has been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member may transfer a firearm owned by such prohibited person to any person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing such firearm, provided that such person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing such firearm is 21 years of age or older and does not reside with the person who is subject to the protective order. Under current law, there is no requirement that such transferee cannot be younger than 21 years of age and cannot reside with such prohibited person. The enrolled bill also provides that such prohibited person who transfers, sells, or surrenders a firearm pursuant to the provisions of the bill shall inform the clerk of the court of the name and address of the transferee, the federally licensed firearms dealer, or the law-enforcement agency in possession of the firearm and shall provide to the transferee a copy of the form certifying that such person does not possess any firearms or that all firearms possessed by such person have been surrendered, sold, or transferred. The enrolled bill also provides that a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm because such person is subject to a protective order or has been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member shall be advised that a law-enforcement officer may obtain a search warrant to search for any firearms from such person if such law-enforcement officer has reason to believe that such person has not relinquished all firearms in his possession. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1960. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 744, which relates to firearm transfers to another person from a person subject to a protective order or convicted of a misdemeanor.

I continue to join the patrons in their pursuit of condemning domestic abuse, it is unequivocally deplorable. Make no mistake, Virginia should ensure that domestic abusers are dealt with appropriately, and those who resort to illegal firearm use, especially, should face severe and harsh punishments.

When making my decision on this bill both times it has come to my desk, I considered public safety, enforceability, efficacy, and individual liberty. Regrettably, I stated last year, the legislation fails to achieve its intended purpose and this bill is identical to last year's.

Furthermore, the necessity of this legislation is uncertain. The existing legal framework addresses firearm possession in cases of domestic abuse. Courts have the power to require the transfer of firearms from individuals, and law enforcement can obtain a search warrant to seize for illegally possessed weapons.

Avoiding inadvertent compromises to public safety, policies should refrain from disarming individuals not subject to a court order, making other family members less safe, which contradicts our shared goal. The arbitrary age prohibition on certain transfers adds further complications. Finally, the proposal results in intrusive government actions that affects the entire household, not just the individual under the order.

As we have reached the end of my final legislative session in office, I am disappointed that I have not received more legislation to increase mandatory minimums for armed criminals. I urge the General Assembly to accept my amendments on a number of bills that would tangibly decrease acts of heinous firearm violence without punishing law abiding citizens.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 760. Elections; deadline for receipt of absentee ballots and certain other information; 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the election. The enrolled bill moves the deadline for receipt of absentee ballots, information required to cure an absentee ballot, or proof of identification to accompany a provisional ballot provided for lack of identification from noon to 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the election. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 760, which extends the time that a mail returned absentee ballot must arrive at the general registrar.

Ensuring Virginia has elections that are transparent and secure has been a top priority of my administration. Restoring trust in the election system ensures that Virginians can be confident of those elected to lead them.

This bill places undue burdens on local general registrars, who would be provided less time to process ballots, with some localities already struggling with the current deadline of 12:00 PM.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

SB 775. Elections; political campaign advertisements; synthetic media; penalty. The enrolled bill prohibits electioneering communications containing synthetic media, as those terms are defined in the enrolled bill, from being published or broadcast without containing the following conspicuously displayed statement: "This message contains synthetic media that has been altered from its original source or artificially generated and may present conduct or speech that did not occur." The enrolled bill creates a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for a violation of such prohibition and, for a willful violation, a Class 1 misdemeanor. The enrolled bill permits any registered voter who receives an electioneering communication in violation of this requirement to institute an action for preventative relief to prohibit the publication or dissemination of such electioneering communication, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2479. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 775, which establishes disclosure requirements for electioneering communications containing synthetic media and assigns enforcement responsibilities to the State Board of Elections.

Ensuring transparency in political communications is a worthy objective, particularly as artificial intelligence continues to evolve. However, this legislation imposes an impractical enforcement

structure that lacks clear, workable mechanisms and raises significant constitutional and logistical concerns.

The bill requires the State Board of Elections and ELECT to determine whether electioneering materials contain synthetic media and whether the required disclosures have been properly applied. Unlike traditional campaign finance and advertising regulations, these determinations involve highly technical assessments that the agency is not equipped to handle. Further, identifying the sponsors of AI-generated communications—especially in a rapidly evolving digital landscape—would be extraordinarily difficult, limiting the bill's effectiveness.

Additionally, the bill allows recipients of electioneering communications to seek injunctive relief, which could result in politically motivated legal actions and inconsistent enforcement. The potential for increased litigation, coupled with the lack of clarity regarding enforcement, creates unnecessary burdens on both regulators and political participants.

Other states have sought to regulate AI-generated political content, but this bill's broad and vague approach lacks the precision necessary to ensure fair and enforceable application. The constitutional concerns surrounding political speech, combined with the significant administrative challenges this bill presents, make it an unworkable solution.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

SB 777. Department of Housing and Community Development; Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force established; report. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish, in collaboration with the Department of Energy, and with assistance from the Department of Social Services, the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force to determine barriers to access and enrollment in the current energy efficiency programs for income-qualified energy customers and to evaluate and develop a plan to address any necessary improvements regarding coordination among state and federal government agencies for utility services and resources to more effectively deliver energy-efficient housing, weatherization resources, and energy efficiency upgrades for income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth. The enrolled bill requires the Task Force to meet at least six times between July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations no later than September 30, 2026. The enrolled bill specifies that such report shall include policy recommendations and a plan to ensure that weatherization-ready repairs and whole-home energy efficiency retrofits are provided to all eligible income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth residing in multifamily buildings, single-family dwellings, and manufactured homes by December 31, 2033. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1935. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 777, which establish the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force, comprised of

the Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Energy, Department of Social Services, the State Corporation Commission, and the Clean Energy Advisory Board.

The agencies named in this bill already meet as needed to discuss issues related to the coordination of government efforts, services, and resources related to energy efficiency, weatherization, and access for low-income households. Therefore, the establishment of a dedicated task force related to these issues is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 778. Juveniles; adjudication of delinquency; penalty. The enrolled bill specifies that a delinquent child is a child 11 years of age or older who has committed a delinquent act. Currently, there is no minimum age for a child to be adjudicated delinquent. The enrolled bill provides that if a juvenile younger than 11 years of age is found to have committed an act that would be delinquent if committed by a child 11 years of age or older, the juvenile shall not be proceeded upon as delinquent; however, the court may make any orders of disposition authorized for a child in need of services or a child in need of supervision. The enrolled bill also provides that any funding that is available to provide services to a child 11 years of age or older who is proceeded upon as delinquent shall also be made available to a child younger than 11 years of age who is found to have committed an act that would be delinquent if committed by a child 11 years of age or older in order to provide such child the same services. The enrolled bill includes in the definition of "child in need of services" a child younger than 11 years of age who has committed an act that would be delinquent if committed by a child 11 years of age or older.

The enrolled bill adds that a child may be taken into immediate custody when such child is alleged to be in need of services or supervision and there is a clear and substantial danger to the child's life or health or the safety of the child's family or the public. Finally, the enrolled bill includes in the offense of causing or encouraging acts rendering children delinquent, abused, etc., any person 18 years of age or older, including the parent of any child, who willfully contributes to, encourages, or causes any act, omission, or condition that (i) causes a child younger than 11 years of age to commit an act that would be delinquent if committed by a child 11 years of age or older or (ii) causes any child to participate in or become a member of a criminal street gang in violation of existing law. Under the enrolled bill, any person who commits such offense is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 778, which establishes the age of a delinquent child.

Although this bill appears to address some of my concerns from legislation vetoed last year, it does not address the potential loss of restitution that could benefit victims of acts committed by children under 11 or provide adequate deterrence to street gangs from the heinous act of recruiting children under 11 to commit crimes.

Furthermore, the bill remains a solution in search of a problem and serves as an unnecessary reduction in the discretion of our judicial system that continues to serve its purpose in protecting our Commonwealth and most importantly our youth.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 812. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; landlord remedies; noncompliance with rental agreement. The enrolled bill increases from five days to 14 days the mandatory waiting period after a landlord serves written notice on a tenant notifying the tenant of his nonpayment of rent and of the landlord's intention to terminate the rental agreement if rent is not paid before the landlord may pursue remedies for termination of the rental agreement. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1719. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 812, which extends the waiting period before a landlord can initiate lease termination.

Current law already provides for a waiting period before eviction proceedings can begin, ensuring that tenants have an opportunity to address missed payments. Since tenants may already halt eviction proceedings by paying any amount of overdue rent this bill is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ashley Binns | abinns@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1812

SB 813. Voter registration, regular periodic review of registration records; 90-day quiet period before all primary and general elections. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Elections to complete not later than 90 days prior to the date of a primary or general election any program the purpose of which is to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the voter registration system. This restriction is not to be construed to preclude (i) the removal of names from the voter registration system at the request of the registrant or as provided by existing law by reason of criminal conviction or mental incapacity or the death of the registrant or (ii) the correction of registration records pursuant to existing law. Under current law, such restriction only applies to federal primaries and federal general elections. The enrolled bill also extends (a) the period of time registrars have to cancel registrations from 30 days to 60 days after notification of the need to cancel by the Department of Elections and (b) the period of time a registered voter has to respond to a notice of cancellation related to citizenship status from 14 days to 28 days. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1657. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 813, which imposes unnecessary restrictions on the Department of Elections' ability to maintain accurate voter rolls.

Federal law already governs voter list maintenance, and this bill simply codifies ambiguous language that has led to ongoing litigation. The Supreme Court recently declined to require Virginia to reinstate non-citizens whose registrations were canceled during the federally

mandated quiet period, affirming current practices. This bill does nothing to clarify the issue and will likely invite further legal challenges without improving election security.

Additionally, expanding the quiet period to all elections—not just federal ones—would disrupt essential voter roll updates, creating administrative inefficiencies and unnecessary costs for election officials.

Virginia's election system must be guided by clear, effective policies, not redundant and legally uncertain mandates.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

SB 814. Election of certain governing bodies; conversion to single-member districts. The enrolled bill allows the governing body of a locality that has been subject to a court order imposing a remedial election system under voting rights laws to adopt an ordinance to convert one or more at-large seats of such body to single-member districts, provided that the governing body also adopts and implements the remedial election system contained in the court order. The enrolled bill provides that members of such governing body in office on the effective date of such ordinance shall complete their terms of office. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 814, which allows localities, subject to court-ordered remedial election systems, to convert at-large seats to single-member districts by ordinance.

Allowing localities to unilaterally alter their districting structure without sufficient checks and balances could lead to inconsistencies in representation, further complicating efforts to ensure fair and equitable electoral systems. Such significant changes should be carefully considered through established processes that prioritize public input and deliberation.

A more balanced approach would preserve flexibility for local governments while ensuring that any changes to districting structures are made transparently and with full community participation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

SB 815. Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; adverse action by landlord; tenant remedies. The enrolled bill prohibits a residential landlord who owns more than four rental dwelling units or more than a 10 percent interest in more than four rental dwelling units, whether individually or through a business entity, in the Commonwealth from taking adverse action, as defined in the enrolled bill, against a prospective tenant due to the prospective tenant's history of a dismissed, nonsuited, or expunged unlawful detainer case or an unlawful detainer case that is eligible for expungement. The enrolled bill allows a prospective tenant to recover, as a result of any such adverse action, (i) actual damages, (ii) statutory damages of \$1,000, and (iii) reasonable attorney fees. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1872. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 815, which restricts landlords from considering dismissed or nonsuited evictions in rental decisions.

Current law, passed last year, already allows for the expungement of dismissed evictions after 30 days and nonsuited evictions after 6 months, ensuring fairness for prospective tenants. This legislation unfairly increases legal risks for landlords, penalizes them for using valid credit information, and creates opportunities for misuse of the legal process.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ashley Binns | abinns@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1812

SB 823. Electric utilities; construction of renewable energy facilities. The enrolled bill requires Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power, in constructing any renewable energy facility, to develop and submit a plan to the State Corporation Commission for review and approval that addresses the following considerations, to the extent not already addressed in existing filings: (i) options for utilizing local workers; (ii) the economic development benefits of the project for the Commonwealth, including capital investments and job creation; (iii) opportunities to advance the Commonwealth's workforce and economic development goals, including furtherance of apprenticeship and other workforce training programs; and (iv) giving priority to the hiring, apprenticeship, and training of local workers, workers from historically economically disadvantaged communities, and veterans. The enrolled bill requires that in approving any such facility, the Commission shall issue findings related to how the facility will advance such interests. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 823, which would require Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power, when constructing any renewable energy facility, to submit a plan to the State Corporation Commission for review and approval that addresses workforce and economic development issues tied to the project.

Adding this requirement to the approval of projects will lengthen the time for approval, resulting in increased costs to the project that will ultimately be passed on to ratepayers. Virginia's growing economy requires increased power generation, and this bill will increase costs and make it harder to bring new generation projects to market.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 824. State Corporation Commission; powers and duties. The enrolled bill provides that in proceedings before the State Corporation Commission relating to the regulation and oversight of Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power, the Commission shall consider public health and safety, the economy of the Commonwealth, the promotion of workforce development for residents of the Commonwealth, and the maintenance of fair labor standards for workers employed by public service companies and their contractors, if applicable to the proceedings. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 824, which requires the State Corporation Commission to consider various factors in proceedings involving Phase I and Phase II electric utilities.

The State Corporation Commission currently has broad authority to determine whether utility proposals and activities are in the public interest, including the factors contemplated by this bill. Therefore, this legislation is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 848. Purchase of certain firearms; age requirement; penalty. The enrolled bill prohibits any person under 21 years of age from purchasing an assault firearm, with exceptions for the purchase of an assault firearm by a law-enforcement officer, correctional officer, jail officer, or member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Virginia National Guard, or the National Guard of any other state. Accordingly, the enrolled bill prohibits a licensed dealer from selling, renting, trading, or transferring from his inventory an assault firearm to any person under 21 years of age. A violation of either prohibition is a Class 6 felony. The enrolled bill also expands the definition of assault firearm as the term applies to criminal history record information checks. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 848, relating to age requirements for purchasing or transferring certain firearms.

My position on this legislation from last year is unchanged. This legislation prohibits any individual under the age of twenty-one from purchasing a handgun or assault firearm, two broad categories of commonly used firearms.

Of particular importance is the basic principle that the constitutionally protected right to possess a firearm is meaningless absent the right to purchase or otherwise acquire the firearm, a necessary corollary to the realization of rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

In 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia ruled that a federal law prohibiting the sale of firearms to adults under the age of twenty-one would be found unconstitutional under the Supreme Court's ruling in Bruen. The Court stated, "[i]f the Court were to exclude 18-to-20-year-olds from the Second Amendment's protection, it would impose limitations on the Second Amendment that do not exist with other constitutional guarantee."

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 853. Prevailing wage rate; apprenticeship requirements; RPS-eligible source work; penalties. The enrolled bill requires each public service company, including its contractors and subcontractors, or third-party developer to ensure payment at the prevailing wage rate set by the Department of Labor and Industry for any mechanic, laborer, or worker employed, retained, or otherwise hired to perform construction, maintenance, or repair work for certain electricity

generating sources. The enrolled bill requires each public service company to (i) ensure that 15 percent of the total labor hours of such work is performed by qualified apprentices and (ii) employ at least one qualified apprentice if four or more individuals are employed to perform such work. Under the enrolled bill, a public service company that fails to meet the requirements of its provisions is required to make penalty payments to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2356. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 853, which would require the Phase I and Phase II electric utilities to pay a prevailing wage to workers for construction, maintenance, or repair work for RPS eligible electricity resources. Additionally, it would mandate apprentice hours.

This bill will increase the construction costs which will ultimately be passed along to ratepayers, raising costs for consumers.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 872. Charter; City of Portsmouth. The enrolled bill amends the charter for the City of Portsmouth by authorizing the City Manager to require city departments to implement appropriate enhancement or remedial measures consistent with prevailing law wherever there exists (i) a compelling government interest, (ii) an analysis that documents a statistically significant disparity between the availability and utilization of minority-owned and women-owned businesses, or (iii) direct evidence by minority-owned businesses or women-owned businesses of the impact of race by discrimination. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1634. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 872, which authorizes the Portsmouth City manager to engage in race and sex-based decision making.

There are significant constitutional, legal, administrative, and economic challenges presented by this bill. Enforcing these remedial measures could expose the City to costly lawsuits for potential violations of state or federal laws, including equal protection clauses. Policies that prioritize race or gender over qualifications may discourage competition, reduce efficiency, and undermine the city's economic growth by eroding confidence in a fair and merit-based process.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

SB 880. Carrying assault firearms in public areas prohibited; penalty. The enrolled bill prohibits the carrying of certain semi-automatic center-fire rifles and shotguns on any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, or public right-of-way or in any public park or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public, with certain exceptions. Under current law, the current prohibition on carrying certain shotguns and semi-automatic center-fire rifles and pistols applies to a narrower range of firearms, only in certain localities, and only when such firearms are loaded. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 880, prohibiting the carrying of assault firearms in public areas.

My position on this legislation from last year is unchanged. Current law already prohibits brandishing a firearm in a manner that reasonably induces fear in another person or holding a firearm in a public place that creates a reasonable fear of violence.

The proposed legislation prohibits carrying a broad category of commonly used firearms in various public spaces, including streets, roads, sidewalks, parks, and other public areas. Such a prohibition is unconstitutional as it attempts to restrict widely embraced firearms used for lawful purposes like self- defense.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 883. Purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm; assault and battery of a family or household member or intimate partner; penalties. The enrolled bill adds to the definition of "family or household member," as such definition relates to juvenile and domestic relations district court, a person's intimate partner, defined in the enrolled bill as an individual who, within the previous 12 months, was in a romantic, dating, or sexual relationship with the person as determined by the length, nature, frequency, and type of interaction between the individuals involved in the relationship. The enrolled bill also adds to the definition of "family or household member," as such definition relates to a person's purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following an assault and battery of a family or household member, any individual who cohabits or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabitated with the person. Finally, the enrolled bill provides that any person who knowingly and intentionally purchases, possesses, or transports any firearm following a misdemeanor conviction for an offense that occurred on or after July 1, 2025, for the offense of assault and battery against an intimate partner or an offense substantially similar under the laws of any other state or of the United States is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1869. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 883, which relates to the purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following a misdemeanor conviction of assault and battery.

This exact bill was brought to me last year and I will reiterate that I join the patrons in their pursuit of condemning domestic abuse; it is unequivocally deplorable. Virginia should ensure that convicted domestic abusers are dealt with appropriately and those who resort to illegal firearm use, especially, should face severe and harsh punishments. To that end, Virginia already has mechanisms for disarming dangerous individuals, such as through protective orders.

Individuals convicted of felony assault and battery already automatically lose their firearm rights. This proposal, however, aims to extend the prohibition of firearm possession for misdemeanors beyond existing restrictions for family and household members. It would now encompass a vaguely defined category of intimate partners without an objective standard.

Additionally, changing the definition of family or household member has far-reaching effects, such as the jurisdiction of juvenile and domestic courts, petitions for relief of custody, and whom a court may prohibit contact with following a conviction for recruitment for criminal street gangs.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 886. Trigger activator definition; penalty. The enrolled bill defines "trigger activator" as a conversion kit, tool, accessory, or device designed to alter the rate of fire of a semi-automatic firearm to mimic automatic weapon fire or used to increase the rate of fire to a rate faster than such semi-automatic firearm can achieve when not equipped with a conversion kit, tool, accessory, or device. The enrolled bill clarifies that "trigger activator" includes a bump stock, trigger crank, hellfire trigger, binary trigger system, burst trigger system, or a copy thereof, but does not include a semi-automatic replacement trigger, designed for use in competitive shooting, that improves performance and functionality over the stock trigger. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1660. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 886, which modifies the definition of a trigger activator.

The General Assembly implemented the current definition of a trigger activator in 2020, seeking to ensure that devices that could modify semi-automatic firearms to fire faster were prohibited in Virginia. The proposed legislation fails to achieve its intended purpose and is unnecessary. The existing legal framework addresses trigger activators.

Additionally, terms used in the bill capture commonly used modifications for firearms that civilians regularly use that do not turn semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic firearms.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 891. Purchase of firearms; waiting period; penalty. The enrolled bill provides that no person shall sell a firearm unless at least five days have elapsed from the time the prospective purchaser completes the written consent form to have a licensed dealer obtain criminal history record information, with exceptions enumerated in relevant law. The amendments to the Code of Virginia in the enrolled bill are identical to the amendments to the Code of Virginia in HB 2631. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 891, which requires a waiting period to purchase a firearm.

My position on this legislation is unchanged from last year. The proposed waiting periods would impede individuals facing threats of violence from promptly acquiring a firearm for self-defense.

Virginia's existing background check ensures that individuals prohibited by State or Federal law cannot legally access firearms. The Virginia State Police use federal and state records and

databases, including the Central Criminal Records Exchange, one of the most complete records repositories in the nation.

The federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 initially implemented a five-day waiting period between handgun application and sale completion before being found to be unconstitutional.

My commitment to enhancing mental health services is steadfast, reflected in my efforts and record funding to finalize long-neglected mental health systems. These initiatives aim to assist those undergoing mental health crises when an individual needs it most, a reform that is proven to save lives.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 893. Renewable energy portfolio standard program; geothermal heating and cooling systems; report. For purposes of the renewable energy portfolio standard program, the enrolled bill requires Dominion Energy Virginia and American Electric Power to procure and retire certain percentages of renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems, as defined in the enrolled bill, beginning with the 2026 or 2027 compliance year and thereafter. The enrolled bill amends the method by which renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems are calculated and directs the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation to prepare and deliver a report evaluating the procurement and retirement of renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems in the Commonwealth on or before November 1, 2027. The enrolled bill also directs the Real Estate Appraiser Board to promulgate regulations requiring the development of a continuing education curriculum and required training for all licensees that includes how to properly determine the increase in value of real estate created by reductions in building energy costs associated with solar, geothermal, and solar water heating investments. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 893, which would add geothermal heating and cooling systems as eligible for compliance with the renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

This bill subsidizes geothermal heat pumps over other heating ventilation and cooling (HVAC) technologies such as air sourced heat pumps or high-efficiency natural gas furnaces and establishes a deficiency payment that sets a price ceiling for the qualified geothermal renewable energy credits (gRECs) which acts as a regulatory induced price anchor driving up costs to Virginia's ratepayers. HVAC technologies should compete on their own merits and consumers should make decisions based on their own needs.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 897. Overtime for certain employees; domestic service workers and live-in domestic workers. The enrolled bill adds domestic workers, as defined in the bill, to provisions related to

overtime pay. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2469. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 897, which would require employers to pay overtime to domestic service employees.

Certain domestic service employees have compensation arrangements, such as housing, transportation, and meals, that differ significantly from typical employment arrangements. This legislation introduces significant confusion for both families and employees and could lead to unintended consequences of workers losing their jobs.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 917. Collective bargaining by public employees; exclusive bargaining representatives.

The enrolled bill repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The enrolled bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The enrolled bill requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The enrolled bill repeals a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. This bill incorporates SB 964, SB 1033, and SB 1401 and is identical to HB 2764. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 917, which establishes mandatory union collective bargaining for state and local government employees.

This bill eliminates the prohibition on collective bargaining by state employees and would require state government entities including most executive branch, independent state authorities, and institutions of higher education to engage in mandatory union collective bargaining. The bill also requires local governments and school divisions to engage in mandatory union collective bargaining. Finally, the legislation covers some non-state employees, specifically, independent health providers who accept Medicaid payments.

The legislation represents a fundamental shift in employment policy in the Commonwealth of Virginia that would threaten the funding and delivery of critical state and local services and will collectively cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

Furthermore, the bill lacks a funding mechanism for implementation, leaving agencies unprepared to manage the administrative and legal complexities involved. With no comprehensive assessment of financial or operational impact, the proposal introduces significant uncertainty in government workforce management ahead of its July 2026 effective date.

Accordingly, I veto this legislation."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 919. Private companies providing public transportation services; employee protections.

The enrolled bill requires the governing body or transportation district commission of any county or city that contracts with a private company to provide transportation services to (i) require such company to provide any employee of such company providing such services compensation and benefits that are, at a minimum, equivalent to the compensation and benefits provided to a public employee, as defined in the enrolled bill, with a position requiring equivalent qualifications and years of service; (ii) provide transportation services through such company's own employees; and (iii) if such transportation district commission, county, or city subsequently elects to provide its own system of public transportation, adopt an ordinance or resolution providing for collective bargaining, ensure all employees of such private company are offered employment with such subsequent public transportation system without loss of compensation or benefits, and ensure the recognition of any lawful collective bargaining representative of such private company's employees. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2619. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 919, which requires private companies to match public employee wages, benefits, and unionization.

The proposal places an undue financial burden on private companies contracted for public transportation, as the government should not be dictating their wages.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 962. Virginia Public Procurement Act; additional public works contract requirements.

The enrolled bill provides that public bodies shall require the contractor and its subcontractors for any capital outlay project, as defined in the enrolled bill, to complete certain safety training programs, maintain records of compliance with applicable laws, and participate in approved apprenticeship training programs. The enrolled bill provides exemptions from such requirements for reasons related to lack of availability of apprentices and high costs. The provisions of the enrolled bill do not apply to transportation-related construction projects. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2482. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 962, which require that 8 percent of total hours for non-transportation capital projects must be completed by apprentices.

Requiring an arbitrary percentage of hours be provided to apprentices in public projects does not guarantee further development of the skilled trades and creates financial barriers for public projects. Further, some trades lack formal apprenticeship programs to ensure that the requirements of the bill are met.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ashley Binns | abinns@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1812

SB 970. Cannabis control; retail market; penalties. The enrolled bill establishes a framework for the creation of a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth, to be administered by the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority. The enrolled bill allows the Authority to begin issuing all marijuana licenses on September 1, 2025, but provides that no retail sales may occur prior to May 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2485. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 970, which establishes framework for creating a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth.

The proposed legalization, which was vetoed last year, would establish the framework for retail marijuana, which endangers Virginians' health and safety. States following this path have seen adverse effects on children's and adolescent's health and safety, increased gang activity and violent crime, significant deterioration in mental health, decreased road safety, and significant costs associated with retail marijuana that far exceed tax revenue. It also does not eliminate the illegal black-market sale of cannabis, nor guarantee product safety. Addressing the inconsistencies in enforcement and regulation in Virginia's current laws does not justify expanding access to cannabis, following the failed paths of other states and endangering Virginians' health and safety. Law enforcement officials from across the Commonwealth have warned that this proposal poses a serious threat to public safety, attesting to increases in crime, arrests, and DUI incidents. Our local and state law enforcement agencies lack the necessary funding and staffing to effectively manage the emergence of a cannabis industry, fueling an international drug trade dominated by organized crime.

I. The Adverse Effects on Children's Health & Safety

The most concerning consequence of cannabis commercialization is its impact on adolescents and our children. Since 2016, poison center calls for children who have overdosed on edible cannabis products have skyrocketed by 400%. In Virginia alone, the Blue Ridge Poison Control Center has reported an 85% increase in minors overdosing on cannabis edibles since the Commonwealth legalized cannabis possession.

States with legal retail markets, such as Colorado, Washington, Ohio, and Massachusetts, have seen dramatic increases in cannabis-related poison control calls and emergency room visits for children. New York City schools have experienced an 8% increase in drug-related incidents among students, even as the overall K-12 population declined. Nationally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has found that the five states with the highest rates of youth marijuana use all have legal retail cannabis markets.

Beyond immediate health risks, adolescent cannabis use has long-term consequences. Studies show that individuals who start using cannabis at younger ages are significantly more likely to develop severe and persistent substance use disorders. Research indicates that 11% of juveniles who consumed cannabis in 2023 and 21% of those who used it consistently for three years have developed cannabis use disorder. Doctors at Boston Children's Hospital have reported rising cases of psychosis linked to cannabis use in children, with many experiencing hallucinations or

paranoia. Daily cannabis use among high school seniors remains troublingly high, with 6.5% of twelfth graders using cannabis every day. Unlike other substance use disorders, there are no effective medical treatments for cannabis addiction in children, and counseling alone has shown limited success in mitigating the damage caused by early cannabis use.

II. The Failures of States with Legalized Retail Marijuana

States that have attempted to regulate the black market for cannabis have failed catastrophically, leading to widespread crime, unsafe products, and financial losses. While Colorado is often touted as a model for legalization, a decade later, the black market still dominates, accounting for approximately 35% of all cannabis sales. California fares even worse—six years post-legalization, its legal cannabis market represents only 10% of total cannabis sales. The persistence of illegal operations fuels gang activity, drives violent crime, and undermines public safety.

Even legal cannabis markets fail to ensure product safety. A study conducted by the New York Medical Cannabis Industry Association found that a shocking 40% of tested cannabis products failed to meet regulatory standards, containing dangerous contaminants such as *E. coli*, salmonella, and heavy metals. Similarly, in California, legal growers routinely evade state environmental regulations, labor laws, and product testing requirements, making the state's legal market no safer than the black market, as reported by PBS NewsHour.

The increasing potency of cannabis has also led to a surge in cannabis-induced disorders. Electronic health records show that in November 2023, cannabis-induced disorder rates had skyrocketed by 50% compared to 2019. Legalization has fueled a dangerous race to produce ever-stronger products—Washington State, for example, saw cannabis extracts gain 150% market share post-legalization, with potencies nearly triple that of traditional flower. The consequences of these high-potency products have become so severe that the Washington legislature is now reassessing the benefits of the legalization.

The promise of a financial windfall from cannabis legalization has been nothing more than a mirage. States with legal retail cannabis markets have consistently failed to convert black-market sales into regulated, taxable revenue. Projections of massive tax gains have fallen flat, with many states now facing the harsh reality of dwindling revenues and mounting social costs. A Colorado state study found that for every dollar generated in cannabis tax revenue, taxpayers spend approximately \$4.50 to address the negative consequences of legalization. These costs include, but are not limited to, healthcare burdens and increased law enforcement spending. Studies have shown that regular cannabis use significantly raises the likelihood of high school dropout rates, further compounding economic losses.

A 2023 analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City confirmed that cannabis legalization has failed on every front—driving up social costs, increasing substance use disorders, exacerbating homelessness, and fueling arrests—all while failing to deliver the promised tax revenues. The financial and societal burdens of legalization have left state governments worse off than before, proving that commercialized cannabis is a failed experiment with devastating consequences.

III. Increase in Violent Crime, Psychiatric Disorders, and Decline in Safety

According to the American Journal of Psychiatry, cannabis poses a greater risk of triggering psychosis than any other illicit drug. Cannabis-induced psychosis manifests in dangerous and unpredictable ways, including severe hallucinations, delusions, and distorted perceptions of reality. The consequences of these effects are not just personal—they have far-reaching implications for public safety and crime.

In 2022 alone, cannabis use was responsible for nearly 12% of all drug-related emergency department visits in the U.S., underscoring the scale of its impact on public health. Even more alarming is the strong correlation between psychosis and violent crime. Schizophrenia linked to cannabis-induced psychosis creates a major public safety crisis. Studies show that individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia are five times more likely to commit violent crimes and nearly twenty times more likely to commit murder. Those suffering from schizophrenia account for between 6% and 9% of all homicides—an indisputable connection between cannabis use and increased violence.

Cannabis legalization has also fueled a surge in crime across multiple categories. In Oregon, after legalization, violent crime, property crime, larceny, aggravated assault, and burglary all spiked significantly compared to states that maintained laws against commercial marijuana sales. The pattern is undeniable, legalization leads to greater lawlessness, not greater control.

The overwhelming consensus from leading medical journals and decades of research confirm a harsh reality: cannabis is neither safe nor beneficial. The experience of states that have legalized retail cannabis tells the same story—rising cannabis use, especially among minors, dangerously high THC potency levels, and escalating criminal activity.

Beyond the violence and mental health crises, cannabis also poses a deadly risk on the roads. In Colorado, following legalization, fatal crashes involving drivers who tested positive only for THC skyrocketed by 40%. Total marijuana-related traffic deaths surged by a staggering 76.2%, endangering the lives of innocent drivers and pedestrians alike.

Cannabis commercialization has failed, and will continue to fail, to deliver on its promises—it has actively endangered public health, fueled crime, and put lives at risk. States that have embraced legalization are now grappling with the devastating consequences of a failed experiment, and the cost of ignoring these warning signs will only continue to grow.

IV. Virginia's Current Cannabis System

The current illegal cannabis market in Virginia is pervasive and dangerous.

Marijuana carries the same dangers as other drugs; the Commonwealth recognized this when it created a medical marijuana system. Opioids and other controlled substances are highly regulated and require the consultation of a medical provider to mitigate their negative consequences. Even with those protections in place, these drugs have had perverse and dangerous consequences for Virginians. The same is true for marijuana.

Attempting to rectify the error of decriminalizing marijuana by establishing a safe and regulated marketplace is an unachievable goal. The more prudent approach would be to revisit the issue of discrepancies in enforcement, not compounding the risks and endangering Virginians' health and safety with greater market availability.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Taylor Mey | tmey@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1870

SB 995. Real estate appraisers; educational requirements for licensure; fair housing and appraisal bias course. The enrolled bill requires applicants for licensure as a certified residential real estate appraiser, a certified general real estate appraiser, or a licensed residential real estate appraiser to successfully complete a minimum of two hours of education on fair housing and appraisal bias administered or approved by the Real Estate Appraiser Board prior to licensure. The enrolled bill requires any such educational course on fair housing and appraisal bias to be audited annually by the Fair Housing Board. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1693. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 995, which mandates additional coursework on fair housing and appraisal bias for new applicants seeking licensure as real estate appraisers.

Virginia has already taken meaningful steps to ensure fairness in real estate appraisals, such as through House Bill 284 from 2022, which includes continuing education requirements that address fair housing and appraisal bias.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ashley Binns | abinns@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1812

SB 1008. Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; Board for Contractors; licensing examinations. The enrolled bill requires that Class A and Class B contractor licensing examinations contain questions that include factors for determining areas that constitute Resource Protection Areas pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and factors for performing maintenance or constructing improvements on shorelines potentially subject to the requirements for living shorelines. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1008, which mandates that the exams for contractor licenses include questions regarding Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) governed by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation.

Protecting Virginia's shorelines is of vital importance. However, this legislation creates additional requirements for those wishing to become a licensed contractor, regardless of their location of work in Virginia.

Contractors who provide services in other areas Virginia, who may have no connection to any shoreline or the Chesapeake Bay, would be burdened by an unnecessary mandate.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ashley Binns | abinns@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1812

SB 1009. Elections; conduct of election; ranked choice voting; report. The enrolled bill makes the decision to conduct an election by ranked choice voting subject to a determination of feasibility by the State Board of Elections. The enrolled bill provides procedures for tabulating and reporting results of elections conducted using ranked choice voting, including procedures for duplicating damaged or defective ballots. The enrolled bill requires the State Board of Elections to provide standards for and to approve vote tabulating software for use with existing voting systems in elections conducted by ranked choice voting and to produce generalized voter education materials on ranked choice voting. The enrolled bill permits the State Board of Elections to create and modify recount procedures to the extent necessary to accommodate a recount of an election conducted by ranked choice voting. Finally, the enrolled bill directs the Department of Elections to review the testing and approval framework for voting equipment in the Commonwealth and submit a report of such review no later than the first day of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1009, which makes technical amendments to the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) framework.

Before further codifying RCV procedures, more data is needed on its impact and benefits. Establishing additional statutory requirements at this stage risks institutionalizing a system that has yet to prove its effectiveness in broader elections.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

SB 1013. Affirmative defense or reduced penalty for a neurocognitive disorder or intellectual or developmental disability. The enrolled bill provides an affirmative defense to prosecution of a person for assault or assault and battery against certain specified persons for which the enhanced Class 6 felony and six-month mandatory minimum apply if such person proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that at the time of the assault or assault and battery (i) the person's behaviors were a result of (a) mental illness or (b) a neurocognitive disorder, including dementia, or an intellectual disability or a developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, or (ii) the person met the criteria for issuance of an emergency custody order.

The enrolled bill requires such person or his counsel to give notice in writing to the attorney for the Commonwealth at least 60 days prior to his trial in circuit court, or at least 14 days if the trial date is set within 21 days of his last appearance, of his intention to present such evidence. Additionally, if such notice is not given, and the person proffers such evidence at his trial as a defense, then the court may in its discretion either allow the Commonwealth a continuance or, under appropriate circumstances, bar such person from presenting such evidence; any such continuance shall not be counted for speedy trial purposes pursuant to relevant law.

Lastly, the enrolled bill provides that if such person does not prove that his behaviors were a result of his mental illness, intellectual disability, developmental disability, or neurocognitive disorder but the evidence establishes that his mental illness, intellectual disability, developmental disability, or neurocognitive disorder otherwise contributed to his behaviors, the finder of fact may find such person guilty of a misdemeanor assault or assault and battery. The enrolled bill also provides that such affirmative defense shall not be construed to allow an affirmative defense for voluntary intoxication. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1013, which creates an affirmative defense for assault and battery.

The Commonwealth has made great strides in handling our mental health crisis and remains focused on providing treatment to individuals. A new, loosely defined, and excessively broad affirmative defense is unnecessary because Virginia laws already provide legal protections for individuals charged who are not criminally responsible due to mental illness.

The proposal also significantly reduces the protections afforded to law enforcement and erodes the Commonwealth Attorney's discretion in evaluating cases, needlessly introducing logistical and procedural challenges that further burden our strained court system.

This bill sends the wrong message at precisely the wrong time.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 1017. School boards; powers and duties; school meal policies; payment of school meal debt. The enrolled bill requires each school board, at the end of each school year, to pay for the total unpaid school meal balance, resulting from uncollectable school meal debts on any student account, on the nonprofit school food service account for each public elementary or secondary school in the school division using any appropriated nonfederal funds, except that each school board is prohibited from requiring any public elementary or secondary school in the school division from paying for or providing any funds to pay for such school's unpaid school meal balance. The enrolled bill requires each school board to adopt policies in accordance with the provisions of the enrolled bill in order to pay these unpaid balances at the end of each school year. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1017, which requires each school board to pay for the total unpaid school meal balance.

Ensuring that Virginia students are fed at school so that they can adequately learn is important to my administration. With that being said, the bill places unfunded mandates on local school boards to provide funds for any school lunch debt and places Virginia out of alignment with U.S Department of Agriculture guidelines on collection efforts for unpaid school lunch debt. These decisions should be made on the local level by school boards considering the needs of their students.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 1021. Electric utilities; integrated resource plans. The enrolled bill makes various changes related to the content and process for an integrated resource plan (IRP) developed by an electric utility that provides a forecast of its load obligations and a plan to meet those obligations. The enrolled bill (i) extends the planning timeframe from 15 to 20 years; (ii) requires Appalachian Power to file an IRP by removing an exception from the definition of "electric utility"; (iii) changes the frequency a utility is required to file an IRP from biennially to triennially; and (iv) requires utilities to consider the use of grid-enhancing technologies as alternatives to new transmission infrastructure, and when new transmission lines are envisioned, to provide the reasons grid-enhancing technologies are not sufficient to defer or eliminate the need for new transmission infrastructure.

The enrolled bill requires that the current stakeholder review process for integrated resource plans be facilitated by a third-party facilitator selected by the State Corporation Commission and compensated by the utility. The enrolled bill requires, as part of the stakeholder review process, the utility to provide stakeholders with reasonable access to the same modeling software, modeling assumptions, modeling inputs, and data used by the utility to evaluate supply and demand resources in its integrated resource plan to enable stakeholders to create modeling scenarios for the utility's consideration during the development of its integrated resource plan.

The enrolled bill requires the Commission to (a) establish guidelines that ensure that utilities develop comprehensive integrated resource plans and provide meaningful public engagement and maximum transparency during the planning process; (b) conduct a proceeding by July 1, 2026, and at least once every five years thereafter, to identify and review each of its existing orders relevant to integrated resource plans to determine if such orders remain necessary and effective and are not overly burdensome; and (c) to convene a work group to make recommendations on the required guidelines.

Finally, the enrolled bill requires any petition to permit the construction and operation of electrical generating facilities filed by an electric utility that is required to file an integrated resource plan to (1) incorporate the intent to construct and operate such generating facilities or (2) if the utility's intent to construct and operate such generating facilities was not identified in the utility's most recently approved integrated resource plan, provide a detailed explanation of why the utility did not anticipate the need for such generating facilities.

As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2413. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1021, which would modify the integrated resource plan process by extending the planning timeline from 15 to 20 years, requiring Appalachian Power to file an integrated resource plan, and changing the filing to every three years. The bill also requires the consideration of a number of other factors including grid enhancing technologies, the social cost of carbon, and demand side resources in meeting growing electricity demand.

The State Corporation Commission has the expertise and the authority to make requirements and changes to the integrated resource plan process. The Virginia Clean Economy Act is failing Virginia and those that champion it should stop trying to buttress this failing policy. But rather should be focused on procuring the dependable power needed to meet our growing demand through optimizing for reliability, affordability, and increasingly clean power generation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1024. Voluntary contributions during electronic Department of Motor Vehicles transactions. The enrolled bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide a method by which an individual conducting an electronic Department transaction for the renewal of a driver's license, other form of identification issued by the Department, or vehicle registration may make a voluntary contribution to the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program. Under current law, the Department is only required to provide a method by which voluntary contributions may be made to the Virginia Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1024, which requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to offer customers the option to make voluntary contributions to the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program during electronic transactions.

While this bill aims to support highway safety, it sets a concerning precedent by integrating voluntary donations into core government functions. Transportation infrastructure should be funded through dedicated revenue streams and appropriations, ensuring accountability and long-term planning. In addition, incorporating solicitations within mandatory government processes is inappropriate opens the door to further requests for donation-based funding mechanisms.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

SB 1032. Public school teachers; written notice of noncontinuation of continuing contract. The enrolled bill provides that written notice of noncontinuation of a continuing teacher contract by the teacher must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise, the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year in conformity with local salary stipulations, including increments. Current law provides that written notice of noncontinuation of a continuing teacher contract by either the teacher or the school board must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise, the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year in conformity with local salary stipulations, including increments. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1915. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1032, which removes the ability of local school divisions to provide written notice of noncontinuation for teachers on continuing contracts and shifts this responsibility solely to the teacher.

Currently, either the teacher or the school division must provide written notice of noncontinuation by June 15. If neither party provides notice, the contract automatically renews. This bill eliminates the school division's authority to provide such notice, thereby limiting its ability to make personnel decisions and effectively manage staffing needs.

This legislation arises from a single legal case in 2017 in Chesapeake City Schools, in which the court upheld the school division's actions. There is no widespread issue necessitating this statutory change, and no evidence suggests that the current process is flawed. The bill is a solution in search of a problem.

Further, removing school boards' ability to notify teachers of noncontinuation would create operational challenges, particularly in school divisions that need flexibility to adjust staffing. It is essential to preserve local decision-making authority in personnel matters rather than shift it entirely to the teacher.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 1047. Department of Energy; demand response programs; evaluation and assessment; report. The enrolled bill directs the Department of Energy to evaluate and assess benefits, impacts, best practices, and implementation recommendations for demand response programs in the Commonwealth and to report such evaluation and assessment by November 1, 2025. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1047, which would require the Virginia Department of Energy and the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to evaluate the benefits, impacts, best practices, and implementation recommendations for demand response programs in the Commonwealth.

The SCC already has the authority to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed demand response programs. Furthermore, utilities already offer demand response programs for large commercial and industrial customers who can opt in to participate if their industry has potential operational flexibility.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1052. Virginia Human Rights Act; definition of "employer." The enrolled bill reduces from 15 to five the number of employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year for the purposes of the definition of "employer." The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1052, which significantly expands the number of small businesses that can face discrimination lawsuits under the Virginia Human Rights Act (VHRA).

Without demonstrating a requisite need, Senate Bill 1052 substantially increases the number of Virginia's small business and not for profits that would be subject to costly investigations and litigation.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1110. Weapons; possession prohibited in a hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services; penalty. The enrolled bill makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly and intentionally possess in the building of any hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, a (i) firearm, (ii) knife with a blade over three and one-half inches, or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The enrolled bill also provides that notice of such prohibitions shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance of any hospital and no person shall be convicted of the offense if such notice is not posted, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions. The enrolled bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and forfeited to the Commonwealth and specifies exceptions to the prohibition. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1977. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1110, which would have made possessing or transporting firearms or other weapons in a hospital providing mental health services a Class 1 misdemeanor.

While this version of the bill attempts to address several of my concerns from last year such as exemptions for public safety and security officers within the roles of their official duties and increased definitions of weapons to avoid some of the unintended consequences, the fact remains that this legislation is unnecessary.

Current law prohibits firearms in state-owned or operated hospitals prohibiting firearms or explosives on-premises, while private hospitals already possess the authority to ban firearms, with violators subject to trespassing penalties. The proposal also removes a hospital's discretion to permit employees to carry stun guns for safety.

Increased investments in behavioral mental health are vital to increasing public safety and the wellbeing of Virginians. However, increasing unnecessary restrictions on law abiding citizen's right to protect themselves has yet to be proven to accomplish this goal.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1118. Registration by localities of cemeteries on private property; Planning District 8. The enrolled bill requires localities in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia) to adopt an ordinance setting forth a register of identified cemeteries, graveyards, or other places of burial located on private property not belonging to any memorial or monumental association. Under

current law, all localities are permitted but not required to pass such an ordinance. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1118, which requires localities in Planning District 8 to create a registry of cemeteries on private property.

All localities already have the option to pass an ordinance to address this issue. It would be an overreach of the Commonwealth to mandate private landowners in a specific region to comply with this law.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

SB 1119. Elections; primary dates; presidential year primaries. The enrolled bill provides that all primaries for offices to be filled at the November election in presidential election years shall be held on the date of the presidential primary. With respect to candidates for election in November of a presidential election year, the enrolled bill also lifts the requirement that petition signatures must be collected after January 1 of the presidential election year. The enrolled bill adjusts campaign finance filing deadlines for candidates in presidential year elections to account for the March primary date. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1794. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1119, which moves all nonpresidential primaries in a presidential election year to the same date as the presidential primary in March.

By creating different filing deadlines for candidates depending on whether their election falls in a presidential or nonpresidential year, this bill increases the risk of missed deadlines, ballot access issues, and campaign finance compliance errors.

Candidates with general elections during presidential years would have to collect petitions, file ballot access documents, and file campaign finance reports on a schedule different from candidates with general elections during nonpresidential years.

This creates two classes of candidates and uniformity issues since the filing deadlines change based on when a candidate's general election occurs.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Brooks Braun | bbraun@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1861

SB 1124. Board of Education; driver education programs; computer-based driver education courses; requirements. The enrolled bill clarifies that the classroom training portion of the standardized program of driver education in the safe operation of motor vehicles, established by the Board of Education pursuant to applicable law, may be administered in-person or online, except in the case of the parent/student driver education component of the classroom training portion administered in Planning District 8, which pursuant to applicable law must be

administered in person. The enrolled bill contains technical amendments. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1124, which authorizes the classroom component of driver's education to be offered online, except for students located in Planning District 8.

Driver's education is a critical course to ensure that our young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for safe driving—and it should be offered in the classroom to properly prepare teens for driving. Further, this legislation creates an arbitrary carve-out for the very large Planning District 8. If online instruction is deemed appropriate for students elsewhere in Virginia, it should be permitted for students in Northern Virginia as well.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Ryan Brimmer | rbrimmer@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1820

SB 1125. Department of Wildlife Resources; propagation of mammalian wildlife unlawful; premature separation; hybridization. The enrolled bill makes it unlawful to prematurely separate any mammalian wildlife offspring born in captivity from the mother prior to the natural time of weaning that is appropriate for such species, except that wildlife offspring may be prematurely separated if a medical necessity exists pursuant to a written order from a veterinarian licensed to practice in the Commonwealth with appropriate species-specific experience and expertise. The enrolled bill excludes the following from its provisions: (i) noncommercial transfers or trades between accredited zoological facilities, (ii) an accredited zoological facility that retains the mammalian wildlife offspring that has already been prematurely separated by such zoological facility, and (iii) a person operating under a wildlife rehabilitator permit issued by the Department of Wildlife Resources. The enrolled bill also makes it unlawful to intentionally and for commercial purposes propagate mammalian wildlife of different species, also known as hybridization. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1125, which makes it illegal to separate captive-born mammalian wildlife from their mothers before the appropriate weaning time and prohibits the intentional hybridization of different mammalian wildlife species.

While I appreciate the intent behind this legislation, I do not believe it is appropriate to establish precedent-setting policy to address the actions of a single bad actor. This bill raises broader concerns about the potential for future legislative overreach in wildlife management.

Additionally, I have significant reservations about tasking the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) with enforcement responsibilities that fall outside its core mission and expertise. Although DWR has indicated it could absorb the workload, doing so would divert critical resources away from its primary conservation and wildlife management duties. Furthermore, this legislation would place the department in the realm of non-native exotic wildlife regulation, an area in which it currently has no authority.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

SB 1128. Department of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; affordable housing; criminal record screening model policy. The enrolled bill requires the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department), with input from a stakeholder group convened by the Department, to develop a criminal record screening model policy for admitting or denying an applicant for affordable housing covered under the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's guidance on the application of the federal Fair Housing Act to the use of criminal records and maintain such model policy on its website. The enrolled bill prohibits a landlord of an affordable housing unit from basing an adverse action, in whole or in part, on an applicant's criminal or arrest record unless the landlord does so in accordance with the criminal record screening model policy developed by the Department and posted on its website and provides the applicant with a written copy of such policy. The provisions of the enrolled bill other than the requirement for the Department to convene a work group have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1128, which requires the Commonwealth to develop an affordable housing criminal record screening model policy.

Rental applicants are currently protected by existing fair housing laws related to criminal convictions. Historically, housing providers participating in federal affordable housing programs have been permitted to deny an applicant on the basis of a criminal background check. This bill could make Virginia's affordable housing policy inconsistent with what is accepted under federal law and may dissuade housing providers from participating in affordable housing programs within the Commonwealth.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Casey Nelson | cnelson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1825

SB 1132. Prohibiting employer seeking wage or salary history of prospective employees; wage or salary range transparency; cause of action. The enrolled bill prohibits a prospective employer from (i) seeking the wage or salary history of a prospective employee; (ii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in determining the wages or salary the prospective employee is to be paid upon hire; (iii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in considering the prospective employee for employment; (iv) refusing to interview, hire, employ, or promote a prospective employee or otherwise retaliating against a prospective employee for not providing wage or salary history; and (v) failing or refusing to disclose in each public and internal posting for each job, promotion, transfer, or other employment opportunity the wage, salary, or wage or salary range. The enrolled bill establishes a cause of action for an aggrieved prospective employee or employee and provides that an employer that violates such prohibitions is liable to the aggrieved prospective employee or

employee for statutory damages between \$1,000 and \$10,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater, reasonable attorney fees and costs, and any other legal and equitable relief as may be appropriate. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1132, which prohibits employers from seeking the wage or salary history of prospective employees.

Wage discrimination is illegal. The proposed legislation represents government overreach, resulting in employers having incomplete information during the hiring process, and potentially exposing small businesses to lawsuits.

Employers often use candidates' salary history as a benchmark to ensure they offer competitive wages. Compensation decisions rely on various factors such as market value, funding constraints, and labor market competition.

The adverse effects of this proposal on are too high small businesses, prospective employees, and the job growth in the Commonwealth.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1134. Storage of firearms in a residence where a minor or person prohibited from possessing a firearm is present; penalty. The enrolled bill requires any person who possesses a firearm in a residence where such person knows that a minor or a person who is prohibited by law from possessing a firearm is present to store such firearm and the ammunition for such firearm in a locked container, compartment, or cabinet that is inaccessible to such minor or prohibited person. The enrolled bill provides that a violation is a Class 4 misdemeanor. The enrolled bill exempts (i) any person in lawful possession of a firearm who carries such firearm on or about his person and (ii) the storage of antique firearms and provides that the lawful authorization of a minor to access a firearm is not a violation of the enrolled bill's provisions. The enrolled bill also requires firearm dealers to post a notice stating such firearm storage requirements and the penalty for improperly storing such firearms. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1134, which relates to the storage of firearms where a minor or person prohibiting a firearm is present.

While my position on this legislation remains largely unchanged from last year, I would like it to be known that I stand with the patrons in expressing my support for increasing practices of safe firearm storage. I continue to support incentives for safe firearms storage such as the firearms safety device tax credit. However, this particular legislation would limit individuals' access to firearms in their homes and criminalize responsible law-abiding citizens.

Virginia law currently prohibits the reckless storage of loaded firearms where children under the age of fourteen are present and provides justly harsher penalties than this proposal.

Furthermore, a similar law was deemed unconstitutional in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. In this case, the court ruled that mandates on storage or trigger locks that make it impractical for citizens to use firearms for the lawful purpose of self-defense are unconstitutional.

Firearm regulation in Virginia should remain targeted at malicious intent and negligence rather than imposing mandated unrealistic practices for largely responsible gun owners that limit their ability to properly defend themselves within the intended guidelines of the law.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1135. Board of Pharmacy; regulation of crystalline polymorph psilocybin. The enrolled bill directs the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate regulations that allow for prescribing, dispensing, possessing, and using the pharmaceutical composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin upon approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and following rescheduling by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The Governor's veto explanation states:

" Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1135, which directs the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate regulations that allow for prescribing, dispensing, possessing, and using pharmaceutical compositions of crystalline polymorph psilocybin.

This legislation is premature to the appropriate FDA approval and DEA drug scheduling. No other drugs are anachronistically codified by the state before federal approval. Psilocybin should first be FDA approved and rescheduled by the DEA before any state legislation should be considered.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Chandler Brooks | cbrooks@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1843

SB 1181. Importation, sale, manufacture, etc., of assault firearms and certain ammunition feeding devices prohibited; penalties. The enrolled bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person who imports, sells, manufactures, purchases, or transfers an assault firearm, as that term is defined in the enrolled bill with some exceptions, and prohibits a person who has been convicted of such violation from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm for a period of three years from the date of conviction. The enrolled bill provides that an assault firearm does not include any firearm that is an antique firearm, has been rendered permanently inoperable, is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action, or was manufactured before July 1, 2025. The enrolled bill also prohibits the sale of a large capacity ammunition feeding device, as that term is defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill provides that any person who willfully and intentionally (i) sells an assault firearm to another person or (ii) purchases an assault firearm from another person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and that any person who imports, sells, barter, or transfers a large capacity ammunition feeding device is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The enrolled bill also makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person younger than 21 years of age to import, sell, manufacture, purchase, possess, transport, or transfer an

assault firearm regardless of the date of manufacture of such assault firearm with some exceptions. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1607. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1181, which creates new penalties for transferring and possessing certain firearms containing certain components.

My position on this legislation has not changed since it came to my desk last year. The Constitution precludes the Commonwealth from prohibiting a broad category of firearms widely embraced for lawful purposes, such as self-defense.

Like all Virginians, I am profoundly troubled by the occurrences of mass shootings and crimes committed with firearms. The pain and sorrow inflicted by criminals with heinous intentions are truly heart-wrenching and should not be minimized for our communities, the victims, or their families.

Virginia has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth under previous administrations has reduced penalties for criminals, contributing to violent crime. I have yet to receive any bills enhancing penalties for crimes committed with firearms that would reverse this trend. Our most significant gap has been in our behavioral health system. This is why substantial investments in behavioral health are necessary.

That twofold approach can provide a real solution without creating outcomes that would affect law-abiding citizens and violating Virginia's constitutional rights.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1182. Carrying a firearm or explosive material within Capitol Square or building owned or leased by the Commonwealth; exemptions; public institutions of higher education; penalty. The enrolled bill permits the governing board of a public institution of higher education to adopt a policy prohibiting the carrying of any firearm, ammunition, or components or combination thereof within any building owned or operated by such public institution of higher education. The enrolled bill allows such policy to include security measures that are designed to reasonably prevent the unauthorized access of buildings that are open to the public. Finally, the enrolled bill exempts certain activities, defined in the bill, operated at public or private institutions of higher education from any policy created by a governing board. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 1876. The Governor's veto explanation states:

" Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1182, which criminalizes an individual's possession of a firearm in a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education.

My position on this policy is unchanged since it came to my desk last year. While I am committed to ensuring well-secured and safe college campuses in Virginia, this legislation does not adequately consider the numerous variations in Virginia's diverse geographic, cultural, and societal norms across different regions of the Commonwealth.

While these institutions may be partially government-owned, funding comes from various sources, including student-paid tuition. In this context, the autonomy of these campuses is crucial, and the Boards of Visitors at Virginia's institutions of higher education already have the authority to regulate their respective campuses, including implementing firearms prohibitions which are currently in place on most of Virginia's college campuses. This allows for the flexibility to consider the differences across regions and students' unique circumstances.

In the case of a threat, law enforcement can legally retrieve a firearm through avenues such as a search warrant or a substantial risk order.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1191. Collection and reporting of data related to adults charged with a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or a term of imprisonment; Virginia Longitudinal Data System. The enrolled bill allows the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to contribute the statewide and locality-level data it collects on adults charged with criminal offenses punishable by incarceration to the Virginia Longitudinal Data System administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1191, which authorizes the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to disseminate data on individuals who have been charged, but not convicted, of criminal offenses punishable by incarceration.

The presumption of innocence is a bedrock principle of our justice system. This legislation undermines that principle by allowing sensitive data about individuals who have merely been accused of a crime to be shared across systems. These individuals have not been found guilty in a court of law, yet their personal information could become part of a government-controlled data network, raising serious concerns about privacy, fairness, and government overreach.

Even with assurances that data will be de-identified, the scope of this legislation risks eroding public trust and blurring the line between data for research and data for surveillance. Virginians should never have to fear that being charged with an offense—regardless of the outcome—could follow them indefinitely through state databases. Protecting civil liberties requires more than good intentions; it demands clear limits, especially when the rights of the accused are on the line.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 1233. Pedestrian crossing violation monitoring systems and stop sign violation monitoring systems; speed safety cameras; violation enforcement; civil penalty. The enrolled bill authorizes state and local law-enforcement agencies to place and operate pedestrian crossing violation and stop sign violation monitoring systems in school crossing zones, highway work zones, and high-risk speed corridors for purposes of recording pedestrian crossing and stop sign violations, as those terms are defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill changes the term "photo speed monitoring device" to "speed safety camera" and "high-risk intersection segment"

to "high-risk speed corridor" in provisions related to vehicle speed violations. The enrolled bill makes various changes to the requirements for the use of speed safety cameras and extends most of those requirements to the use of pedestrian crossing and stop sign violation monitoring systems. The enrolled bill requires local law-enforcement agencies implementing or expanding the use of pedestrian crossing violation and stop sign violation monitoring systems, prior to the implementation or expansion of such systems, to conduct a public awareness program for such implementation or expansion. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1233, which makes a number of changes to photo speed enforcement and would authorize two new forms of photo enforcement, stop sign and pedestrian crossing, in Virginia.

Photo speed cameras are an important tool that can be utilized by law enforcement to ensure public safety. Virginia already has provisions that allow these devices in certain areas, including school zones, high risk intersections, and highway work zones.

This bill expands the use of photo enforcement in the Commonwealth using systems that are not seen as fully developed or perfected. Further, the precise benefits from these cameras are still being determined and stakeholders were not in agreement on the changes made by the bill.

The use of these devices must balance the interests of public safety and the privacy of the public.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

SB 1234. Private well permit applications. The enrolled bill requires any permit application for private well construction to include (i) an indication as to whether such permit is for new construction of a well, repair of an existing well, or modification of an existing well and (ii) if such permit is for new construction of a well that will replace an existing well, an indication as to the reason such existing well will no longer be used. The Governor's veto explanation states:

" Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1234, which requires well permit applicants who are applying to replace an old well to now include a summarized reasoning.

This bill places an undue burden on Virginians that will slow down their application for well permits. It will also have a negative effect on the Virginia Department of Health because of the additional bureaucratic work needed to process the longer application. The new "reasoning" section that this bill proposes will not improve the lives of well owners, will not improve the efficiency of our government agency, and will not improve the timeliness of well applications.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Hannah Yates | hyates@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1873

SB 1252. Financial institutions; loans and legal rate of interest. The enrolled bill provides that for the purposes of provisions governing usury and the legal rate of interest, "make" or "making," when used in reference to a loan, means advancing, offering to advance, or making a

commitment to advance funds to a borrower for a loan. The enrolled bill provides that the prohibition against a contract for the payment of interest on a loan at a rate that exceeds 12 percent per year applies to any person who seeks to evade its application by any device, subterfuge, or pretense whatsoever, including (i) making loans disguised as personal property sale and leaseback transactions; (ii) disguising loan proceeds as a cash rebate for the pretextual installment sale of goods or services; and (iii) making, offering, assisting, or arranging a debtor to obtain a loan with a greater rate of interest, consideration, or charge than permitted through any method, including mail, telephone, Internet, or any electronic means, regardless of whether the person has a physical location in the state. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1252, which seeks to expand the enforcement mechanisms under Virginia's usury laws.

While this bill aims to curb predatory lending, its vague and expansive language could unintentionally capture legitimate financial activities and hinder access to credit. A more effective solution would provide clear, narrowly tailored protections that crack down on genuine predatory practices while preserving access to fair, lawful credit options for Virginia borrowers.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB 1254. Comprehensive plan; environmental justice strategy. The enrolled bill requires cities with populations greater than 20,000 and counties with populations greater than 100,000 to consider, at the next and all subsequent reviews of the comprehensive plan, adopting an environmental justice strategy. The enrolled bill provides that the locality's strategy shall be to identify environmental justice and fenceline communities within the jurisdiction of the local planning commission and identify objectives and policies to reduce health risks, to promote civic engagement, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of environmental justice and fenceline communities, as those terms are defined by the enrolled bill. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1254, which mandates that certain local governments consider creating an environmental justice strategy as part of their comprehensive plan.

Under current law, all localities are required to consider existing conditions and public health when developing their comprehensive plans. This bill imposes additional, unnecessary requirements that could create disproportionate burdens on the manufacturing sector, potentially discouraging economic growth.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

SB 1306. Department of Taxation; free tax filing program. The enrolled bill directs the Tax Commissioner to terminate the Virginia Free File program and the related agreement with the Consortium for Virginia. The enrolled bill also requires the Tax Commissioner to develop and

offer a free individual state income tax filing program, effective beginning in taxable year 2028, that is similar to and compatible with the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Direct File program. To implement the new program, the bill requires the Tax Commissioner to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the IRS and coordinate with the IRS in program development. The enrolled bill contains technical amendments that remove obsolete language regarding fillable forms. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2264. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1306, which would require the Virginia Department of Taxation to develop a state-sponsored free electronic tax filing system and enter into an agreement with the IRS to join its Direct File program.

This bill is unnecessary given budget language requiring the Department of Taxation's system upgrade to include this functionality.

Virginia taxpayers currently have no-cost options for filing their state and federal taxes, including the Virginia Free File program, which has been in place for over a decade. The IRS Direct File initiative has faced scrutiny regarding its implementation, statutory authority, and cost projections. Additionally, the IRS has announced a pause in technology upgrades, signaling further uncertainty about the program's future direction.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Rebecca Schultz | rschultz@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1863

SB 1307. Additional local sales and use tax to support schools; referendum. The enrolled bill authorizes all counties and cities to impose an additional local sales and use tax at a rate not to exceed one percent with the revenue used only for public school capital projects, defined in the bill, if such levy is approved in a voter referendum. The enrolled bill removes the requirement that such a tax must have an expiration date on either (i) the date of the repayment of any bonds or loans used for such capital projects or (ii) a date chosen by the governing body. Under current law, only Charlotte, Gloucester, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties and the City of Danville are authorized to impose such a tax. This bill incorporates SB 874. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1307, which would authorize all counties and cities to levy an additional local sales and use tax to fund public services.

School construction still remains a worthy cause, and Virginia has made significant progress. This proposal could result in a nearly \$1.5 billion a year tax increase on Virginians. Some localities would have a combined sales tax rate of eight percent, with no additional offsets, such as reduced income tax or property tax. In addition, the revenues from this tax increase are entirely fungible. While the tax is dedicated to school capital costs, such as information technology, the new source of revenues would indirectly release funding for other purposes, supplanting other revenues without necessarily increasing education spending. My budget amendments include an additional \$50 million for school construction grants and loans above the

current biennial budget in Chapter 2, bringing the total to \$610 million if my amendments to the budget are adopted.

The Commonwealth should pursue a tax policy that unleashes economic development and prioritizes job and wage growth through innovative reforms.

These reforms must allow hardworking Virginians to keep more of their money, not less; any proposal that increases the cost of living and the cost of business is not a policy we should pursue.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Rebecca Schultz | rschultz@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1863

SB 1313. Affordable housing; local zoning ordinance authority; comprehensive plan. The enrolled bill authorizes any locality in the Commonwealth to provide for an affordable housing dwelling unit program by amending the zoning ordinance of such locality. Current law restricts such authorization to counties with an urban county executive form of government or county manager plan of government and certain other localities. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1313, which authorizes all local governments to create affordable dwelling unit zoning ordinances.

The bill is unnecessary. In general, local governments should take the price of housing into account when considering their zoning policies. Current law allows certain local governments with well-documented housing affordability issues the ability to enact such ordinances.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

SB 1319. Self-reporting of PFAS manufacture and use for PFAS assessment; Department of Environmental Quality; industrial wastewater; publicly owned treatment works. The enrolled bill requires every publicly owned treatment works to require certain new or existing industrial users to self-report use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as part of a pretreatment program. The enrolled bill requires every publicly owned treatment works receiving such self-report of PFAS from an industrial user to convey the information to the Department of Environmental Quality within 90 days of receipt. The enrolled bill amends the defined meaning of "use of PFAS" to exclude use of surface water or groundwater supply from the definition. Currently, "use of PFAS" does not include manufacturing equipment that contains PFAS. The enrolled bill also directs any industrial user required to self-report use of PFAS to submit such report within 90 days of notification from the publicly owned treatment works of this reporting requirement and requires the publicly owned treatment works to notify relevant industrial users of the requirement to self-report use of PFAS within 90 days of notification from the Department to make such notification. The enrolled bill requires the Department to notify publicly owned treatment works of the industrial user self-reporting requirements within 30 days of the enrolled bill's effective date. Finally, the enrolled bill directs the PFAS Expert Advisory Committee to

include in its 2025 annual report recommendations on the development of an inventory of PFAS testing methodologies and control technologies for industrial sources. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1319, which requires publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to mandate certain industrial users to self-report their use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and submit that information to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

This legislation is unnecessary, as it prematurely expands efforts already underway following the enactment of legislation just last year where the General Assembly approved significant new steps in Virginia's PFAS policy and related requirements. A carefully crafted PFAS monitoring and reporting framework was established, which DEQ is actively implementing. Under the current law, DEQ has already issued self-reporting and monitoring directives to 185 facilities, prioritized PFAS source assessments, and begun enforcing reporting requirements for facilities contributing to PFAS contamination in public drinking water systems. These measures are substantial, but are still in the early stages of implementation, and additional self-reporting mandates should not be imposed before evaluating the effectiveness of the existing framework.

Given that significant PFAS reporting requirements were just enacted last year, this legislation is premature, misaligned with the timing and priorities established by last year's legislation, and may have unintended consequences that do not ultimately improve environmental outcomes.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Anissa Cottrell | acottrell@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1814

SB 1324. Obstructing health care facility access; penalties. The enrolled bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person not authorized by the health care facility who knowingly obstructs, detains, hinders, impedes, blocks, or delays another person's entry to or exit from such health care facility, as defined in the enrolled bill. The enrolled bill also creates a Class 3 misdemeanor for any person who knowingly approaches another person within eight feet of such person in the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of 40 feet from any entrance door to a health care facility, unless such other person consents to the approach, for the purpose of giving, tendering, or exhibiting any material to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1324, which creates a criminal penalty for exercising the Constitutional rights of free speech and assembly in an overbroad and indiscriminate manner.

This legislation is an unconstitutional time, place, and manner restriction on the God-given, constitutionally protected right to the freedom of speech. It creates new criminal penalties for what one might say or where they stand when they say it. If this bill were to become law, a citizen of the Commonwealth, the crucible of our representative democracy, could be jailed simply for carrying a sign.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Troy Hatcher | thatcher@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1829

SB 1329. Carrying concealed weapons; secured storage of firearms; penalty. The enrolled bill removes the exception to the prohibition on carrying a concealed weapon for any person who may lawfully possess a firearm and is carrying a handgun while in a personal, private motor vehicle or vessel and such handgun is secured in a container or compartment in the vehicle or vessel. The enrolled bill provides that a civil penalty of no more than \$500 shall be imposed for any person who leaves a firearm in an unattended motor vehicle where such firearm is visible. The enrolled bill also creates a Class 4 misdemeanor for any person who fails to report to law enforcement the theft or loss of a firearm from an unattended motor vehicle and a Class 1 misdemeanor if another person obtains such firearm. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1329, which alters how a firearm may be carried or stored in a vehicle.

The bill raises constitutional and practical concerns, as it restricts citizens' ability to protect themselves. It also presents practical issues for law enforcement, who would be required to make costly adjustments to comply with the law.

The proposal penalizes law-abiding Virginians for leaving a firearm in their vehicle, regardless of any other circumstances, punishing victims of crimes committed by another individual. The culpability is on the criminal who stole the firearm. The Commonwealth should prioritize prosecution and severe punishment for individuals who commit crimes.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1342. Phase I and Phase II Utilities; energy efficiency upgrades; low-income residents; report. The enrolled bill states that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to reduce, wherever feasible and cost-effective, heating-related costs of living for low-income residents. The enrolled bill requires Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to make best, reasonable efforts to provide by December 31, 2030, prescriptive efficiency measures, as defined in the enrolled bill, and related efficiency improvements to at least 30 percent of the qualifying households, as defined in the bill, identified by such utilities, provided that the State Corporation Commission determines that such upgrades are in the public interest. The enrolled bill requires such utilities to report to the Commission its activities, plans, and filings regarding the enrolled bill's provisions no later than January 1, 2027, annually thereafter, and in any recurring filing that the Commission deems appropriate. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2744. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1342, that would require regulated Phase I and Phase II to take action to make efficiency improvements to at least 30% of qualifying households.

The SCC already has the authority to approve energy efficiency and demand side management programs. This bill specifically calls out the use of fuel oils and converting from those units to more electric equipment, potentially restricting consumer energy choice.

Finally, during the 2024 General Assembly Session, I signed HB746 and SB565 into law, stating that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to achieve the greatest energy consumption reductions that are in the public interest.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Marvi Ali | mali@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1816

SB1348. Transportation network companies; publishing and disclosure requirements. The enrolled bill requires a transportation network company (TNC) to (i) issue an annual report to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles containing the aggregate data regarding the average fare collected from passengers, the total time driven by TNC partners while transporting a passenger, and the total amount earned by TNC partners in connection with prearranged rides and (ii) disclose to TNC partners details about the deactivation process and provide a weekly summary that includes the total fare collected from passengers, the total amount earned, and the percentage earned by such TNC partner that week. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2756. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1348, which imposes reporting and disclosure requirements on transportation network companies.

Mandating disclosures and reports places unnecessary regulatory burdens on private businesses. This bill would create new administrative burdens for both transportation network companies and the Department of Motor Vehicles, requiring additional agency staff and resources.

Furthermore, entangling the Department of Motor Vehicles with overseeing private business data is unwarranted and overreaching. Private businesses should not be forced to disclose data through government mandates but should do so voluntarily based on industry best practices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Nikhil Edward | nedward@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1865

SB 1350. Restaurants; food allergy awareness notice required. The enrolled bill requires the State Health Commissioner to publish in multiple languages a notice containing procedures for restaurant staff to follow when a customer has a food allergy on the Department of Health's website. The enrolled bill requires restaurants to post such notice in a conspicuous location. The bill also requires restaurants to include the phrase, "If you have a food allergy, please notify us," and its translation, if applicable, on their menus or on a sign posted conspicuously in the restaurant. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1350, which requires multi-lingual notices of information regarding food allergies.

This bill places an undue burden on Virginia restaurant owners and staff. It requires these businesses to take on the cost of creating and installing signage that displays the response procedures to food allergies in 7 languages. This bill overlaps with current Virginia regulation that requires each food establishment to have a certified food protection manager who is responsible for food safety, which includes food allergy awareness. Virginia restaurants already commit to their knowledge of food allergies in the workplace and this bill will have a widespread cost to Virginians with little benefit.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Hannah Yates | hyates@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1873

SB 1409. Restorative housing and isolated confinement; restrictions on use. The enrolled bill prohibits the use of isolated confinement, defined in the bill, in state correctional facilities, subject to certain exceptions. The enrolled bill requires that before placing an incarcerated person in restorative housing or isolated confinement for his own protection, the facility administrator shall place the incarcerated person in a less restrictive setting, including by transferring such person to another institution or to a special-purpose housing unit for incarcerated persons who face similar threats. The enrolled bill requires that if an incarcerated person is placed in restorative housing or isolated confinement, such placement shall be reviewed every 48 hours and the facility administrator shall ensure that the incarcerated person receives a medical and mental health evaluation from certified medical and mental health professionals within one working day of placement in restorative housing or any form of isolated confinement. The enrolled bill also requires the facility administrator to notify the regional administrator in writing that an incarcerated person was placed in restorative housing or isolated confinement within 24 hours of such placement. Finally, the enrolled bill requires that formal reviews of an incarcerated person's placement in any form of isolated confinement shall be held in such person's presence, to inform him of any reason or reasons administrative officials believe isolated confinement remains necessary and give him an opportunity to respond to those reasons and that a formal ruling shall be provided to the incarcerated person within 24 hours. The enrolled bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026, and is identical to HB 2647. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1409, which regulates the use of restorative housing by the Virginia Department of Corrections.

This is the second time this legislation has been brought to my desk. I continue to stand by the bipartisan reforms enacted during the 2023 legislative session that improved the Department of Corrections' utilization of restorative housing. I supported and signed that legislation, which has since been implemented by the Department, bringing in best practices that have proven beneficial for correction officers and inmates.

These reforms represented the culmination of significant efforts by the Department and have positioned us as a national leader in correctional innovation. The Department remains committed to developing new programs and fostering collaboration with diverse voices and stakeholders.

Central to the agency's mission is reentry and long-term public safety, guided by data-driven decision-making and evidence-based practices. The restorative housing program, operating within these principles, stands as a component to ensure safety and security for both inmates and staff.

The new definitions and regulations provided in this proposal still pose challenges to the continued success of these reforms. Designating mental health units as isolated confinement without consideration for the informed judgment of mental health professionals undermines effective prison management. Furthermore, imposing arbitrary timeframes for stays in restorative housing, including investigation time, restricts the staff's ability to maintain order and security.

Attempting to legislate prison operational procedures carries inherent risks to inmates, staff, and the public. Corrections professionals are entrusted with oversight for a reason, as they must balance multiple interests while ensuring safety. Congregating individuals without proper management protocols is not a viable solution.

I also have concerns regarding the budgetary implications of implementing this proposal. The provisions required by this bill may potentially divert funding from vital reentry programs and initiatives to reduce recidivism. Additionally, the proposal introduces unnecessary bureaucracy for facility administrators, detracting from the Department's ability to prioritize safety and inmate rehabilitation.

While I remain committed to fostering a correctional system that prioritizes the safety of all stakeholders, including everyday Virginians, inmates, and correctional officers, I do not believe it is currently prudent to proceed with this proposal. My signature on the bipartisan reforms of 2023, and my continued support for reform and innovation within the Department underscore my dedication to this cause.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Sabrina Miller-Bryson | smiller-bryson@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1876

SB 1450. Firearm industry members; standards of responsible conduct; civil liability. The enrolled bill creates standards of responsible conduct for firearm industry members and requires such members to establish and implement reasonable controls regarding the manufacture, sale, distribution, use, and marketing of the firearm industry member's firearm-related products, as those terms are defined in the enrolled bill. Such reasonable controls include reasonable procedures, safeguards, and business practices that are designed to (i) prevent the sale or distribution of a firearm-related product to a straw purchaser, a firearm trafficker, a person prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a person who the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe is at substantial risk of using a firearm-related product to harm themselves or unlawfully harm another or of unlawfully possessing or using a firearm-related product; (ii) prevent the loss of a firearm-related product or theft of a firearm-related product from a firearm industry member; (iii) ensure that the firearm industry member complies with all provisions of state and federal law and does not otherwise promote the unlawful manufacture, sale, possession, marketing, or use of a firearm-related product; and (iv)

ensure that the firearm industry member does not engage in an act or practice in violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The enrolled bill also provides that a firearm industry member may not knowingly or recklessly create, maintain, or contribute to a public nuisance, as defined in the enrolled bill, through the sale, manufacturing, importing, or marketing of a firearm-related product. The enrolled bill creates a civil cause of action for the Attorney General or a local county or city attorney to enforce the provisions of the enrolled bill or for any person who has been injured as a result of a firearm industry member's violation to seek an injunction and to recover costs and damages. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1450, which relates to civil penalties for firearm industry members.

This bill is identical to legislation brought to my desk last year. As I previously stated, the federal Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) already provides a framework for addressing civil actions against firearms industry entities concerning negligent entrustment and defects. This federal law, grounded in common sense and common law principles, prevents baseless litigation that could financially devastate a lawful industry with exorbitant legal fees. Other lawful industries, such as vaccine producers, have similar protections.

Even under Presidents Obama and Biden, the Department of Justice consistently defended the PLCAA. The DOJ has argued against attempts by states to implement regulatory schemes as a loophole to the PLCAA, deeming them unconstitutional and lacking merit.

The Second Amendment, like the First Amendment, necessitates protection from abusive civil lawsuits. I am disappointed to reach the end of my last session in office without bills to increase penalties for heinous acts of gun violence. Our legal system should prioritize punishing criminals rather than targeting law-abiding manufacturers and retailers within the firearms industry.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Joanne Frye | jfrye@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1868

SB 1489. Authority of local governments; service employees. The enrolled bill permits any county, city, or town in the Commonwealth to provide for certain requirements concerning incumbent and successor service employers, defined in the enrolled bill, by local ordinance or resolution. For example, such local ordinance or resolution may require that successor service employers retain incumbent service employees during a transition period of 90 days. Under the enrolled bill, service employees are those who perform work in connection with the care or maintenance of property, services at an airport, or food preparation services at schools. The provisions of the enrolled bill do not include any building owned by the Commonwealth or any institution of higher education. The enrolled bill provides that an employer that violates the provisions of a local ordinance or resolution enacted pursuant to the enrolled bill may be subject to a civil action and monetary damages. The enrolled bill is identical to HB 2559. The Governor's veto explanation states:

"Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1489, which allows local governments to establish certain requirements on incumbent and successor building service employers when transitioning from one to another.

Ensuring that Virginia is the best place to work, live, and raise a family has been one of my top priorities since day one. This bill would hinder the free market and lead to higher costs for building service employers, reduce competition in the building services market, increase expenses for residential and commercial property owners, and higher costs for residential and commercial tenants.

Accordingly, I veto this bill."

Contact: Jeff Sharp | jsharp@dls.virginia.gov | 804-698-1864

Bills Returned by the Governor (2006–2025)

Session	Governor	Amendments	Vetoes*	Total Sent to Governor
2006	Kaine	123	7	958
2007		106	10	958
2008		36	1	889
2009		101	12	886
2010	McDonnell	102	0	871
2011		132	5	892
2012		113	7	855
2013		85	6	812
2014	McAuliffe	57	5	834
2015		68	17	800
2016		57	29	811
2017		83	40	880
2018	Northam	30	10	874
2019		47	17	883
2020		102	1	1,291
2021 Special I		37	0	552
2022	Youngkin	116	26	843
2023		77	3	819
2024		117	153	1,045
2025		160	157	916

*This column represents the number of vetoes considered by the General Assembly during the Regular and Reconvened Sessions for each year. The final number of vetoed bills can be found in the Legislative Information System statistics for each session.