

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA



CALENDAR

2024 Reconvened Session

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - 12 noon

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 12. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-1627.5, 63.2-100, 63.2-1505, and 63.2-1506.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to children's advocacy centers; definitions; investigations by local departments of social services.

Patrons--Favola and Williams Graves

Passed Senate January 18, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 175, enrolled, after (ii)
strike
the remainder of line 175 and through *Alliance* on line 176
insert
has completed, or is in the process of completing, certain accreditation obligations and requires any forensic interview conducted at such facility to only be conducted by a trained child forensic interviewer in a multidisciplinary team collaborative effort
2. Line 178, enrolled, after *means*
strike
the remainder of line 178 and through *and* on line 179
3. Line 293, enrolled
strike
all of lines 293 and 294

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 34. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 37.2-800, 37.2-804.2, 37.2-805, 37.2-808 through 37.2-810, 37.2-813, 37.2-814, 37.2-816, 37.2-817, and 37.2-1104 of the Code of Virginia, relating to temporary detention; certified evaluators; report.

Patron--Locke

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

House substitute with amendments agreed to by Senate March 6, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 236, enrolled, after *hospitals*.
strike
the remainder of line 236 and all of line 237

S.B. 35. An Act to direct the Board of Medicine to require certain licensees to complete training on unconscious bias and cultural competency as part of their continuing education and continuing competency requirements for licensure.

Patrons--Locke, Carroll Foy, Head and Aird

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (36-Y 4-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109174D) be accepted.

S.B. 100. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.5 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.5:2, relating to manufacture, import, sale, transfer, or possession of plastic firearms and unfinished frames or receivers and unserialized firearms prohibited; penalties.

Patrons--Ebbin, Subramanyam and Salim

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109224D) be accepted.

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 104. An Act to establish a process and timeline for increasing the average teacher salary in the Commonwealth to at least the national average teacher salary.

Patrons--Lucas and Carroll Foy

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

House substitute with amendments agreed to by Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109261D) be accepted.

S.B. 105. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-199.1, 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-299.2, and 51.1-617 of the Code of Virginia, relating to ratios of instructional positions to English language learner students; At-Risk Program established; National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program grants; special education staffing; report.

Patrons--Lucas, Aird, Hashmi, Roem, Subramanyam and VanValkenburg

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 8, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 385, enrolled
insert

4. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

5. That the Department of Education shall collaborate with the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding to determine the impact of transitioning the at-risk student proxy from the free lunch percentage to the identified student percentage for all Direct Aid accounts and funding formulas that currently use the free lunch percentage proxy and to determine the impact of eliminating the Standards of Quality Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation program and related staffing standard, prescribed by § 22.1-253.13:2 of the Code of Virginia, on school division funding and other Direct Aid accounts.

S.B. 119. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-3437 and 54.1-3442.01 of the Code of Virginia, relating to drug manufacturers; permitting and registration; certain conditions related to 340B-covered drugs.

Patrons--Lucas, Hashmi, Aird, Bagby, Boysko, Favola and VanValkenburg

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 35, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. That the Secretary of Health and Human Resources (the Secretary) shall convene a work group composed of relevant stakeholders, including representatives from pharmaceutical manufacturers, health plans, Virginia's federally qualified health centers, Virginia pharmacists, and consumers of prescription drug products, to (i) monitor the implementation of the 340B Program; (ii) evaluate best practices enhancements that may be made to the 340B Program; (iii) study the number of patients who were dispensed or administered drugs at the 340B Program price, including a breakdown of such patients by type of health insurance coverage including Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, self-pay, and those who are uninsured; (iv) assemble a list of contract pharmacies for each covered entity as defined in § 38.2-3465 of the Code of Virginia, including the location and service areas of such pharmacies; (v) summarize how such covered entities use 340B Program savings; and (vi) study whether the current 340B Program includes a risk of Medicaid dollars going toward non-Medicaid eligible populations. The Secretary shall provide a report on the findings of the work group to the Governor, the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Health and Human Services, the Chairmen of the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and Education and Health, and the Joint Commission on Health Care by November 1, 2024, including information on transactions conducted by the 340B Program covered entity and information related to such covered entity's participation in the federal 340B Program for the previous calendar year.

S.B. 142. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-298.1, as it shall become effective, and 22.1-299 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public school teachers; licensure requirements; one-year local eligibility license; alternate routes and flexibility.

Patrons--Ruff and Mulchi

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (38-Y 0-N)

House amendments agreed to by Senate March 5, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 23, enrolled, after *a*
strike
nonrenewable
insert
renewable

2. Line 23, enrolled, after *M*
strike
the remainder of line 23 and through *year*, on line 24

3. Line 212, enrolled, after *one-year*
strike
the remainder of line 212
insert
renewable

4. Line 213, enrolled, after *from*
strike
the remainder of line 213
insert
an

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

5. Line 217, enrolled, after *issued*
insert
by the Board

6. Line 221, enrolled, after 2.
strike
No school board
insert
The Board

7. Line 221, enrolled, after *shall*
insert
not

8. Line 228, enrolled, after *the*
strike
issuing
insert
hiring

9. Line 229, enrolled, after 5.
strike
Each school board
insert
The Board

10. Line 256, enrolled, after *issued*
strike
by a school board

11. Line 270, enrolled, after year
strike
the remainder of line 270

S.B. 188. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-1400 of the Code of Virginia, relating to election of certain governing bodies; conversion to single-member districts.

Patron--Rouse

Passed Senate January 22, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 30, enrolled
insert
2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 189. An Act to amend and reenact § 3.01, as amended, § 3.01:1, and §§ 3.02:1 and 3.02:2, as amended, of Chapter 147 of the Acts of Assembly of 1962, which provided a charter for the City of Virginia Beach, and to repeal § 3.02:3 of Chapters 127 and 762 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020, relating to city council; voting districts.

Patron--Rouse

Passed Senate January 18, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 70, enrolled

insert

3. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

S.B. 196. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-404, 24.2-404.4, 24.2-431, and 24.2-652 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal §§ 24.2-429, 24.2-430, 24.2-432, and 24.2-433 of the Code of Virginia, relating to voter registration; list maintenance data standards; challenges to a voter's registration.

Patron--VanValkenburg

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (37-Y 3-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 3, enrolled, Title, after §§

strike

24.2-429, 24.2-430,

2. Line 3, enrolled, Title, after *24.2-432*

strike

, [the comma]

3. Line 118, enrolled, after *means*

strike

the remainder of line 118 and through identifier number, or on line 119

4. Line 123, enrolled, after A.

strike

Any

insert

In addition to challenging a voter's registration before the general registrar, any

5. Line 143, enrolled, after pursuant to

strike

§§ 24.2-430

insert

§§ 24.2-430

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

6. Line 143, enrolled, after ~~24.2-430~~,
strike
§
insert
and

7. Line 156, enrolled, after §§
strike
24.2-429, 24.2-430,

8. Line 156, enrolled, after **24.2-432**
strike
, [the comma]

S.B. 212. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 18.2-325, 18.2-334, 19.2-389, 37.2-314.2, 58.1-4002, 58.1-4003, 58.1-4006, and 58.1-4007 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 11 a section numbered 11-16.3, by adding a section numbered 18.2-334.7, and by adding in Title 58.1 a chapter numbered 42, consisting of sections numbered 58.1-4200 through 58.1-4219; and to repeal § 18.2-334.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Small Business Economic Development Act established; regulation of skill game machines; penalties.

Patrons--Rouse, French, Lucas, Subramanyam and Williams Graves

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (32-Y 8-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 1, 2024 (31-Y 9-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

(Governor's Recommendation printed separately)

S.B. 225. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-79.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school board policies; parental notification; safe storage of firearms in the household.

Patrons--Pekarsky and Favola

Passed Senate February 6, 2024 (23-Y 16-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

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Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 82, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. The Department of Education shall (i) collaborate with relevant stakeholders to create a list of (a) parental rights, including the right to be notified of sexually explicit materials, to express disagreement with a school's or a school board's policies or decisions, and to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child, and (b) parental responsibilities, including safeguarding their child against access to drugs, ensuring their child is protected from exploitation or abuse, maintaining their child's school attendance, participating in their child's school discipline proceedings, monitoring their child's behavioral and educational process, and, if applicable, paying child support; and (ii) develop an efficient method for distributing such list to parents at the beginning of each school year. The Department of Education shall submit a report on such list to the Chairs of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by December 1, 2024.

S.B. 237. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 21, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-376, 32.1-377, and 32.1-378, relating to contraception; right to contraception; applicability; enforcement.

Patrons--Hashmi, Boysko and Williams Graves

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109328D) be accepted.

S.B. 238. An Act to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.5:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices.

Patrons--Hashmi, Boysko, Perry, Subramanyam and Williams Graves

Passed Senate February 6, 2024 (24-Y 15-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 61, enrolled
insert

H. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted or construed to apply to any nongovernmental plan sponsor that is exempt under federal or state law based on sincerely held religious or ethical beliefs.

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 256. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 8.01-66.1, as it shall become effective, and 38.2-2206 of the Code of Virginia, relating to remedies for bad faith refusal of motor vehicle insurance claims.

Patrons--Surovell and Carroll Foy

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (25-Y 15-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 8, 2024 (30-Y 9-N 1-A)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 84, enrolled
insert

E. Prior to making a demand under this section, the claimant shall provide notice to the insurer 45 days prior to making such demand along with information and documentation sufficient for the insurer to assess the liability and damages of the claimant.

F. There shall be no action for bad faith under this section if the insurer tenders to the claimant the lesser of the (i) applicable limits of the policy or (ii) monetary amount demanded by the claimant either prior to the insurer's receipt of a settlement offer from the claimant or within 45 days of the insurer's receipt of the notice of the claimant's intent to make a claim and accompanying information and documentation pursuant to subsection E.

2. After line 319, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of this act amending §§ 8.01-66.1 and 38.2-2206 of the Code of Virginia shall apply to any claim for personal injury or wrongful death arising out of a motor vehicle accident that occurs on or after July 1, 2024.

S.B. 260. An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-4324 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Public Procurement Act; preference for goods produced in the United States.

Patrons--DeSteph, Craig, McPike and VanValkenburg

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109241D) be accepted.

S.B. 271. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 56-594 and 56-594.02 of the Code of Virginia, relating to net energy metering; eligible customer-generators and eligible agricultural customer-generators.

Patron--Subramanyam

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

House amendment agreed to by Senate February 27, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

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Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 180, enrolled, after agricultural customer-generator.
strike
the remainder of line 180 and all of lines 181, 182, and 183

S.B. 300. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 24.2-401, 24.2-404, 24.2-408, 24.2-409, 24.2-410, 24.2-410.1, 24.2-427, 24.2-435, 24.2-444, and 24.2-703.1 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-407.2, by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 24.2 an article numbered 2.1 and by adding in such article sections numbered 24.2-407.3 and 24.2-410.3 through 24.2-410.6, and by adding a section numbered 24.2-426.1; and to repeal §§ 24.2-404.3, 24.2-404.4, 24.2-410.2, 24.2-428, 24.2-428.1, and 24.2-428.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to voter registration; list maintenance activities; cancellation procedures; record matches; required identification information; data standards.

Patron--Rouse

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 7, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 1082, enrolled, after of
strike
the remainder of line 1082, all of line 1083, and through **course** on line 1084
insert
the first and second enactments of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly
2. After line 1084, enrolled
insert
4. That the Department of Elections (the Department) shall convene a work group to examine and make recommendations regarding data collection and sharing for voter list maintenance. The work group shall include representatives of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Health, Virginia State Police, Virginia Information Technologies Agency, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, Virginia Court Clerks Association, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys, and Voter Registrars Association of Virginia and other stakeholders as may be deemed necessary by the Department. The Department shall submit the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections by November 30, 2024.

S.B. 313. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-1102 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Board for Contractors; required regulations and disclosures.

Patrons--VanValkenburg and Surovell

Passed Senate February 8, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 8, 2024 (39-Y 1-N)

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Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109317D) be accepted.

S.B. 350. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3907 and 2.2-3908 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Human Rights Act; right to sue.

Patron--Perry

Passed Senate February 7, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 9, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 55, enrolled, after person
strike
(i) who has been provided
insert
(i) who has been provided
2. Line 55, enrolled, after ~~provided~~
strike
the remainder of line 55, all of lines 56 and 57, and through *receipt of* on line 58
3. Line 59, enrolled, after 2.2-3907
strike
the remainder of line 59, all of line 60, and through ~~chapter~~ on line 61
insert
by the Office or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or (ii) if 180 days have passed since a complaint was filed in the Office and the aggrieved person has not been provided a notice of his right to file a civil action may commence a timely civil action in an appropriate general district or circuit court having jurisdiction over the person who allegedly unlawfully discriminated against such person in violation of this chapter

S.B. 361. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 59.1-575, 59.1-578, and 59.1-580 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Consumer Data Protection Act; protections for children.

Patrons--VanValkenburg and Suetterlein

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109280D) be accepted.

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 362. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-251 of the Code of Virginia, relating to first-time drug offenders.

Patron--Ebbin

Passed Senate January 18, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109199D) be accepted.

S.B. 363. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-311.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to removing, altering, etc., serial number on firearm; selling, giving, etc., or possessing firearm with removed, altered, etc., serial number; penalty.

Patron--Ebbin

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 15, enrolled, after *federal*
strike
or state

S.B. 364. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-418 and 24.2-1000 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elections; protection of electors and election officials; civil cause of action; penalty.

Patron--Ebbin

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 7, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 3, enrolled, Title, after *officials*;
strike
civil cause of action;
2. Line 51, enrolled, after **officials**
strike
and electors; civil cause of action

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

3. Line 58, enrolled, after *B*.
strike

the remainder of line 58, all of lines 59 through 68, and through *D*. on line 69

S.B. 405. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 55.1-1204.1, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; fee disclosure statement.

Patron--Boysko

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109289D) be accepted.

S.B. 422. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1208 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; prohibited provisions; fees for maintenance and periodic payments.

Patrons--Ebbin; Delegate: Krizek

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 3, enrolled, Title, after *for*
strike
maintenance and

2. Line 31, enrolled, after *C*.
strike
the remainder of line 31, all of line 32, and through *D*. on line 33

S.B. 454. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-585.1:14, relating to electric utilities; recovery of development costs associated with small modular reactor.

Patron--Marsden

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (20-Y 16-N)

House amendments agreed to by Senate March 7, 2024 (26-Y 14-N)

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Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109376D) be accepted.

S.B. 479. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1259 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; enforcement by localities.

Patrons--Aird; Delegate: Price

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 27, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. That the Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department) shall submit a report by December 1, 2024, to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology detailing all amendments made to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (§ 55.1-1200 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), as amended by this act, within the past five years and the effects such amendments have had on the cost, accessibility, and availability of rental dwelling units in the Commonwealth. The Department shall also provide in its report an analysis of whether such amendments have facilitated or hindered the Commonwealth's efforts to address statewide housing needs.

S.B. 480. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 21 of Title 15.2 an article numbered 2.1, consisting of sections numbered 15.2-2121.1, 15.2-2121.2, and 15.2-2121.3, by adding in Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 a section numbered 44-146.29:4, and by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 56 sections numbered 56-245.1:3 and 56-245.1:4, relating to public utilities; municipal utilities; disconnection of service; limitations; consumer protections.

Patron--Aird

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 27, 2024 (37-Y 1-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 51, enrolled, after *least*
strike
two
insert
one

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

2. Line 54, enrolled, after *is*
strike
60
insert
45

S.B. 498. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-272.1:1, relating to Board of Education; guidelines on school-connected overdose policies; response and parental notification.

Patrons--Carroll Foy and Perry

Passed Senate February 6, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 7, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109245D) be accepted.

S.B. 515. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-283.3, relating to weapons; possession or transportation; hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services; penalty.

Patrons--Williams Graves; Delegates: Clark, Henson and Watts

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109218D) be accepted.

S.B. 517. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-811, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, and 58.1-3607 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal §§ 58.1-3650.31 and 58.1-3650.716, relating to tax exemptions; Confederacy organizations.

Patrons--Williams Graves, Bagby and Ebbin; Delegates: Anthony, Clark and Martinez

Passed Senate February 6, 2024 (23-Y 16-N)

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 255, enrolled
insert

3. That the Department of Taxation (the Department) shall study (i) exemptions to the state recordation tax and the effect of such exemptions on state government revenues and (ii) exemptions to real and personal property tax by classification or designation prior to and on July 1, 1971, and the effect of such exemptions on local government revenues. The Department shall submit a report to the Chairs of House Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2024.

4. That the provisions of the first and second enactments of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

S.B. 534. An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-1569 of the Code of Virginia, relating to motor vehicle dealers; sale of franchise.

Patron--Bagby

Passed Senate January 31, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 166, enrolled, after will
strike
not

S.B. 544. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-983 of the Code of Virginia, relating to short-term rental property; special exceptions.

Patron--Bagby

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (25-Y 15-N)

House amendment agreed to by Senate March 1, 2024 (24-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 39, enrolled, after D.
strike
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, general or special, no
insert
No
2. Line 40, enrolled, after 2023,
insert
or any subsequent amendment,

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 550. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 59.1-200 and 59.1-293.10 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 23.2 of Title 59.1 sections numbered 59.1-293.12 through 59.1-293.19, relating to liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products; certification and directory; penalties.

Patron--Deeds

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (38-Y 1-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 4, 2024 (37-Y 1-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 244, enrolled, after *31*,
strike
2024
insert
2025
2. Line 356, enrolled, after *31*,
strike
2024
insert
2025
3. Line 360, enrolled, after *31*,
strike
2024
insert
2025
4. Line 378, enrolled, after *the*
strike
Attorney General
insert
attorney for the Commonwealth or the attorney for the county, city, or town
5. Line 380, enrolled, after *H*.
insert
Any civil penalties assessed under this section in an action brought in the name of a locality shall be paid into the general fund of the locality.
I.
6. Line 380, enrolled, after *fees*
strike
and penalties
7. Line 380, enrolled, after *this*
strike
section
insert
chapter
8. Line 383, enrolled, after *contrary*,
strike
the remainder of line 383 and through *General*, on line 384
(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

9. Line 384, enrolled, after *Commonwealth*
strike
 , [the comma]

10. Line 386, enrolled, after Commonwealth
strike
 , [the comma]

11. Line 392, enrolled, after *C.*
strike
 the remainder of line 392, all of lines 393, 394, and 395, and through *D.* on line 396

12. At the beginning of line 398, enrolled
strike
 E.
insert
 D.

13. After line 405, enrolled
insert
 2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

S.B. 565. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 56-576 and 56-596.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to energy efficiency programs; incremental annual savings.

Patrons--Deeds and Boysko

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 5, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 113, enrolled, after *regulations*
insert
 and that the net present value of the benefits exceeds the net present value of the costs as determined by the Total Resource Cost Test

S.B. 569. An Act to direct the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to amend its regulations to ensure that its licensing and human rights regulations support high-quality crisis services in crisis receiving centers and crisis stabilization units; appropriate and safe use of seclusion; work group; report.

Patron--Deeds

Passed Senate February 7, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 41, enrolled
insert

2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.

S.B. 582. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-246.8, 18.2-371.2, 22.1-79.5, 22.1-206, 22.1-279.6, 58.1-1021.01, 58.1-1021.02, 58.1-1021.04:1, 58.1-1021.04:5, 59.1-293.10, and 59.1-293.11 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2.1 of Chapter 10 of Title 58.1 sections numbered 58.1-1021.06 through 58.1-1021.09 and by adding in Chapter 23.2 of Title 59.1 sections numbered 59.1-293.12, 59.1-293.13, and 59.1-293.14, relating to purchase, possession, and sale of retail tobacco products; retail tobacco products and liquid nicotine tax; penalties.

Patrons--Ebbin; Delegate: Hope

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 8, 2024 (24-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 642, enrolled, after *two*
insert

packages of

S.B. 608. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-199.7 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public education; community schools; Office of Community Schools at Department of Education; Community School Development and Implementation Planning Grant; state goal.

Patrons--Aird and Pekarsky; Delegate: Rasoul

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 28, 2024 (21-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109324D) be accepted.

Senate Bills with Governor's Recommendations

S.B. 628. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-4107 and 58.1-4123 of the Code of Virginia, relating to casino gaming; eligible host cities.

Patrons--Aird, Lucas, Reeves and Favola

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (29-Y 10-N)

House amendment agreed to by Senate March 7, 2024 (24-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 120, enrolled
strike
all of lines 120 and 121

S.B. 713. An Act to amend and reenact § 56-466.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public service companies; pole attachments; cable television systems and telecommunications service providers.

Patrons--Marsden, Bagby, Boysko, Pillion and Hashmi

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 191, enrolled, after *days*
insert
, provided, however, that either period may be extended by Commission order for an additional period not to exceed 60 days

S.B. 729. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 22 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 13, consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2378 through 2.2-2390, relating to Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank; established; report.

Patrons--Surovell; Delegate: Lopez

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (29-Y 9-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 9, 2024 (28-Y 12-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 288, enrolled
insert
3. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 1. An Act to amend and reenact § 40.1-28.10 of the Code of Virginia, relating to minimum wage.

Patrons--Lucas, Carroll Foy, Boysko, Deeds, Ebbin, Hashmi, Salim and Williams Graves; Delegate: Simon

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 1, which mandates an 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.

Even without my signature, current law mandates an increased 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, starting in October 2024. This approach is preferable, allowing wages to adjust over time in response to economic conditions. In contrast, the proposed mandate will harm Virginia's economic progress.

Implementing a \$15-per-hour wage mandate may not impact Northern Virginia, where economic conditions create a higher cost of living, 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.

This proposal is an arbitrary, mandatory 25% increase in the starting wages of all employees. Contrary to ensuring higher compensation, 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.

This proposal also harms Virginia's economic competitiveness. Neighboring states have reduced business costs and encouraged investment, resulting in thriving economies. The net out-migration of over one hundred thousand residents from Virginia between 2012 and 2021, primarily to states like North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia, none of which have wage mandates.

Contrary to the proponents' claims, the proposal is unlikely to attract jobs to the Commonwealth. Virginia is experiencing a population decline to states with lower minimum wages while gaining population from states with higher minimum wages. Instead of adopting the failed economic policies of states with stagnant economies and persistent fiscal distress to our northeast, Virginia should emulate states prioritizing tax relief and efficient government.

Successful states recognize that the government does not need to set labor prices; instead, they prioritize creating an economic environment conducive to wage growth. The Commonwealth should adopt this approach, reducing taxes, reducing regulations, reforming workforce programs, and investing in public education. Allowing the free market to operate is the only proven long-term path toward sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 2. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-915.5, 18.2-308.09, 18.2-308.2:1, 18.2-308.2:2, 18.2-308.2:3, 18.2-308.2:5, 18.2-308.7, and 19.2-386.28 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 18.2-287.4:1, 18.2-287.4:2, 18.2-308.1:9, and 18.2-309.1, relating to purchase, possession, sale, transfer, etc., of assault firearms and certain ammunition feeding devices prohibited; penalty.

Patrons--Deeds, Salim, Subramanyam, Aird, Bagby, Boysko, Carroll Foy, Ebbin, Favola, Hashmi, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, McPike, Pekarsky, Rouse, Surovell and Williams Graves; Delegates: Rasoul and Simon

Passed Senate February 7, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 2, which creates new penalties for transferring and possessing certain firearms containing certain components.

The Constitution precludes the Commonwealth from prohibiting a broad category of firearms widely embraced for lawful purposes, such as self-defense. Despite this, certain members of the General Assembly have pursued legislation banning most contemporary semiautomatic firearms and specific ammunition-feeding devices.

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 has reduced penalties for criminals, contributing to violent crime. Enhancing penalties for crimes committed with firearms will reverse this trend. Our most significant gap, however, has been in our behavioral health system, which 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 our constitutional rights.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 14. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-602, 58.1-605, 58.1-605.1, and 58.1-606.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to additional local sales and use tax to support schools; referendum.

Patrons--McPike, Carroll Foy, Deeds, Boysko, Favola, Hashmi, Perry, Rouse and Salim; Delegates: Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Callsen, Carr, Clark, Cole, Henson, Hernandez, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, Lopez, Martinez, Price, Rasoul, Shin and Simonds

Passed Senate January 29, 2024 (27-Y 13-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 28, 2024 (25-Y 14-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 14, which authorizes counties and cities to implement an increased sale and use tax rate for school construction.

School construction is a worthy cause, and Virginia has made significant progress. In 2022, the Budget supported more than three billion dollars in school construction projects through targeted assistance, formula-based school construction and modernization grants, and low-interest loans. This was achieved all while providing more than five billion dollars in tax relief.

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

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.

The proposed Common Ground budget supports a \$1.2 billion increase K-12 appropriations over the biennium and makes available substantial construction loan and grant funding for school construction.

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.

S.B. 15. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 19.2-87.1, relating to reproductive health care services; prohibitions on extradition for certain crimes.

Patrons--Favola, Perry, Subramanyam, Aird, Boysko, Carroll Foy, Deeds, Ebbin, Hashmi, Lucas, McPike, Pekarsky, Rouse, Salim, Surovell and Williams Graves; Delegate: Simon

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 15, which prohibits extradition for certain crimes.

This bill is aimed at medical professionals from other states who may be in Virginia and subject to an extradition.

The extradition process among the states has a long and successful history within an established legal framework required by the U.S. Constitution. This bill would undermine that framework and disrupt the extradition laws in all fifty states. Our cooperative extradition system could collapse if individual states were to carve out crimes for which they would not recognize codified laws because of differing political positions.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 23. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228, 16.1-278.8, and 18.2-371 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 16.1-278.9:1, relating to juveniles; adjudication of delinquency.

Patron--Locke

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 23, which establishes the age of a delinquent child.

Although this bill purports to protect juveniles under eleven by preventing them from being charged with delinquency, some youth under age eleven who might otherwise receive delinquency adjudication for an offense may lose access to Department of Juvenile Justice funding for mental health and counseling services, following a delinquency determination.

Additionally, a court would lose the ability to require restitution that could benefit victims of acts committed by children under eleven.

Finally, the proposal serves as an additional incentive for criminal street gangs to continue the heinous practice of recruiting children younger than eleven years old to carry out gang-related offenses.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 47. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-308.1:4 and 18.2-308.1:8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to firearm transfers to another person from a prohibited person.

Patrons--Favola and Carroll Foy; Delegate: Simon

Passed Senate January 25, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 47, which relates to firearm transfers to another person from a person subject to a protective order or convicted of a misdemeanor.

I 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.

The legislation fails to achieve its intended purpose and is unnecessary. 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. Additionally, all firearm transfers are currently limited to individuals who are legally allowed to possess firearms.

To avoid 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, which contradicts our current legal age of possession, on certain transfers adds further confusion.

As I advocate for greater protections for victims, I strongly urge the General Assembly to shift its focus towards proven strategies aimed at combatting violent crime - mandatory minimums for armed criminals and the presumption against bail.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 69. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-1705 of the Code of Virginia, relating to minimum qualifications for law-enforcement officers; citizenship.

Patrons--McPike, Carroll Foy, Subramanyam, Boysko and Roem

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 69, which allows individuals granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to serve as law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth.

As noted by supporters of the legislation, the Department of Criminal Justice Service can currently offer waivers for noncitizens who are permanent residents to serve as law enforcement officers on a case-by-case basis. This bill would run counter to this appropriate working practice by allowing non-citizens who are not permanent residents and are not eligible to become citizens to be certified as law enforcement officers.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 80. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-304 of the Code of Virginia, relating to decreasing probation period; criteria for mandatory reduction; report.

Patrons--Favola and Boysko

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 8, 2024 (26-Y 14-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 80, which establishes criteria to reduce a defendant's supervised probation period.

Many of the offenders covered by the proposal committed serious crimes and demonstrated their capacity to act as dangerous individuals.

Courts determine the length of probation based on the severity and circumstances of a crime, while probation officers oversee rehabilitation. Requiring a reduction in the probation period without a hearing poses a risk of offenders losing valuable oversight and guidance from the probation system.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 99. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carrying assault firearms in public areas prohibited; penalty.

Patrons--Ebbin, Subramanyam and Salim; Delegates: Bennett-Parker and Hope

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 99, prohibiting the carrying of assault firearms in public areas.

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.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

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.

S.B. 115. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228, 16.1-278.15, 20-124.2, and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia, relating to child abuse and neglect; custody and visitation; possession or consumption of authorized substances.

Patron--Lucas

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 115, which creates exemptions to the definition of the abused and neglected child and restricts the consideration of courts related to an individual's consumption and possession of controlled substances.

The proposed legislation, aiming to address a non-existent problem, has potential consequences that may expose children to harm.

Child protective service (CPS) referrals rarely, if ever, involve screening solely based on parents' legal use of controlled substances or marijuana. Instead, cases typically encompass additional risk factors like impaired supervision, access to drugs or drug paraphernalia, or a parent's inability to meet the child's basic needs. The inherent risk of unintended consequences, potentially endangering child safety by dissuading local departments of social services from implementing necessary protective measures, disrupts the balanced approach of current CPS policies, thus jeopardizing the well-being of vulnerable children.

The proposed exemption to the definition of an "abused or neglected child" raises concerns by needlessly complicating an already intricate legal domain. These exceptions overlook the necessity for judges and CPS workers to assess unique factors and circumstances in each case, potentially hindering effective decision-making.

The proposal undermines the tangible link between substance use and harm to children, evident in the increased calls to poison control and emergency room visits for children consuming cannabis-infused substances following the authorization of personal marijuana possession. The blanket exemption further places children at risk by potentially endangering their welfare.

This is a significant threat to child safety, potentially shielding parents engaging in substance possession or consumption from scrutiny. This failure to consider nuanced circumstances undermines the child's best interests and contradicts our efforts to address substance misuse in families and communities.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

S.B. 143. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 7 of Chapter 13 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-425.1 relating to railroad safety; minimum train crew; movement of freight; civil penalties.

Patrons--Carroll Foy; Delegate: Simonds

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 143, which mandates crew sizes for trains, locomotives, or light engines.

While I support the goal of improving safety within the rail industry, the proposed methods appear premature and lack the necessary nuance required for effective regulation. A comprehensive strategy is best achieved through the established framework of the federal government's ongoing rulemaking process.

According to reports from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the available evidence does not conclusively support the notion that two-person crews are inherently safer.

Mandating crew sizes, as proposed, is a blunt regulatory tool that encroaches upon the established mechanisms for railroads and unions to negotiate staffing and scheduling matters through collective bargaining.

The effect of the proposed legislation extends beyond a labor-related concern. Short-line railroads, our last mile freight transport providers, are significantly affected. The proposed regulations disrupt their ability to access new markets, jeopardizing the success of initiatives such as the establishment of inland ports ~ initiatives crucial for the economic progress of our rural communities and the Commonwealth.

Moreover, the proposed regulations would impose constraints on our supply chain, impeding our ability to manage inflation and cope with rising costs of living and doing business in Virginia. The economic repercussions pose a genuine threat to the stability of our economy.

The proposal also distorts the entirety of our transportation sector by diverting traffic from rail to our highways. At a time when the Commonwealth is diligently working to address congestion issues, the proposed regulations appear counterproductive.

Finally, the proposed legislation risks hindering technology and innovation in the rail industry, by impeding the development of opportunities, such as autonomous rail operations.

Prematurely constraining a fuel-efficient mode of freight transport while simultaneously advocating for the mandating of electric vehicles to address environmental concerns raises questions about the coherence and foresight of the proposal.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 144. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-218 and 19.2-243 of the Code of Virginia, relating to preliminary hearing; nolle prosequi prior to preliminary hearing.

Patron--Carroll Foy

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 1, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 144, which relates to nolle prosequi prior to a preliminary hearing.

The proposal requires a preliminary hearing in all matters arising from a felony warrant obtained by law enforcement and prohibits the Commonwealth's ability to ensure cases are appropriately prosecuted.

The bill purports to ensure that only cases based upon probable cause reach the circuit court; however, it harms victims, delays justice, and limits the ability to prosecute cases by locking prosecutors into a law enforcement decision to proceed via a warrant. The bill also requires any felony case initiated by warrant to have a preliminary hearing; however, not all felony cases begin with a warrant. Cases may also begin by direct indictment by a grand jury or information with no appearances in a district court.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

In cases of crimes of violence, including domestic violence or crimes against children, the safety of the community, coupled with concern about the defendant's whereabouts, results in law enforcement obtaining warrants at a time of their choosing often protecting the complaining witness. Concurrently, the investigation continues, and the prosecutor reviews the charging decision. Any time held on the warrant applies to the new charges in circuit court pursuant to § 53.1-197.

Proceeding in this manner protects victim and witness safety and well-being by limiting further trauma, prolonged contact with their abuser, and preventing threats and violence especially in gang and drug-related cases. It also allows law enforcement time to obtain additional evidence and corroboration via search warrant returns, subpoena duces tecum returns, and forensic analysis.

The legislation also has a considerable fiscal impact to account for the additional judges, clerks, bailiffs, court time, and fees to comply with the proposal properly and safely.

Ultimately, this legislation directly affects cases where a defendant's immediate apprehension is paramount to public safety.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 235. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-16.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to policies on parental notification of instructional material that includes sexually explicit content; scope and use.

Patrons--Hashmi and Boysko

Passed Senate January 30, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 235, which relates to the scope and use of policies on parental notification of instructional material that includes sexually explicit content.

In accordance with Senate Bill 656 (2022), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released "Model Policies on Instructional Materials with Sexually Explicit Content." Developed through collaboration with educational leaders and parents, the model policy bolsters parental rights by granting parents more decision-making authority in their child's education. The model specifically states: "the Act shall not be construed to require or provide for the censoring of books in public elementary and secondary schools."

Despite the proponents' claim that the current proposal codifies the enactment clause found in Chapter 100 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, there are significant language differences that may cause confusion among school administrators, divisions, parents, and students.

Current law unequivocally affirms that the adoption of these model policies by a school board should not be interpreted as requiring or providing for the censorship of books in public elementary and secondary schools. Therefore, the bill is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 236. An Act to amend and reenact § 16.1-69.54:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to requests for reports of aggregated, nonconfidential case data; academic research.

Patron--Hashmi

Passed Senate January 30, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

(continued on next page)

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 236, which allows college and university faculty members to request district court records.

In 2023, I signed Senate Bill 1089, which requires the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia to report to the General Assembly the number of writs of eviction by September 1, 2024. This report will provide information to address gaps in eviction-related data.

The proposal infringes upon the privacy rights of individuals who have faced an unlawful detainer, garnishment, or warrant in debt action. Additionally, the proposal does not effectively address the issue of incomplete eviction data, as garnishments and warrants in debt actions can involve various transactions, such as credit card or business-to-business disputes.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 246. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-328.1, 46.2-328.3, and 46.2-345.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to limited-duration licenses and driver privilege cards and permits; expiration.

Patrons--McPike, Carroll Foy, Salim and Boysko

Passed Senate February 7, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 246, which concerns limited-duration licenses, driver privilege cards and permits, and identification privilege cards.

This bill removes the requirement that driver privilege cards have printed restrictions identical to limited duration licenses, which indicate that the card is valid only for a limited period. This information is used to distinguish between legal and non-legal resident IDs.

This bill would also enable a person permitted by the Federal government to be in the United States for a limited duration to obtain a Virginia Driver's license for a full eight-year term even though their eligibility to be legally present here may have expired.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 258. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-152.13 and 19.2-152.14 of the Code of Virginia, relating to substantial risk orders; substantial risk factors and considerations.

Patrons--Surovell and Subramanyam

Passed Senate February 6, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 258, which relates to risk factors and considerations for substantial risk orders.

The legislation treats the Second Amendment as a secondary right compared to other constitutional guarantees, and the proposed expansion of substantial risk orders is excessively broad and overreaching.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 259. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 8.01 a chapter numbered 5.2, consisting of sections numbered 8.01-267.10 through 8.01-267.15, relating to civil actions filed on behalf of multiple persons; class actions.

Patrons--Surovell and Bagby

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 259, establishing the types, certification, rules, and venue for civil actions filed on behalf of multiple persons. The legal landscape in Virginia accommodates class actions, with federal courts empowered to adjudicate such cases under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Even claims solely rooted in Virginia law can find recourse in federal jurisdictions.

The proposed changes have far-reaching implications by broadening the scope of statutory damages available under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The possible statutory damages resulting from these consumer class actions will coerce defendants into settlements to avoid potentially ruinous financial consequences.

The recent expansion of the Court of Appeals within the Commonwealth's legal apparatus must be considered when assessing this proposal. This was the most significant modification to our legal system in decades, and consequently, the court continues to absorb the backlog of dockets, which must be resolved.

Commerce is based on a legal environment that maintains fairness. Excessive tort liabilities and the threat of litigation expenses can force businesses to close their doors, imperiling economic growth. Achieving a balanced legal system means addressing the concerns of both litigants and businesses in tandem. Only through a nuanced approach that acknowledges both excesses and deficiencies can Virginia's economy continue to flourish.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 273. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-308.2:2 and 18.2-308.2:5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to purchase of firearms; waiting period; penalty.

Patrons--Subramanyam, Carroll Foy, Deeds, Salim, Favola, Pekarsky and Williams Graves

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 273, which requires a waiting period to purchase a firearm.

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.

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.

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.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 274. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-3442.02 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 7.3, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-276.12 through 32.1-276.19, relating to Prescription Drug Affordability Board established; drug cost affordability review.

Patrons--Deeds, Carroll Foy, Subramanyam, Ebbin, Perry, Salim, Stanley, Boysko and Williams Graves

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (23-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 274, establishing a Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

Though noble in its intent, the proposal carries numerous unintended consequences. While it is imperative to lower drug prices, it must not compromise patient welfare.

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. As we are acutely aware, 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. Considering the pharmaceutical supply chain's complexity, imposing arbitrary UPLs could limit access to life-saving pharmaceuticals and harm patients' health.

Experiences from other states like Maryland and Colorado, which have similar PDABs, show high implementation costs, including higher taxes, without significant savings for those in need.

Pharmaceutical affordability is a major issue for Virginians. Full transparency into actual pricing and discounts and more competition are key to bring prices down while not stifling innovation. This year I have also signed bipartisan legislation to provide cost-saving transparency and regulations pharmaceutical benefit managers and legislation that directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to study and plan for import lower cost drugs for Virginians.

The Commonwealth should prioritize patient well-being, maintain access to essential medications, and support healthcare innovation. We can do all this and lower the cost of prescription drugs for Virginians.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 276. An Act to require the State Corporation Commission to study the feasibility of an energy upgrade program for Phase I and Phase II Utilities; work group; report.

Patron--Hashmi

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (30-Y 10-N)

House amendments agreed to by Senate March 5, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 276, which directs the State Corporation Commission to study the feasibility of an energy upgrade program.

While the State Corporation Commission is the proper venue to study the creation of such a program, this bill skews the results of such a study toward recommendations designed to benefit private interests at the expense of utility customers. This study should be conducted without bias toward any conclusion or private party.

Additionally, the scope of this study is very limited and would produce results that are not comprehensive. Merely studying the feasibility of a program without consideration of ratepayer impacts, potential cost shifts, and other risks as deemed relevant limits the Commission's review and would deliver incomplete information to the General Assembly.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 306. An Act to amend and reenact § 10.1-104.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to invasive plant species; retail sales; civil penalty.

Patrons--Salim and Boysko; Delegate: Seibold

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (37-Y 3-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 5, 2024 (25-Y 13-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 306, which creates civil penalties for the retail sale of certain plant species.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (the Department) already publishes and distributes educational information related to invasive plant species and the benefits of planting native species. Virginia should continue to educate consumers about invasive plant species and encourage them to seek alternatives.

The proposal, however, places additional requirements and imposes civil penalties on Virginia's small businesses for the sale of plants with low levels of invasiveness, such as periwinkle and winter honeysuckle.

Additionally, the Department's invasive species list would function as the legally binding authority regarding invasive species, circumventing the Administrative Process Act, which involves a public notice and comment period.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 327. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to assault firearms; purchase; age requirement; penalty.

Patrons--Salim, Favola, Hashmi and Williams Graves; Delegates: Bennett-Parker, Clark, Cohen, Henson, Hope, Keys-Gamarra, Martinez, Rasoul, Seibold, Shin and Willett

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 6, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 327, relating to age requirements for purchasing or transferring certain firearms.

The proposed 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.

Recently, 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.

S.B. 329. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-937.1 and by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 9 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-141.3, relating to compost and other products containing organic soil amendments infrastructure; civil penalty.

Patron--Surovell

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 329, which allows localities to implement civil penalties for requiring entities to separate organic waste.

The proposal broadly defines "generator" to encompass a range of establishments, from schools to supermarkets, and imposes civil penalties for non-compliance. While the intention to promote sustainable waste management is commendable, its effects on businesses and institutions, especially smaller ones and our school system, are concerning. These entities may lack the resources to implement the required waste separation infrastructure, leading to increased operating expenses and significant challenges.

Training staff, ensuring compliance with what could be complex and ever-changing ordinances regarding separation rules, and managing additional administrative tasks could divert valuable time and resources away from core operations. The implementation costs disproportionately affect smaller establishments, which could struggle to meet these requirements compared to larger organizations with more resources.

This potential discrepancy could create an uneven playing field in the business landscape, placing smaller businesses and institutions at a disadvantage; while one restaurant could simply absorb the cost of ignoring the law, a smaller establishment could face nearly \$5,000 in costs by the end of a week, higher than the fine for a Class 5 felony. Despite their best efforts, organizations may inadvertently violate the rules, resulting in penalties that could strain their financial viability.

An alternative solution is to encourage and support businesses and schools rather than enforcing strict regulations that strain financial resources. This would be a more balanced approach to food waste management.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 334. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 19.2-254.01, relating to plea agreements and court orders; prohibited provisions.

Patrons--Salim and Carroll Foy

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 334 which prohibits certain provisions in plea agreements and court orders.

The Fourth Amendment waiver is a commonly used tool by prosecutors that allows law enforcement to stop and search an individual convicted of certain offenses.

The Supreme Court of Virginia has upheld these waivers as permissible so long as they do not result from coercion. As part of a plea agreement, waiving the Fourth Amendment rights benefits the defendant with a lesser period of active incarceration and facilitates better reintegration into society. In exchange, the Commonwealth receives a meaningful period of supervised probation, providing safer communities.

Removing the right of both parties to agree to a Fourth Amendment waiver and limiting probation officers is a detriment to public safety.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 338. An Act directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the social, physical, emotional, and economic effects of gun violence on communities across the Commonwealth. Report.

Patrons--Salim and Aird

Passed Senate January 31, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 338, which directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study the social, physical, emotional, and economic health effects of gun violence.

The Commonwealth has also made great strides in addressing crimes committed with firearms by establishing programs such as the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund to implement proven methods such as gang reduction programs, funding state and local law enforcement, and supporting nonprofits engaged in group violence intervention.

The Office of Safer Communities also supports community-based strategies to address community violence's root causes through evidence-informed strategies, such as afterschool programs, mentorships, and strategies to build trust between law enforcement and the community. Additionally, the Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund provides resources for violence intervention programs in localities with disproportionate firearm-related homicides.

Contrary to the historical objectivity and nonpartisanship of JLARC, the proposal would expand the use of studies based on political beliefs. It is troubling that the proposal also makes no mention of criminology or requires JLARC to look at the benefits of self-defense that firearm ownership can provide.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 357. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-57 of the Code of Virginia, relating to assault and battery; affirmative defense; penalty.

Patrons--Boysko; Delegate: Shin

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 9, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 357, which creates an affirmative defense for assault and battery.

First and foremost, the Commonwealth has made great strides in handling our mental health crisis and remains focused on providing treatment to those individuals.

A new, loosely defined, and excessively broad affirmative defense is unnecessary because Virginia laws already provide protections for individuals who are not criminally responsible due to mental illness.

The proposal 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.

S.B. 368. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.7:1, relating to storage of firearms in a residence where a minor or person prohibited from possessing a firearm is present; penalty.

Patrons--Boysko, Bagby, Ebbin, Favola and Salim; Delegate: Shin

Passed Senate February 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 368, which relates to the storage of firearms where a minor or person prohibiting a firearm is present. This legislation would limit individuals' access to firearms in their homes.

A similar law was deemed unconstitutional in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. 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.

The proposed language could prove problematic in cases of necessary home defense when firearm access may be crucial. Further, it would completely disarm individuals who cannot afford a storage device. While the intent may not be to strip the poorest Virginians of their right to self-defense, the proposal would price them out of the market for a fundamental right.

The suggested exemption for carrying weapons is impractical, for example, while sleeping or doing household chores. This exemption leaves individuals with only one option for self-defense; such a requirement would lead to law-abiding Virginians carrying their weapons irresponsibly and dangerously.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 370. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 40.1 a section numbered 40.1-28.7:11, relating to prohibiting employer seeking wage or salary history of prospective employees; wage or salary range transparency; cause of action.

Patrons--Boysko, Salim, Surovell and Aird; Delegate: Shin

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 370, which prohibits employers from seeking the wage or salary history of prospective employees.

While I share concerns regarding wage inequality among women and minorities, the proposed legislation represents government overreach, offering incomplete information during the hiring process, disregarding business needs, and potentially exposing small businesses to lawsuits.

The Commonwealth's objective is to attract, retain, and expand job opportunities, and our laws should not burden or incur excessive costs compared to competitor states. Regulations should consider the overall business expenses, encompassing taxes, fees, insurance, and regulatory obligations, to foster a favorable business climate.

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. Gender or race are legally prohibited from influencing these decisions.

This legislation adopts a one-size-fits-all approach, disregarding the diverse nature of businesses across the Commonwealth spanning various sizes, industries, and geographic locations. While large corporations might navigate the new regulations, smaller companies or nonprofits lacking dedicated human resources departments would struggle, hindering their ability to evaluate candidates effectively.

Addressing wage disparities across gender and racial lines is imperative, but the potential adverse effects on small businesses, prospective employees, and the economy are too high.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 373. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 60.2 a chapter numbered 8, consisting of sections numbered 60.2-800 through 60.2-821, relating to paid family and medical leave insurance program; notice requirements; civil action.

Patrons--Boysko, Locke, Lucas, Subramanyam, Surovell, Aird, Bagby, Carroll Foy, Deeds, Ebbin, Favola, Hashmi, Marsden, McPike, Pekarsky, Perry, Roem, Rouse, Salim, VanValkenburg and Williams Graves; Delegates: Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, Shin and Tran

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 373, establishing a state-administered family and medical leave program.

The proposed paid family and medical leave program is a one-size-fits-all solution that removes the incentive for the private sector to provide these benefits. Many businesses in Virginia already have paid family and medical leave policies.

Additionally, the fact that with its multi-billion-dollar budget, the Commonwealth would be exempt from the mandate required for small businesses or nonprofits, is evidence that this proposal is unfair.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 383. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-283.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carrying a firearm or explosive material within Capitol Square or building owned or leased by the Commonwealth; exemptions; public institutions of higher education; penalty.

Patrons--Deeds, Bagby, Boysko, Favola and Salim; Delegates: Callsen and Laufer

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 383, which criminalizes an individual's possession of a firearm in a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education.

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.

The Boards of Visitors at Virginia's institutions of higher education already have the authority to regulate their respective campuses, including implementing firearms prohibitions. This allows for consideration of the differences across regions and students' unique circumstances.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 393. An Act to amend and reenact § 30-310 of the Code of Virginia, relating to MEI Project Approval Commission; board-level gender and diversity requirements.

Patrons--Pekarsky and Boysko

Passed Senate January 29, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 8, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 393 relating to board-level gender and diversity requirements for economic development incentives.

The proposal seeks to alter the responsibilities of the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission (the Commission). While diversity and inclusivity are commendable aspirations for businesses, noble intentions should not justify circumventing the Commission's obligations.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

The Commission's role is to scrutinize financing for individual incentive packages, not assess whether a business adheres to a requirement akin to a demographic-based quota. Such requirements could deter companies from investing in the Commonwealth, especially privately held or family-owned enterprises, which may be wholly precluded.

The quota-like system overlooks the achievements of women and minorities in their own right. Both groups have made significant strides in board representation and mandating specific demographic compositions risks undermining their accomplishments.

Ultimately, the proposal fails to acknowledge that the primary beneficiaries of economic development are not board members but individuals who secure gainful employment. A genuinely egalitarian approach should focus on attracting businesses to the Commonwealth and fostering opportunities for expansion and investment in individuals.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 428. An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-673.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elections; conduct of election; ranked choice voting; locally elected offices; report.

Patrons--VanValkenburg, Ebbin and Salim

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 7, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 428, concerning ranked choice voting (RCV) regulations.

RCV is new in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and nationwide. Concerns have been raised about its use in general elections where some voters have found it confusing. A heightened risk of mistakenly erroneous ballot submissions raises concerns about disenfranchisement and an increased lack of voter confidence in election results. Before RCV is further institutionalized and regulated at the Virginia Department of Elections, the legitimate questions of voters need to be answered.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 447. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 46.2 a section numbered 46.2-1215.1, relating to firearm in unattended motor vehicle; civil penalty.

Patrons--Marsden, Boysko and Subramanyam

Passed Senate January 25, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 447, which relates to firearms in motor vehicles.

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.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 448. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2499.8, 3.2-4113, 4.1-352, 4.1-600, 4.1-601, 4.1-603, 4.1-604, 4.1-606, 4.1-607, 4.1-611, 4.1-614, 4.1-621, 4.1-1100, 4.1-1101, 4.1-1121, 4.1-1500, 4.1-1501, 4.1-1502, 4.1-1601, 4.1-1604, 5.1-13, 9.1-1101, 16.1-69.40:1, 16.1-260, 16.1-273, 16.1-278.9, 18.2-46.1, 18.2-247, 18.2-248, 18.2-248.01, 18.2-251, 18.2-251.03, 18.2-251.1:1, 18.2-251.1:2, 18.2-251.1:3, 18.2-252, 18.2-254, 18.2-255, 18.2-255.1, 18.2-255.2, 18.2-258, 18.2-258.02, 18.2-258.1, 18.2-265.1, 18.2-265.2, 18.2-265.3, 18.2-287.2, 18.2-308.012, 18.2-308.4, 18.2-460, 18.2-474.1, 19.2-66, 19.2-81, 19.2-81.1, 19.2-83.1, 19.2-188.1, 19.2-303.01, 19.2-386.22 through 19.2-386.25, 19.2-389, 19.2-389.3, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 19.2-392.02, 19.2-392.6, 22.1-206, 22.1-277.08, 23.1-1301, 46.2-105.2, 46.2-347, 48-17.1, 53.1-231.2, 54.1-2903, 58.1-301, and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-629, 4.1-630, and 4.1-631, by adding in Title 4.1 chapters numbered 7 through 10, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-700 through 4.1-1008, by adding sections numbered 4.1-1102 through 4.1-1105, 4.1-1106, 4.1-1113, 4.1-1114, 4.1-1115, 4.1-1117, 4.1-1118, and 4.1-1119, by adding in Title 4.1 a chapter numbered 12, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-1200 through 4.1-1206, by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1300, 4.1-1301, and 4.1-1303 through 4.1-1309, by adding in Chapter 14 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1403 through 4.1-1406, by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 6.2 a section numbered 6.2-108, and by adding in Chapter 44 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-4426; and to repeal §§ 4.1-1101.1, 4.1-1105.1, 18.2-248.1, and 18.2-251.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to cannabis control; retail market; penalties.

Patrons--Rouse, McPike, Ebbin, Salim, VanValkenburg and Williams Graves

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 28, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 448, establishing a framework for creating a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth.

The proposed legalization of retail marijuana in the Commonwealth 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.

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

The most concerning consequence of cannabis commercialization is its impact on adolescents and our children. As cannabis has become legalized and commercialized, calls to U.S. Poison Control for children who have overdosed on edible cannabis products have increased by 400% since 2016.

In particular, Colorado, Washington, Ohio, and Massachusetts have experienced significantly more cannabis-related calls to poison control centers and increased emergency department visits for cannabis poisonings in children following legalization and is much higher compared to nonlegal states. In Virginia, the Blue Ridge Poison Control Center reports that minors overdosing on edible cannabis products have increased by 85% since Virginia legalized cannabis possession.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

Intentional youth cannabis use has also increased in states and localities with legal retail markets. In New York City, instances of controlled substances and drug paraphernalia discovered on students in schools increased by 8% compared to 2019, despite a concurrent 11% decrease in the K-12 population. Data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration show that the five states with the highest youth marijuana use are also all states with legal retail cannabis. Cannabis commercialization and diminished cannabis enforcement have resulted in youth cannabis use increasing by 245% between 2000 and 2022, contrasting with declines in teen alcohol and tobacco use.

Medical studies show that individuals using cannabis at younger ages have a higher chance of developing more severe cannabis use disorder and persistent and uncontrollable substance use disorders. Research indicates that 11% of juveniles who consumed cannabis in 2023 and 21% of juveniles who consistently consumed cannabis for three years have developed cannabis use disorder.

Additionally, doctors at Boston Children's Hospital have reported an increase in children developing psychosis following cannabis use. Nearly one-third of adolescents attending checkups admit to using cannabis, and one-third of children who used cannabis and sought treatment reported hallucinations or paranoia.

Data suggest that marijuana use in adolescence can lead to other addictive behaviors in adulthood by reducing dopamine reactivity in the brain's reward regions, prompting users to seek a more potent product. The widespread availability of cannabis can compound this effect. The connection between daily cannabis use among children and long-term addiction has long-term consequences, considering research indicates that an estimated 6.5% of twelfth graders are daily cannabis users.

Treating children for cannabis-related issues, including lost intelligence, psychosis, and other mental health problems, is complex due to the acute and long-term effects of cannabis consumption. Stabilization and counseling are inadequate for treating cannabis use disorder in children, as evident by the limited effectiveness of counseling, and there are no medications available for treatment, resulting in long-term adverse health outcomes.

Medical experts and health professionals provided policymakers with information regarding the consequences of cannabis commercialization on Virginians' health during the General Assembly session. They emphasized that a retail marijuana marketplace creates a misconception that cannabis use is safe for minors, even though cannabis use leads to adverse mental health outcomes, increased anxiety and depression in minors, and impaired brain development.

II. The Failures of States with Legalized Retail Marijuana

States that have attempted to regulate the black-market for cannabis have generally failed. Colorado is touted as a successful example of legalization, but a decade after legalization, the illicit cannabis market still accounts for approximately 35% of all cannabis sales. Similarly, six years after legalization, California's legal cannabis market represented only about 10% of total cannabis sales. With the black-market's persistent pressure, gang activity escalates and violent crime surges.

Legal cannabis markets also do not guarantee product safety. In New York, which has legal cannabis markets, a study conducted by the New York Medical Cannabis Industry Association found that 40% of the cannabis products failed to meet required standards, including tests for E. Coli, salmonella, accurate THC, and heavy metals. Likewise, growers consistently evade state environmental regulations, labor standards, and product testing requirements in California, as reported by PBS News Hour.

Cannabis-induced disorder rates surged by 50% in November 2023 compared to 2019, attributed to intentional breeding for higher potency, a trend seen post-legalization, according to electronic health records. In Washington, post-legalization, cannabis extracts gained 150% market share, boasting nearly triple the potency of flower, prompting a reassessment of legalization's benefits by their legislature.

Moreover, the expectation that cannabis legalization will result in a meaningful net increase in state tax revenues has not materialized in states with legal markets. States with legal retail cannabis have been challenged in transitioning their existing, robust black-markets into legal, regulated, and taxed markets. As a result, their projected revenues have fallen short of expectations and forecasts.

According to an official Colorado state study, cannabis taxes have not solved budget shortfalls, and for every dollar of additional revenue generated, Coloradans spend approximately \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of legalization. In addition to healthcare costs, the state also must contend with a lack of productivity in the economy, with research indicating that regular marijuana use increases the probability that a student will drop out of high school.

A 2023 analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City showed that cannabis legalization led to higher social costs without boosting tax revenue, resulting in increased consumption, substance use disorder, homelessness, and arrests, leaving state governments financially worse off.

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

In 2021, cannabis use was estimated to be responsible for 10% of drug-related emergency department visits in the U.S., and it accounts for 11% of all psychosis cases in emergency rooms, totaling approximately 90,000 cases.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

Cannabis contributes to a higher probability of users developing psychosis than other illicit drugs, according to the American Journal of Psychiatry. Cannabis-induced psychosis takes the form of perceptual alterations, hallucinations, and delusions.

Psychosis is a strong risk factor for violence. Schizophrenia resulting from cannabis-induced psychosis has significant public safety implications. People diagnosed with schizophrenia are five times as likely to commit violent crimes and are almost twenty times as likely to commit murder. Individuals with schizophrenia account for approximately 6% to 9% percent of murders.

Research also demonstrates that cannabis commercialization contributed to increased crime among all categories. Following cannabis legalization in Oregon, violent crime, property crime, larceny, aggravated assault, and burglary all increased significantly compared to other states that maintained laws against the commercial sale of marijuana.

The consensus from the leading medical journals, backed by extensive studies and research, indicates that cannabis is neither beneficial nor safe. The uniform experience of other states that have legalized retail cannabis is increased cannabis use, including among minors, increased THC potency, and increased crime.

In addition to increased gang and violent crime activity, there are also the effects of decreased public safety on our roads. In Colorado, after legalization, there was a 40% increase in fatal crashes where the driver tested positive only for THC. All marijuana-related traffic fatalities increased by 76.2%.

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 tourism industry, fueling an international drug trade dominated by organized crime.

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.

S.B. 449. An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-165.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to juvenile parole; juvenile correctional centers.

Patron--Marsden

Passed Senate February 7, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 449, which grants eligibility for parole to offenders for crimes committed as a juvenile.

This proposal fails to limit the severity of crimes committed by the offender as a juvenile before becoming eligible for parole.

To provide context, under this proposal, a murderer convicted at age sixteen could be released as early as age thirty-four. The Department of Corrections and the Parole Board estimate that approximately five hundred inmates would become eligible for parole.

Such a widespread approach to parole eligibility disregards the severity of the offense committed, posing a significant risk to public safety.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 477. An Act to amend and reenact § 58.1-3221.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to blighted and derelict properties in certain localities; rate of tax.

Patron--Aird

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 477, which pertains to property tax surcharges for fiscally distressed localities.

The localities contemplated by this bill already have the authority to levy a property tax surcharge on owners of blighted and derelict property. This bill would have allowed localities to increase this surcharge by 200%. Property taxes are consistently among Virginians' largest annual expense, and this has been exacerbated due to rising housing prices and inflation. The General Assembly and local governments should be considering methods to bring property taxes under control rather than raising tax rates.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 491. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 57, consisting of sections numbered 59.1-603, 59.1-604, and 59.1-605, relating to firearm industry members; standards of responsible conduct; civil liability.

Patrons--Carroll Foy, Boysko, Salim and Perry

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 491, which relates to civil penalties for firearm industry members.

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 has 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.

Our legal system should prioritize punishing criminals rather than targeting law-abiding manufacturers and retailers within the firearms industry.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 494. An Act to amend and reenact § 40.1-29.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to overtime for certain employees; live-in domestic workers.

Patrons--Aird; Delegate: Price

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (27-Y 13-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 494, which would require employers to pay overtime to certain domestic service employees.

This legislation introduces significant confusion for both families and employees and is not needed. Certain domestic service employees have compensation arrangements, such as housing, transportation, and meals, that differ significantly from typical employment arrangements.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

S.B. 504. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 17.1-205.1, 19.2-392.2, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 19.2-392.12, as it shall become effective, and 19.2-392.16, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to expungement of police and court records.

Patrons--Surovell and Carroll Foy

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (25-Y 15-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 9, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 504, which allows a charging offense to be expunged after a person is found guilty of a lesser offense related to the same conduct.

This bill would allow individuals to avoid the full consequences of their actions by having more serious charges expunged from their record after being found guilty of a lesser offense. This bill reduces transparency and accountability as it will obscure important information about an individual's criminal history.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

S.B. 505. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-306.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to limitation on sentence upon revocation of suspension of sentence; technical violations.

Patrons--Subramanyam, Carroll Foy and Favola

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 17-N)

House amendment agreed to by Senate March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 505, which requires courts to release defendants being held for a probation violation under certain circumstances.

This bill's requirements would put Virginia law at odds with the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, which governs probation violation release timeframes across all state governments.

The bill also mandates that offenders be released for probation violations after fourteen days, even if they were a flight risk or likely to re-offend based on past behavior. The fourteen-day timeframe is insufficient for attorneys to collect and present evidence on whether the offender should be released or remain in custody.

In addition, this bill uses technical terms without clear definitions, creating uncertainty for courts when determining probation violations or releasing offenders. Consequently, disparate outcomes may arise based on individual judges' interpretations.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 506. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-507, 23.1-1303, and 23.1-1304 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-102.2, relating to public institutions of higher education; governing boards; duties and powers; legal counsel.

Patron--Surovell

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 506, which allows the governing board of each public institution of higher education to hire their own legal counsel.

The proposal undermines the foundational accountability structure of Virginia's public institutions of higher education.

On October 2, 2023, in a formal opinion, the Attorney General clearly articulated the relationship of a board of visitors of an institution of higher education to the school and the Commonwealth.

"Although the General Assembly has conferred corporate powers upon the governing boards of the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education, each of Virginia's colleges and universities remains 'a department of government' and 'it is clear that the boards of visitors serving [Virginia's institutions of higher education] have a duty to the Commonwealth as a whole.'"

The Attorney General is the duly elected legal counsel for the Commonwealth of Virginia and must have appropriate oversight over all government legal counsel.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 514. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-340, 19.2-341, and 19.2-354 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fines and costs; period of limitations on collection.

Patrons--Williams Graves, Carroll Foy and Salim; Delegates: Clark and Henson

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 514, which lowers the period of limitations for the collection of court fines and requires courts to determine payment plans for convicts.

Court costs are a vital revenue source for local court systems and are appropriately charged to individuals who are convicted of crimes that are heard before such courts. This bill would prevent local governments from collecting these costs from certain convicted defendants and could risk underfunding local court systems.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 542. An Act to amend and reenact § 60.2-612 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unemployment insurance; benefit eligibility conditions; lockout exception to labor dispute disqualification.

Patron--Bagby

Passed Senate February 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 542, which provides unemployment insurance benefits in the case of a lockout due to a labor dispute.

Virginia remains a right-to-work state, a status that this proposal would compromise.

Labor unions negotiate contracts with employers, and if negotiations fail, employers are permitted to hire replacements or lockout workers until a resolution is reached. During a lockout, employers cannot permanently replace workers, and workers may seek back pay through a National Labor Relations Board proceeding.

The proposal would involve the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) in labor disputes for the first time by requiring it to determine eligibility for unemployment benefits during such a dispute. This would be a significant departure from current practices, potentially entangling the VEC in contentious issues.

Furthermore, unemployment benefits are funded through contributions to the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance Trust fund, with tax collections increasing when solvency is low. While this process is fair for rebuilding the Trust fund during economic downturns, allowing labor unions or a few employers to raise taxes on others is unjust for employers and employees.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 570. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3905 and 2.2-3905.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Human Rights Act; definition of "employer."

Patron--Ebbin

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 570, which waives the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity in certain civil actions.

Sovereign immunity is an essential legal doctrine. Any change to the code of Virginia that would waive sovereign immunity in certain situations should not be adopted without thorough consideration and broad-based support.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 584. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 1-508, 1-509, 2.2-106, 2.2-1100, 2.2-1101, 2.2-1102, 2.2-1106, 2.2-1108, 2.2-1115, 2.2-1119, 2.2-1124, 2.2-1125, 2.2-1131.1, 2.2-1133, 2.2-1136, 2.2-1138, 2.2-1139, 2.2-1141 through 2.2-1144, 2.2-1146, 2.2-1147, 2.2-1150.2, 2.2-1150.3, 2.2-1151, 2.2-1153, 2.2-1155, 2.2-1156, 2.2-1157, 2.2-1162, 2.2-1163, 2.2-1164, 2.2-1168, 2.2-1172 through 2.2-1180, 2.2-1183, 2.2-1516, 2.2-1517, 2.2-1519, 2.2-4303, 2.2-4311.2, 10.1-112, 27-5.5, 30-194, 30-280, 30-385, 36-99.3, and 36-139.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 31, consisting of a section numbered § 2.2-2499.9, relating to Department of General Services; General Services Board established; Chief Administrator.

Patron--Deeds

Passed Senate February 9, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 584, which establishes the General Services Board.

The proposed bill would potentially hinder the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of General Services (DGS) and lacks clarity and foresight on the likely negative effect. The lack of clarity is particularly evident in the oversight of delegations of authority to the DGS Director, creating uncertainty about the extent of the Director's powers and potentially impeding effective agency management.

My administration has been dedicated to improving government operations for Virginians from the outset. Urgent concerns included the prolonged deferred maintenance of state buildings. This necessitated expedited office space and telecommunications infrastructure improvement. Operational upgrades increased telecommunications bandwidth by 75% in approximately one thousand office buildings, enhancing efficiency.

By consolidating distribution centers, reducing over one thousand excess state vehicles, enhancing our electronic procurement filing system, and assessing underutilized real estate for economic development, we have benefited the Commonwealth and taxpayers. This long overdue business-like approach aims to improve the workplace, benefit employees, promote efficiency, and benefit taxpayers.

In light of these accomplishments, we will continue to work with members of the General Assembly to consider evolving real estate and procurement functions from focusing on individual transactions to a more comprehensive plan that promotes continuous improvement. This collaborative effort will highlight the tangible and intangible savings achieved through these initiatives and demonstrate their potential to bring about transformative change.

Under the proposal, however, the ability of a citizen board to implement policy, deliver critical services that demand daily interaction with customers, law enforcement, vendors, and other stakeholders and provide oversight of a large, complex organization of employees, contractors, and suppliers could hinder the agency's capacity to deliver high-quality services to all branches of government, including the General Assembly.

The infrequency of board meetings poses a significant risk to the timely execution of agency functions. Such limited meeting frequency may lead to delays in decision-making processes, even jeopardizing health and safety considerations. Given DGS's pivotal role in providing vital support services to all state agencies, these delays could severely impact government operations' overall efficiency.

There are also challenges associated with recruiting and retaining qualified board members, which are crucial for informed decision-making in DGS's complex operations. Given the agency's intricate functions, board members must possess the requisite expertise and availability to fulfill their responsibilities effectively.

Furthermore, the constraints placed on statewide strategic decision-making severely impede our ability to implement cohesive policies across state agencies. This limitation not only undermines the effectiveness of government initiatives but can potentially escalate costs for Virginians.

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

The proposal's lack of clarity, potential for operational delays, and constraints on strategic decision-making warrant careful reconsideration and revision to ensure that it aligns with the objectives of promoting efficient government operations and service delivery.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

S.B. 586. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-276.01, 22.1-277, and 22.1-279.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices.

Patron--Pekarsky

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 9, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 586, which prohibits certain school discipline methods without first using a restorative practice.

Virginia is in the midst of a school discipline crisis. On November 17, 2023, twenty-seven Charlottesville High School teachers refused to come to school after a wave of classroom violence resulted in police being called to the school twice in one day. Teachers who are concerned about decaying discipline in our schools consistently point to a failure to confront and address the small number of students who are responsible for this violence.

Fundamentally, for our schools to be safe places for young Virginians to learn and become active citizens, they must be safe. The bill proposes a top-down mandate, forcing school administrators to first utilize restorative practices rather than immediately suspending or otherwise disciplining students who are violent in school.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 588. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 36-139, 55.1-1200, and 55.1-1203 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; affordable housing; criminal record screening model policy.

Patrons--Lucas and Surovell

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 588, which requires the Commonwealth to develop an affordable housing criminal record screening model policy.

This bill, in practical effect, prohibits an affordable housing provider from inquiring about, requiring disclosure of, or rejecting a housing application based on an applicant's criminal or arrest record unless the provider does so according to such model policy. Further, 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.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 595. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2223.6, relating to comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy.

Patrons--Bagby and Aird; Delegate: Rasoul

Passed Senate January 25, 2024 (28-Y 12-N)

House amendment agreed to by Senate February 23, 2024 (25-Y 13-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 595, which would permit localities to integrate a "healthy communities' strategy" into their upcoming and subsequent comprehensive plan reviews.

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

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 597. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-2304 of the Code of Virginia, relating to affordable housing; local zoning ordinance authority; comprehensive plan.

Patrons--McPike and Subramanyam

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

Conference report adopted by Senate March 8, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 597, 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.

S.B. 606. An Act to require the Commonwealth's participation in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Patrons--VanValkenburg and Salim

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 606, which requires the Commissioner of Elections to apply for, enter into, and maintain membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center.

The decision for the Commonwealth to exit the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) in 2023 was a result of persistent management issues, improper data use, escalating costs, and the inability to meet statutory requirements for border state information sharing.

ERIC's reluctance to implement reforms and address a bipartisan working group of member states concerns reflects a departure from its core mission of improving voter roll accuracy, which called into question Virginia's continued participation.

This is particularly concerning due to the controversy surrounding ERIC's sharing of personal information with external organizations. These organizations are funded by sources that the General Assembly has on a bipartisan basis prohibited Virginia's election officials from accepting.

The financial burden of rejoining ERIC includes membership fees, which have increased more than 115% since 2022, and participation expenses. ERIC's mandatory Eligible but Unregistered mailing will cost the Commonwealth hundreds of thousands of dollars, which is superfluous considering Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles' automatic registration policies and same-day registration for voting.

Since leaving ERIC, Virginia established data-sharing agreements with numerous states incurring no additional costs. Additionally, the Department of Elections has increased its data sources by collaborating with forty-one states to obtain driver's license surrender data, while ERIC only provides data sharing with twenty-five states.

I have been explicitly clear about my affirmation of the legitimacy of our elections. My focus is safeguarding Virginians' private information and continuously improving an efficient, cost-effective voter registration system.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

S.B. 634. An Act to amend and reenact § 12.1-12 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State Corporation Commission; powers and duties.

Patron--Rouse

Passed Senate February 13, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House amendment agreed to by Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 634, which requires the State Corporation Commission to consider various factors in proceedings involving 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.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 642. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228 and 18.2-308.1:8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm; assault and battery of a family or household member or intimate partner; penalties.

Patrons--Perry, Favola and Salim

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 642, which relates to the purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following a misdemeanor conviction of assault and battery.

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.

S.B. 654. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-349 and 19.2-354 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fines, costs, forfeitures, penalties, and restitution; collection fees; assessment against incarcerated defendant; deferred payment agreement.

Patrons--Williams Graves, Carroll Foy, Bagby and Salim; Delegates: Anthony, Clark, Henson, Rasoul, Shin and Simonds

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

House substitute agreed to by Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 654, which extends the period of delinquency prior to an account being included on a clerk of court's report of delinquent accounts.

Extending the period of delinquency from 90 to 180 days weakens the accountability traditionally associated with court-ordered fines and restitution, diminishing the court system's ability to enforce accountability and ensure compliance with legal obligations.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 696. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 19.2-303.03, relating to modification of sentence for marijuana-related offenses.

Patrons--Williams Graves, Boysko and Salim; Delegates: Clark, Jones, Martinez, Rasoul, Shin and Simonds

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

House amendments agreed to by Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 696, which requires a mandatory hearing to review reducing sentences for individuals currently incarcerated or on community supervision for felony marijuana convictions.

This bill grants eligibility to a significant number of violent felons who have already received a full and fair hearing.

Ninety-seven inmates convicted of a violent felony offense, such as first and second-degree murder, kidnapping, and robbery, would be eligible for a reduced sentence under this proposal.

In total, the proposal grants eligibility for approximately three hundred fifteen inmates. Of those, one hundred eighty individuals received convictions for selling, distributing, or manufacturing other illegal drugs and narcotics, including fentanyl. Other inmates received convictions for serious offenses, including felony distribution to minors.

Now is not the time to allow an imprudent resentencing process that undermines public safety.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

S.B. 716. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2915 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board of Medicine; unprofessional conduct.

Patrons--Carroll Foy and Perry

Passed Senate February 6, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 716, which relates to punishment for unprofessional conduct for providers performing abortions.

The primary mission of the Board of Medicine is to protect the public from incompetent, dangerous, and unprofessional medical providers. This legislation compromises the Board's ability to fulfill that mission.

This bill also opens the door to a resurgence of unsafe, risky abortions occurring outside of clinical settings, and it places any unprofessional behavior during an abortion outside the Board's jurisdiction for disciplinary action.

In the pursuit of mitigating disciplinary actions by the Board of Medicine against physicians performing abortions, this proposal jeopardizes the safety of women and undermines the duty of the Board in providing necessary disciplinary measures against doctors engaging in unsafe practices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Senate Bills Vetoed by Governor

S.B. 719. An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-39.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to restorative housing and isolated confinement; restrictions on use.

Patrons--Bagby and Williams Graves

Passed Senate February 12, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

House amendment agreed to by Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 719, which regulates the use of restorative housing.

During the 2023 legislative session, the General Assembly came together in a bipartisan manner to enact reforms to improve 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 represent the culmination of significant efforts by the Department, positioning 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 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.

Additionally, I have concerns regarding the budgetary implications of implementing this proposal. The allocated resources in the proposed Budget may not adequately cover the costs, potentially diverting 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, the establishment of a Department of Corrections Ombudsman in the Budget, and my continued support for new leadership within the Department underscore my dedication to this cause.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Addendum - (For Information Purposes)

H.B. 29. An Act to amend and reenact Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, as amended by Chapter 769 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, as further amended by Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, Special Session I, which appropriates the public revenues for two years ending, respectively, on June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

Patron--Torian

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendments February 27, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 28, 2024 (37-Y 2-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve of the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached amendments be adopted.

Together, the 242 amendments to the HB 29 and HB 30 that I am offering preserve the vast majority of spending priorities as passed by the General Assembly.

The \$64 billion Common Ground Budget eliminates all proposed tax increases, invests a record \$21.3 billion in K-12 education, caps tuition increases at 3%, includes 3% pay raises for teachers and state employees in each year, and increases investments in health and human resources by \$3.2 billion over the biennium.

To be very clear, the budget passed by the General Assembly eliminated over \$850 million of my priority spending items in the introduced budget and \$1 billion of tax relief; the Common Ground budget restores only \$230 million of those priorities. The Common Ground budget includes \$196 million in additional funding for at-risk students, an additional \$1 billion in higher education funding, \$175 million for the Housing Trust Fund, toll relief in Hampton Roads, a full funding of the state's share of WMATA's short-term funding needs, and \$70 million to expedite projects on Interstate-81.

Virginia's Strong Financial Position

Virginia's revenues continue to rise steadily. Annual tax collections rose by 40% in the last five years, fueled by more jobs and economic growth. With the highest labor force in Virginia's history and with more job growth than 42 other states in the last two years, we know that revenues will remain strong even when viewed conservatively against economic uncertainty.

Our reserve fund balances are among the best of any state in the nation. We have over \$4.6 billion in reserve funds representing 15% of our annual general fund spending. Revenue collections are running ahead of the revenue forecast by \$827 million year to date.

In short, Virginia can fund priorities and maintain our long-term structural balance without raising taxes. I proposed 1 billion in tax relief in my introduced budget, while the budget passed by the General Assembly included tax increases that would cost Virginians \$2.6 billion in total. Common Ground ~ and common sense ~ says we can write a clean budget without tax increases or tax decreases.

Building on Our Bipartisan Commitment to Funding Education

The Common Ground Budget continues to build on the bipartisan commitment to funding a high-quality education, setting a new two-year record for K-12 education funding, \$21.3 billion, and increasing higher education funding by \$1 billion.

The budget includes a 3% teacher pay raise in each year, on top of 12% teacher pay raises adopted in the last two budget cycles. These 18% teacher pay raises are projected to raise average teacher pay in Virginia above the national average by nearly \$3,500 a year.

The amendments invest over \$800 million for early childhood care and education to support 68,000 early learners previously supported by federal dollars and increase the number of early childhood slot, and increase funding for higher education by \$1 billion, including over \$150 million for affordable access to cap tuition increases at 3%.

The amendments include \$75 million to support PELL grant recipients, \$33 million for financial aid, and \$24 million to support veterans and their families.

Building on Our Bipartisan Commitment to Health and Human Resources

The Common Ground budget reflects the collective commitment to health and human resources, including our ongoing transformation of Virginia's behavioral health system. The amended budget includes a total of \$3.2 billion increase in health and human resources funding over the last biennium.

This includes \$895 million to fully fund Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance, \$169 million in additional Right Help, Right Now investment, \$516 million for over 3,440 development disability waiver slots, and \$56 million to increase personal care attendant reimbursement rates.

Building on Our Bipartisan Commitment to Public Safety

The Common Ground budget provides a total of \$72.5 million over the biennium for community violence intervention programs, including \$20 million to support Operation Ceasefire and \$25 million for the Safer Communities program. The amended budget will provide \$49 million for the School Resource Officer Incentive Grant Fund, and \$4.7 million for increases in Commonwealth Attorney and paralegal positions to address workload needs.

Building On Our Bipartisan Investments in the Commonwealth

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

The Common Ground budget provides \$90 million over the biennium for site development and \$175 million for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. The amended budgets preserve \$42.5 million over the biennium for anticipated payments and invests \$114 million for biotechnology and life sciences commercialization. In recognition of the leading role the Commonwealth is taking in the celebration of America's semiquincentennial, the Common Ground budget includes \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2025 for capital improvements at historic sites and museums and over \$15 million in priority investments in historic sites and battlefields. The budget includes \$26.5 million to the City of Bristol to help with landfill remediation, \$25 million to the City of Norfolk for Coastal Storm Risk management projects, \$50 million to the City of Richmond for the combined sewer overflow project. Combined with significant funding for agricultural best management practices, the Common Ground budget puts over \$350 million towards state water quality goals.

Finally, the Common Ground budget removes language mandating Virginia rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiatives, while providing \$100 million in general fund in fiscal year 2025 to the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Attached to this letter are my proposed amendments to HB 29. In your review of these proposals, I think you will find they are consistent with the primary objectives that we all have worked toward this year. I respectfully request your adoption of these amendments so that they may be incorporated into the Appropriation Act for the upcoming biennium.

(Governor's Recommendation printed separately)

H.B. 30. An Act for all appropriations of the Budget submitted by the Governor of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509, Code of Virginia, and to provide a portion of the revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June, 2025, and the thirtieth day of June, 2026, and an Act to amend the first enactment of 2019 Acts of Assembly, Chapter 808; amend and reenact §§ 58.1-602, 58.1-603, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective; and to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-609.5, 58.1-609.11, 58.1-612, 58.1-623, 58.1-647, 58.1-648, 58.1-650, and 58.1-1802.1 of the Code of Virginia; and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 58.1-603.3.

Patron--Torian

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendments February 27, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 28, 2024 (37-Y 2-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I approve of the general purpose of this bill, but I am returning it without my signature with the request that the attached amendments be adopted.

Together, the 242 amendments to the HB 29 and HB 30 that I am offering preserve the vast majority of spending priorities as passed by the General Assembly.

The \$64 billion Common Ground Budget eliminates all proposed tax increases, invests a record \$21.2 billion in K-12 education, caps tuition increases at 3%, includes 3% pay raises for teachers and state employees in each year, and increases investments in health and human resources by \$3.2 billion over the biennium.

To be very clear, the budget passed by the General Assembly eliminated over \$850 million of my priority spending items in the introduced budget and \$1 billion of tax relief; the Common Ground budget restores only \$230 million of those priorities. The Common Ground budget includes \$196 million in additional funding for at-risk students, an additional \$1 billion in higher education funding, \$175 million for the Housing Trust Fund, toll relief in Hampton Roads, a full funding of the state's share of WMATA's short-term funding needs, and \$70 million to expedite projects on Interstate-81.

Virginia's Strong Financial Position

Virginia's revenues continue to rise steadily. Annual tax collections rose by 40% in the last five years, fueled by more jobs and economic growth. With the highest labor force in Virginia's history and with more job growth than 42 other states in the last two years, we know that revenues will remain strong even when viewed conservatively against economic uncertainty.

Our reserve fund balances are among the best of any state in the nation. We have over \$4.6 billion in reserve funds representing 15% of our annual general fund spending. Revenue collections are running ahead of the revenue forecast by \$827 million year to date.

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

In short, Virginia can fund priorities and maintain our long-term structural balance without raising taxes. I proposed 1 billion in tax relief in my introduced budget, while the budget passed by the General Assembly included tax increases that would cost Virginians \$2.6 billion in total. Common Ground ~ and common sense ~ says we can write a clean budget without tax increases or tax decreases.

Building on Our Bipartisan Commitment to Funding Education

The Common Ground Budget continues to build on the bipartisan commitment to funding a high-quality education, setting a new two-year record for K-12 education funding, \$21.2 billion, and increasing higher education funding by \$1 billion.

The budget includes a 3% teacher pay raise in each year, on top of 12% teacher pay raises adopted in the last two budget cycles. These 18% teacher pay raises are projected to raise average teacher pay in Virginia above the national average by nearly \$3,500 a year.

The amendments invest over \$800 million for early childhood care and education to support 68,000 early learners previously supported by federal dollars and increase the number of early childhood slot, and increase funding for higher education by \$1 billion, including over \$150 million for affordable access to cap tuition increases at 3%.

The amendments include \$75 million to support PELL grant recipients, \$33 million for financial aid, and \$24 million to support veterans and their families.

Building on Our Bipartisan Commitment to Health and Human Resources

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This includes \$895 million to fully fund Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance, \$169 million in additional Right Help, Right Now investment, \$516 million for over 3,440 development disability waiver slots, and \$56 million to increase personal care attendant reimbursement rates.

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The Common Ground budget provides a total of \$72.5 million over the biennium for community violence intervention programs, including \$20 million to support Operation Ceasefire and \$25 million for the Safer Communities program. The amended budget will provide \$49 million for the School Resource Officer Incentive Grant Fund, and \$4.7 million for increases in Commonwealth Attorney and paralegal positions to address workload needs.

Building On Our Bipartisan Investments in the Commonwealth

The Common Ground budget provides \$90 million over the biennium for site development and \$175 million for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. The amended budgets preserve \$42.5 million over the biennium for anticipated payments and invests \$114 million for biotechnology and life sciences commercialization. In recognition of the leading role the Commonwealth is taking in the celebration of America's semiquincentennial, the Common Ground budget includes \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2025 for capital improvements at historic sites and museums and over \$15 million in priority investments in historic sites and battlefields. The budget includes \$26.5 million to the City of Bristol to help with landfill remediation, \$25 million to the City of Norfolk for Coastal Storm Risk management projects, \$50 million to the City of Richmond for the combined sewer overflow project. Combined with significant funding for agricultural best management practices, the Common Ground budget puts over \$350 million towards state water quality goals.

Finally, the Common Ground budget removes language mandating Virginia rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiatives, while providing \$100 million in general fund in fiscal year 2025 to the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Attached to this letter are my proposed amendments to HB 30. In your review of these proposals, I think you will find they are consistent with the primary objectives that we all have worked toward this year. I respectfully request your adoption of these amendments so that they may be incorporated into the Appropriation Act for the upcoming biennium.

(Governor's Recommendation printed separately)

H.B. 34. An Act to amend and reenact § 8.01-246 of the Code of Virginia, relating to contract actions; medical debt.

Patrons--Clark, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Callsen, Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Delaney, Feggans, Gardner, Glass, Hayes, Henson, Hernandez, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, McQuinn, Price, Rasoul, Sewell, Shin, Simonds, Srinivasan, Thomas, Tran, Ward and Willett; Senators: Bagby, Rouse, Salim, Surovell and Williams Graves

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendment February 29, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 5, 2024 (26-Y 14-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 28, enrolled, after *to the*
strike

first
insert

2. Line 32, enrolled, after *provider*.
insert

In the event of breach of a payment plan, an action is barred if not commenced within three years from the date of breach by the debtor.

H.B. 111. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-311 and 24.2-614 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 24.2 a chapter numbered 2.1, containing articles numbered 1 and 2, consisting of sections numbered 24.2-240 through 24.2-246; and to repeal §§ 24.2-202 through 24.2-205 and Article 6 (§§ 24.2-542, 24.2-542.1, and 24.2-543) of Chapter 5 of Title 24.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electors for President and Vice President of the United States; binding of electors; oaths; vacancies.

Patrons--Sullivan, Helmer and Krizek

Reported from Committee on Privileges and Elections February 20, 2024 (14-Y 0-N 1-A)

Passed Senate February 23, 2024 (32-Y 6-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 124, enrolled, after *first*
strike

Monday
insert

Tuesday

H.B. 125. An Act to amend and reenact § 37.2-804 of the Code of Virginia, relating to special justices and independent evaluator fees; emergency custody and voluntary and involuntary civil admissions.

Patron--Watts

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendments February 27, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 28, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 38, enrolled, after *hardship*.
insert

Any necessary expenses incurred pursuant to subsection A, B, or D shall be paid in accordance with guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 173. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.5 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.5:2, relating to manufacture, import, sale, transfer, or possession of plastic firearms and unfinished frames or receivers and unserialized firearms prohibited; penalties.

Patrons--Simon, Shin, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Gardner, Helmer, Henson, Krizek, McQuinn, Price, Seibold, Sullivan, Tran, Ward and Watts

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109222D) be accepted.

H.B. 184. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-321 of the Code of Virginia, relating to foreclosure procedures; subordinate mortgage; affidavit required.

Patron--Simon

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with substitute February 28, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate with substitute with amendments March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 69, enrolled, after *a*
insert
federal or state chartered
2. Line 69, enrolled, after *union*
strike
as that term is defined in § 6.2-1300

H.B. 187. An Act to establish a process and timeline for increasing the average teacher salary in the Commonwealth to at least the national average teacher salary.

Patrons--Clark, Feggans, Helmer, Hernandez, Rasoul, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Cohen, Cole, Cordoza, Cousins, Glass, Henson, Hope, Jones, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, Price, Seibold, Shin, Simon, Simonds, Thomas and Tran; Senators: Bagby and Salim

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 22, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 27, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109259D) be accepted.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 191. An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-1569 of the Code of Virginia, relating to motor vehicle dealers; sale of franchise.

Patron--Austin

Reported from Committee on Transportation February 15, 2024 (12-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 20, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 166, enrolled, after will
strike
not

H.B. 214. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2347 and 60.2-210 of the Code of Virginia, relating to common interest communities; residents providing certain services exemption.

Patron--Watts

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 14, 2024 (12-Y 3-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 96, enrolled
insert
2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

H.B. 215. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.4, relating to Department of Education; development of Title IX and sexual harassment prevention training modules for students in the ninth and tenth grades.

Patron--Watts

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with substitute February 29, 2024 (12-Y 2-N 1-A)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (22-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 25, enrolled, after *board*
strike
shall
insert
may
2. Line 26, enrolled, after *B*
strike
the remainder of line 26 through *year* on line 27
(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 224. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-298.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public schools; mental health awareness training and instruction; requirements.

Patrons--Henson, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Hope, Maldonado, Martinez, Price, Shin, Tran and Willett; Senators: Salim and Bagby

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with amendments February 29, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 13, enrolled, after *disorders*
strike
the remainder of line 13, all of lines 14, 15, and 16, and through *LGBTQ+* on line 17

H.B. 246. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 19.2-360.1, relating to fines, restitution, forfeiture, penalties, other costs; criminal and traffic cases; itemized statement.

Patrons--Jones, Clark, Henson, Martinez and Rasoul

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 19, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 21, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 9, enrolled, after *court*
insert
, *upon written request*,
2. Line 15, enrolled, after *upon*
insert
written
3. Line 16, enrolled, after *defendant*.
insert
Any such itemized or updated statement shall be provided to the defendant either in person, if he appears in person and furnishes proper identification, or by trackable courier service with signature requirement or first-class mail. The clerk may require payment of a fee of \$10 for processing any such itemized or updated statement.

H.B. 285. An Act to amend and reenact § 36-98.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Uniform Statewide Building Code; bus shelters.

Patrons--McQuinn, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Coyner, Ennis, Henson, LeVere Bolling, Martinez, Shin and Webert; Senators: Bagby and Stanley

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute March 4, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 6, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 67, enrolled, after 1,
strike
2025
insert
2027

H.B. 315. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 8.01-66.9:2, relating to Department of Medical Assistance Services; lien for claim of personal injuries.

Patrons--Simon, Ballard, Garrett and Rasoul

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 29, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 24, enrolled, after *Department*
insert
, with a copy to the Office of the Attorney General,
2. Line 29, enrolled, after *within*
strike
30
insert
45
3. After line 53, enrolled
insert
3. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

H.B. 416. An Act to amend and reenact § 3.01, as amended, § 3.01:1, and §§ 3.02:1 and 3.02:2, as amended, of Chapter 147 of the Acts of Assembly of 1962, which provided a charter for the City of Virginia Beach, and to repeal § 3.02:3 of Chapters 127 and 762 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020, relating to city council; voting districts.

Patron--Convirs-Fowler

Reported from Committee on Local Government February 26, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 70, enrolled
insert
3. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 434. An Act to require the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to require certain facilities to prepare and record *valid* discharge plans.

Patron--Arnold

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 22, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109313D) be accepted.

H.B. 438. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-72 of the Code of Virginia, relating to written complaints; felony offenses.

Patron--Arnold

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 14, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 13, enrolled, after however,
 strike
 the remainder of line 13, all of line 14, and through A on line 15
 insert
 a
2. Line 16, enrolled, after *officer*.
 insert
 If no arrest warrant is issued in response to a written complaint made by such complainant, the written complaint shall be returned to the complainant.

H.B. 446. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 5.1-2.25, relating to abandoned or derelict aircraft.

Patron--Williams

Reported from Committee on Transportation with amendments February 15, 2024 (13-Y 2-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 21, 2024 (29-Y 11-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached Amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109346D) be accepted.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 452. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-251 of the Code of Virginia, relating to first-time drug offenders.

Patrons--Callsen, Clark, Glass and Lopez

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with substitute February 21, 2024 (10-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 26, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109197D) be accepted.

H.B. 498. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-79.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school board policies; parental notification; safe storage of firearms in the household.

Patrons--Cohen, Callsen, Reaser, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Cousins, Price and Tran

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 15, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 82, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. The Department of Education shall (i) collaborate with relevant stakeholders to create a list of (a) parental rights, including the right to be notified of sexually explicit materials, to express disagreement with a school's or a school board's policies or decisions, and to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child, and (b) parental responsibilities, including safeguarding their child against access to drugs, ensuring their child is protected from exploitation or abuse, maintaining their child's school attendance, participating in their child's school discipline proceedings, monitoring their child's behavioral and educational process, and, if applicable, paying child support; and (ii) develop an efficient method for distributing such list to parents at the beginning of each school year. The Department of Education shall submit a report on such list to the Chairs of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by December 1, 2024.

H.B. 536. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-276.01 of the Code of Virginia, relating to student bullying; definition; characteristics of victim.

Patrons--Cole, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Henson, McClure and Carr

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 29, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 15, enrolled, after victim
strike
the remainder of line 15 through (§ 2.2-3900 *et seq.*) on line 16
insert
for any reason

H.B. 568. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-811, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, and 58.1-3607 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal §§ 58.1-3650.31 and 58.1-3650.716, relating to tax exemptions; Confederacy organizations.

Patrons--Askew, Cole, Bennett-Parker, Convirs-Fowler, Hernandez, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, McClure, Srinivasan, Sullivan and Willett; Senator: Williams Graves

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 15, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 20, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 255, enrolled
insert
 3. That the Department of Taxation (the Department) shall study (i) exemptions to the state recordation tax and the effect of such exemptions on state government revenues and (ii) exemptions to real and personal property tax by classification or designation prior to and on July 1, 1971, and the effect of such exemptions on local government revenues. The Department shall submit a report to the Chairs of House Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2024.
 4. That the provisions of the first and second enactments of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

H.B. 576. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-1102 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Board for Contractors; required regulations and disclosures.

Patrons--Glass and Clark

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology with substitute February 21, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 26, 2024 (37-Y 3-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109315D) be accepted.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 588. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1240 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; fire or casualty damage; termination by landlord.

Patrons--McClure, Clark, Henson and Shin

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 14, 2024 (12-Y 3-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (30-Y 9-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 42, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. That the Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department) shall review all amendments made to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (§ 55.1-1200 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) within the past five years and the effects of such amendments on the cost, accessibility, and availability of rental dwelling units in the Commonwealth. The Department shall also conduct an analysis of whether such amendments have facilitated or hindered the Commonwealth's efforts to address statewide housing needs. The Department shall submit a report on its findings by December 1, 2024, to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology.

H.B. 597. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1259 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; enforcement by localities.

Patrons--Price, Bennett-Parker, Glass and LeVere Bolling

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 14, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 27, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. That the Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department) shall submit a report by December 1, 2024, to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology detailing all amendments made to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (§ 55.1-1200 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), as amended by this act, within the past five years and the effects such amendments have had on the cost, accessibility, and availability of rental dwelling units in the Commonwealth. The Department shall also provide in its report an analysis of whether such amendments have facilitated or hindered the Commonwealth's efforts to address statewide housing needs.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 603. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-207 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public schools; health instruction; certain topics relating to mental health.

Patrons--Price, LeVere Bolling, Mundon King, Willett, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Gardner, Henson, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Maldonado, McClure, McQuinn, Reid, Seibold, Shin, Simonds, Srinivasan, Sullivan, Thomas and Ward

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 22, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 19, enrolled, after of
strike
social and emotional learning
insert
life skills

H.B. 609. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 21, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-376, 32.1-377, and 32.1-378, relating to contraception; right to contraception; applicability; enforcement.

Patrons--Price, Cohen, LeVere Bolling, Mundon King, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Bulova, Callsen, Carr, Cole, Cousins, Delaney, Feggans, Gardner, Hayes, Helmer, Henson, Hernandez, Herring, Hope, Laufer, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, Reaser, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Thomas, Tran, Watts and Willett

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with substitute February 22, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 26, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109326D) be accepted.

H.B. 611. An Act to amend and reenact § 9.1-192 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 15 of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-192.1, relating to civilian deaths in custody; report.

Patrons--Price, McQuinn, Seibold, Bennett-Parker, Cousins and Glass

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 29, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109250D) be accepted.

H.B. 615. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-364, 22.1-365 and 22.1-367 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board; purpose and duties; historically underrepresented students.

Patron--Price

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 22, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109278D) be accepted.

H.B. 624. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-199.1, 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-299.2, and 51.1-617 of the Code of Virginia, relating to ratios of instructional positions to English language learner students; At-Risk Program established; National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program grants; special education staffing; report.

Patrons--Rasoul, Cole, Feggans, Simonds, Thomas, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Bulova, Callsen, Carr, Clark, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Gardner, Glass, Hayes, Helmer, Henson, Hernandez, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, McQuinn, Mundon King, Price, Reaser, Reid, Seibold, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Simon, Srinivasan, Sullivan, Tran, Ward, Watts and Willett

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations March 4, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 6, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 385, enrolled
insert

4. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

5. That the Department of Education shall collaborate with the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding to determine the impact of transitioning the at-risk student proxy from the free lunch percentage to the identified student percentage for all Direct Aid accounts and funding formulas that currently use the free lunch percentage proxy and to determine the impact of eliminating the Standards of Quality Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation program and related staffing standard, prescribed by § 22.1-253.13:2 of the Code of Virginia, on school division funding and other Direct Aid accounts.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 625. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-199.7 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public education; community schools; Office of Community Schools at Department of Education; Community School Development and Implementation Planning Grant; state goal.

Patrons--Rasoul, Cousins, Glass, Keys-Gamarra and Tran; Senator: Aird

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute March 4, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 6, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109322D) be accepted.

H.B. 653. An Act to amend and reenact § 17.1-805 of the Code of Virginia, relating to adoption of initial discretionary sentencing guideline midpoints; violent felony offenses.

Patron--Coyner

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 86, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

H.B. 673. An Act to amend and reenact § 10.1-603.29 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund; projects; low-income geographic areas.

Patrons--Feggans, Anthony, Askew, Callsen, Carr, Cohen, Cole, Hayes, Hernandez, Herring, Hope, Laufer, Lopez, Martinez, McClure, Mundon King, Thomas, Torian, Watts and Willett

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 15, 2024 (14-Y 1-N)

Passed Senate February 20, 2024 (28-Y 11-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 18, enrolled, after *projects that*
strike

the remainder of line 18 and through *solutions* on line 19

insert

are located in a locality designated as having a very low community resilience rating under a standard adopted by the Department

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 707. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 59.1-575, 59.1-578, and 59.1-580 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Consumer Data Protection Act; protections for children.

Patrons--Maldonado, Cherry, Sewell and Sullivan; Senator: Aird

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109274D) be accepted.

H.B. 738. An Act to amend and reenact Chapter 147 of the Acts of Assembly of 2013 and to amend and reenact §§ 8.01-337, 20-108, 20-124.7, 22.1-287.04, 23.1-508.1, 24.2-452, 44-93.1, 54.1-3601, and 55.1-615 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Space Force; extension of certain benefits and privileges for persons serving in a branch of the Armed Forces.

Patrons--Sewell, Ballard, Glass and Wiley

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 14, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the amendment in the nature of a substitute (24108766D) be accepted.

H.B. 740. An Act to amend and reenact § 8.01-128 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unlawful detainer; bifurcation.

Patrons--Cousins, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Henson and Martinez

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 21, enrolled, after *court*
strike
shall not
insert
may deny such request to

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 746. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 56-576 and 56-596.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to energy efficiency programs; incremental annual savings.

Patrons--Webert, Lopez, Maldonado, Shin, Sullivan, Clark, Feggans, Helmer, Henson and McClure

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor with substitute February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute with amendment February 29, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 113, enrolled, after *regulations*
insert

and that the net present value of the benefits exceeds the net present value of the costs as determined by the Total Resource Cost Test

H.B. 781. An Act to reestablish the Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures; report.

Patrons--Herring, Cousins, Keys-Gamarra and McQuinn

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with amendment February 22, 2024 (9-Y 5-N 1-A)

Passed Senate with amendment February 26, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109298D) be accepted.

H.B. 782. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3901, 2.2-3907, and 2.2-3908 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Human Rights Act; dual-filed civil actions.

Patron--Herring

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology with amendments February 21, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 26, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 26, enrolled
strike
all of lines 26 and 27
2. Line 87, enrolled, after *any*
insert
complaint or
3. Line 87, enrolled, after *discrimination*
strike
the remainder of line 87 and through *by* on line 88
insert
for which

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

4. Line 88, enrolled, after *by the complainant*

strike

the remainder of line 88 and through *discrimination* on line 89

insert

has received a Notice of Right to Sue from the E.E.O.C., the general district or circuit court having jurisdiction shall accept the E.E.O.C. Notice of Right to Sue as a notice of the right to file a civil action under subsection H

H.B. 786. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 64.2-2009 and 64.2-2012 of the Code of Virginia, relating to guardianship and conservatorship; restoration or modification or termination of order; informal written communication.

Patron--Hope

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 26, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 117, enrolled, after *section*

strike

, [the comma]

insert

or

2. Line 117, enrolled, after *hearing*

strike

the remainder of line 117 and through *relief* on line 118

3. Line 119, enrolled, after *serving*.

strike

The court's

insert

Any court

4. Line 119, enrolled, after *response*

strike

the remainder of line 119 and through *to the* on line 120

insert

, whether to set the matter for hearing or take no action, shall be issued in the form of a

5. Line 120, enrolled, after *court*

insert

order

H.B. 790. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-246.8, 18.2-371.2, 22.1-79.5, 22.1-206, 22.1-279.6, 58.1-1021.01, 58.1-1021.02, 58.1-1021.04:1, 58.1-1021.04:5, 59.1-293.10, and 59.1-293.11 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2.1 of Chapter 10 of Title 58.1 sections numbered 58.1-1021.06 through 58.1-1021.09 and by adding in Chapter 23.2 of Title 59.1 sections numbered 59.1-293.12, 59.1-293.13, and 59.1-293.14, relating to purchase, possession, and sale of retail tobacco products; retail tobacco products and liquid nicotine tax; penalties.

Patrons--Hope, Clark, Feggans, Seibold, Thomas, Cole and Hernandez

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 27, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 28, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 642, enrolled, after *two*
insert
packages of

H.B. 800. An Act to amend and reenact § 56-466.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public service companies; pole attachments; cable television systems and telecommunications service providers.

Patrons--Herring, Austin, Hayes, Lopez, Clark, Henson, Kilgore, Knight, Leftwich, Maldonado, Martinez, Shin, Wiley and Wyatt

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 29, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 191, enrolled, after *days*
insert
, provided, however, that either period may be extended by Commission order for an additional period not to exceed 60 days

H.B. 812. An Act to repeal § 46.2-746.22 and Chapter 235 of the Acts of Assembly of 2007, relating to special license plates; Sons of Confederate Veterans and Robert E. Lee.

Patrons--Mundon King, Cohen, Helmer, Lopez, Shin, Clark, Cole, Hayes, Henson, Hope, Jones, Seibold, Simonds and Tran

Reported from Committee on Transportation February 22, 2024 (8-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 27, 2024 (21-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 11, enrolled
insert
 4. That the provisions of the first, second, and third enactments of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.
 5. That the Department of Motor Vehicles shall study the implementation of a uniform schedule for the expiration of acts establishing special license plates, commonly known as sunset provisions. The study shall include (i) an analysis of the effects on state revenue, (ii) recommendations for establishing standardized criteria for sunset provisions for special license plates with low circulation or expired legislative authorization, and (iii) recommendations for a requirement that any future special license plates approved by the General Assembly have sunset provisions. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Transportation and Senate Committee on Transportation no later than November 1, 2024.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 819. An Act to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.5:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices.

Patrons--Mundon King, Helmer, Srinivasan, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Clark, Cohen, Glass, Henson, Hernandez, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Sewell, Shin, Simonds, Tran and Watts

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 21, 2024 (11-Y 3-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 23, 2024 (23-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 61, enrolled
insert

H. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted or construed to apply to any nongovernmental plan sponsor that is exempt under federal or state law based on sincerely held religious or ethical beliefs.

H.B. 824. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-163 and 19.2-163.4:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to rate of fees; legal representation of indigent defendant.

Patrons--Cousins, Rasoul, Shin, Bennett-Parker, Callsen, Clark, Cohen, Glass, Henson, Martinez, McQuinn, Simonds and Ward

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109369D) be accepted.

H.B. 852. An Act to amend and reenact § 27-14 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local government ordinances related to fire departments; billing on behalf of volunteer fire departments.

Patron--Williams

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology with amendment February 28, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 4, 2024

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 13, enrolled, after *the*
strike
provision
insert
support
2. Line 13, enrolled, after *provision of*
insert
a licensed

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

3. Line 14, enrolled, after *services*
insert
agency

H.B. 861. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-283.3, relating to weapons; possession or transportation; hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services; penalty.

Patrons--Hernandez, Laufer, Thomas, Callsen, Clark, Feggans, Henson, Hope, Martinez, McClure and Shin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109201D) be accepted.

H.B. 904. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 24.2-401, 24.2-404, 24.2-408, 24.2-409, 24.2-410, 24.2-410.1, 24.2-427, 24.2-435, 24.2-444, and 24.2-703.1 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-407.2, by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 24.2 an article numbered 2.1 and by adding in such article sections numbered 24.2-407.3 and 24.2-410.3 through 24.2-410.6, and by adding a section numbered 24.2-426.1; and to repeal §§ 24.2-404.3, 24.2-404.4, 24.2-410.2, 24.2-428, 24.2-428.1, and 24.2-428.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to voter registration; list maintenance activities; cancellation procedures; record matches; required identification information; data standards.

Patrons--Price, Clark and Glass

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 29, 2024 (10-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 1082, enrolled, after **of**

strike

the remainder of line 1082, all of line 1083, and through **course** on line 1084

insert

the first and second enactments of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly

2. After line 1084, enrolled

insert

4. That the Department of Elections (the Department) shall convene a work group to examine and make recommendations regarding data collection and sharing for voter list maintenance. The work group shall include representatives of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Health, Virginia State Police, Virginia Information Technologies Agency, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, Virginia Court Clerks Association, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys, and Voter Registrars Association of Virginia and other stakeholders as may be deemed necessary by the Department. The Department shall submit the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections by November 30, 2024.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 906. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 21 of Title 15.2 an article numbered 2.1, consisting of sections numbered 15.2-2121.1, 15.2-2121.2, and 15.2-2121.3, by adding in Chapter 3.2 of Title 44 a section numbered 44-146.29:4, and by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 56 sections numbered 56-245.1:3 and 56-245.1:4, relating to public utilities; municipal utilities; disconnection of service; limitations; consumer protections.

Patrons--Shin, Hernandez, McClure, Reaser, Glass and Price

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 28, 2024 (12-Y 3-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 1, 2024 (38-Y 2-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 51, enrolled, after *least*
strike
two
insert
one
2. Line 54, enrolled, after *is*
strike
60
insert
45

H.B. 950. An Act to temporarily prohibit modifications to the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

Patrons--Lopez and Sullivan

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109353D) be accepted.

H.B. 955. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 36-139 and 55.1-1204 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; Department of Housing and Community Development; summary of rental agreement provisions.

Patrons--Lopez, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Henson and Martinez

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109380D) be accepted.

H.B. 957. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 55.1-1243.2, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; tenant's remedies for exclusion from dwelling unit due to condemnation.

Patrons--Lopez, Clark, Glass, Henson and Martinez; Senators: Favola and Salim

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (12-Y 3-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 13, enrolled, after *damages*
strike
the remainder of line 13 through *fees* on line 14

H.B. 962. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-1604, 2.2-4310, 2.2-4311.1, 4.1-203.1, 6.2-2107.1, 13.1-753, 13.1-769, 13.1-915, 13.1-931, 13.1-1050.3, 13.1-1056.2, 13.1-1238.2, 13.1-1246.2, 18.2-308.09, 18.2-308.2:3, 19.2-81.6, 19.2-294.2, 22.1-287, 23.1-503, 32.1-343, 38.2-6500, 40.1-11.1, 46.2-328.1, 46.2-341.12, 47.1-2, 50-73.52:6, 50-73.58:2, 53.1-218, 53.1-219, 53.1-220.1, 53.1-220.2, 55.1-100, 58.1-904, 60.2-214, 60.2-617, 64.2-203, 65.2-101, and 66-3.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to persons who are not citizens or nationals of the United States; terminology.

Patrons--Lopez, Shin, Clark, Henson, Martinez, Rasoul and Watts; Senators: Favola and Salim

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 1623, enrolled
insert
 2. That the Virginia Code Commission shall convene a work group that includes representatives from the Office of the Attorney General and other relevant stakeholders to review the Code of Virginia for use of the term "alien" as it pertains to persons who are not citizens or nationals of the United States. The Virginia Code Commission shall submit a report summarizing the review and any recommendations of the work group to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice by November 1, 2024.
 3. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 967. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 55.1-1204.1, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; fee disclosure statement.

Patrons--Lopez, Shin, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Henson, Martinez, Rasoul and Simonds

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 21, 2024 (8-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (24-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109287D) be accepted.

H.B. 992. An Act to direct local departments of social services to enter into agreements with local workforce development boards regarding coordinated workforce development services for certain public benefits program participants.

Patrons--Tran and Glass

Reported from Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services with amendment March 1, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 5, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 13, enrolled, after *requirements*
strike
established
insert
agreed to
2. Line 13, enrolled, after *by*
insert
both the local workforce development board and
3. Line 13, enrolled, after *Services.*
strike
the remainder of line 13, all of line 14, and through *services.* on line 15

H.B. 993. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1208 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; prohibited provisions; fees for maintenance and periodic payments.

Patrons--Tran, McClure, Price, Shin, Srinivasan, Hernandez and Krizek

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology with substitute February 21, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 26, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

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House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 3, enrolled, Title, after *for*
strike
maintenance and
2. Line 31, enrolled, after *C.*

strike
the remainder of line 31, all of line 32, and through *D.* on line 33

H.B. 996. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 55.1-1200, 55.1-1203, 55.1-1303, and 55.1-1311 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; notice of tenant screening criteria.

Patrons--Anthony, Callsen, Clark, Glass, Price, Bennett-Parker, Cousins, Gardner, Hernandez and Shin

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 2, enrolled, Title, after §§
strike
55.1-1200,
2. Line 8, enrolled, after §§
strike
55.1-1200,
3. Line 10, enrolled
strike
all of lines 10 through 155
4. Line 158, enrolled, after *manner*
strike
(*i*)
5. Line 159, enrolled, after *refundable*
strike
the remainder of line 159, all of line 160, and through *application* on line 161
6. Line 162, enrolled, after 2.
strike
the remainder of line 162, all of lines 163 through 167, and through 3. on line 168
7. At the beginning of line 176, enrolled, after application.
strike
the remainder of line 176 and through *subdivision.* on line 177
8. Line 225, enrolled, after *such expenses and damages*
strike
the remainder of line 225 and through *subdivision* on line 226

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 1055. An Act to amend and reenact § 23.1-2002, as it may become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to board of directors of Eastern Virginia Health Sciences Center at Old Dominion University; membership; meetings.

Patron--Knight

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 29, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 56, enrolled
insert

J. Any member of the standing committee may be removed for malfeasance, misfeasance, incompetence, or gross neglect of duty by the individual or the entity that appointed such member or, if such appointing individual no longer holds the office creating the right of appointment, by the current holder of that office.

H.B. 1062. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 56-594 and 56-594.02 of the Code of Virginia, relating to net energy metering; eligible customer-generators and eligible agricultural customer-generators.

Patrons--Willett, Helmer and Lopez

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor February 19, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 22, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 180, enrolled, after agricultural customer-generator.
strike
the remainder of line 180 and all of lines 181, 182, and 183

H.B. 1069. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 59.1-200 and 59.1-293.10 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 23.2 of Title 59.1 sections numbered 59.1-293.12 through 59.1-293.19, relating to liquid nicotine and nicotine vapor products; certification and directory; penalties.

Patrons--Willett, Seibold and Carr

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 28, 2024 (37-Y 2-N)

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House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 244, enrolled, after *31*,
strike
2024
insert
2025
2. Line 356, enrolled, after *31*,
strike
2024
insert
2025
3. Line 360, enrolled, after *31*,
strike
2024
insert
2025
4. Line 378, enrolled, after *the*
strike
Attorney General
insert
attorney for the Commonwealth or the attorney for the county, city, or town
5. Line 380, enrolled, after *H*.
insert
Any civil penalties assessed under this section in an action brought in the name of a locality shall be paid into the general fund of the locality.
I.
6. Line 380, enrolled, after *fees*
strike
and penalties
7. Line 380, enrolled, after *this*
strike
section
insert
chapter
8. Line 383, enrolled, after *contrary*,
strike
the remainder of line 383 and through *General*, on line 383
9. Line 384, enrolled, after *Commonwealth*
strike
, [the comma]
10. Line 386, after *Commonwealth*
strike
, [the comma]
11. Line 392, enrolled, after *C*.
strike
the remainder of line 392, all of lines 393, 394, and 395, and through *D*. on line 396
12. At the beginning of line 398, enrolled
strike
E.
insert
D.
13. After line 405, enrolled
insert
2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 1071. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-878 and 46.2-1300 of the Code of Virginia, relating to speed limits; local authority.

Patrons--Carr, Henson and Jones

Reported from Committee on Transportation February 15, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 21, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 73, enrolled
insert

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. That the Department of Transportation (the Department) shall study the potential expansion of localities' authority to decrease speed limits on highways within the jurisdiction of the locality. The study shall assess (i) the necessity of engineering studies, (ii) the authority to revert speed limits, (iii) potential safety and operational concerns, (iv) financial implications for localities and the Department, (v) compliance with requirements of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and (vi) the requirements and costs associated with signage. The Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Transportation and the Senate Committee on Transportation no later than November 1, 2024.

H.B. 1128. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-1627.5, 63.2-100, 63.2-1505, and 63.2-1506.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to children's advocacy centers; definitions; investigations by local departments of social services.

Patrons--Bennett-Parker and Kilgore

Reported from Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services February 16, 2024 (12-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 20, 2024 (40-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 175, enrolled, after (ii)
strike

the remainder of line 175 and through *Alliance* on line 176

insert

has completed, or is in the process of completing, certain accreditation obligations and requires any forensic interview conducted at such facility to only be conducted by a trained child forensic interviewer in a multidisciplinary team collaborative effort

2. Line 178, enrolled, after *means*
strike

the remainder of line 178 and through *and* on line 179

3. Line 293, enrolled
strike

all of lines 293 and 294

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 1130. An Act to direct the Board of Medicine to require certain licensees to complete training on unconscious bias and cultural competency as part of their continuing education and continuing competency requirements for licensure.

Patrons--Hayes, Clark, Coyner, Bennett-Parker, McQuinn, Price and Shin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 21, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (32-Y 7-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109382D) be accepted.

H.B. 1157. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-401.01, 10.1-1003, 10.1-1188, 10.1-2206.1, 10.1-2214, 10.1-2305, 56-46.1, and 62.1-266 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 10.1-104.02, 10.1-1186.3:1, 10.1-2205.1, and 28.2-104.01, relating to consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth; permits and reviews with potential impacts on environmental, cultural, and historic resources.

Patrons--Krizek, Lopez, Carr, Helmer and Simonds

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute March 4, 2024 (14-Y 0-N 1-A)

Passed Senate with substitute March 6, 2024 (23-Y 16-N 1-A)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 329, enrolled, after *Commonwealth, the*
strike
the remainder of line 329 through *issued* on line 330
insert
Department shall consult and seek consensus with such federally recognized Tribal Nation in the Commonwealth in the consideration and drafting of the permit document
2. Line 575, enrolled, after **act.**
strike
the remainder of line 575 and all of lines 576, 577, and 578
insert
Such regulations shall provide that when consultation with federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Commonwealth has been or is being conducted pursuant to federal law for a particular undertaking and the Commonwealth is already involved in such consultation, such consultation shall suffice to meet the requirements of this act.

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 1272. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1204 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; copy of rental agreement for tenant.

Patrons--Callsen, Clark and Glass

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 70, enrolled, after *with*
insert
an
2. Line 70, enrolled, after *hard*
strike
copies
insert
copy
3. Line 70, enrolled, after *agreement*
insert
once per year
4. Line 72, enrolled, after *additional*
insert
electronic

H.B. 1372. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 47.1-2, 47.1-16, and 47.1-20.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to notaries; definitions; knowledge-based authentication assessment.

Patron--Simon

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 28, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 110, enrolled, after knowledge
unstrike
, [the comma]
2. Line 110, enrolled, after knowledge;
strike
or
3. Line 111, enrolled, after *notary*
insert
or is identified pursuant to clause (c)
4. Line 111, enrolled, after *notary*
unstrike
, [the comma]
5. Line 111, enrolled, after *or*
unstrike
(e)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 1397. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 55.1-1308.1 and 55.1-1308.2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 55.1-1308.3, 55.1-1308.4, and 55.1-1308.5, relating to Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; manufactured home park; notice of sale; relocation expenses; right of first refusal for locality.

Patrons--Krizek and Delaney

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendments March 4, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with substitute with amendments March 6, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 2, enrolled, Title, after *reenact*
strike
§§
insert
§
2. Line 2, enrolled, Title, after *55.1-1308.1*
strike
and 55.1-1308.2
3. Line 2, enrolled, Title, after Virginia
strike
the remainder of line 2 and through *55.1-1308.5* on line 3
4. Line 4, enrolled, Title, after *expenses*
strike
the remainder of line 4 and through *locality* on line 5
5. Line 9, enrolled, after **That**
strike
§§
insert
§
6. Line 9, enrolled, after **55.1-1308.1**
strike
and 55.1-1308.2
7. Line 9, enrolled, after **Virginia**
strike
are
insert
is
8. Line 9, enrolled, after **reenacted**
strike
the remainder of line 9, all of line 10, and through **55.1-1308.5** on line 11
9. Line 26, enrolled
strike
all of lines 26 through 146

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

H.B. 1404. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-1604, 2.2-1605, 2.2-1610, 2.2-4310, 2.2-4310.3, and 23.1-1017 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 16.1 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered 2.2-1618 through 2.2-1622, relating to the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity; Small SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program established; disparity study report.

Patrons--Ward and Torian

Reported from Committee on Rules March 1, 2024 (9-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 448, engrossed, after **That**
strike

the remainder of line 448 and all of lines 449 through 459

insert

the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.

3. That the Department of General Services (DGS) shall, in coordination with other interested agencies, including the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, the Department of Transportation, and covered institutions, convene a work group to review the issues presented by the first enactment of this act. In its review, DGS shall (i) invite and obtain input from public and private stakeholders, including members of the business community interested in state procurement and the small SWaM business program in particular; (ii) assess the provisions of this act and what steps are needed to best position Virginia for success with an enhanced small SWaM business program; and (iii) report to the Governor and the General Assembly its findings and any recommendations by December 1, 2024.

4. That the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (DSBSD) shall contract with a qualified independent entity to conduct a disparity study. The procurement for a new disparity study shall be completed by January 1, 2025. The disparity study shall evaluate (i) the availability and utilization of small, micro, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses and differences between categories of state procurement, such as by the types of goods and services needed or procured by state agencies; (ii) the disparities that exist between such availability and utilization; and (iii) the need for and available remedies that may be employed consistent with current federal law to address such disparities and past discrimination. The study shall also take into account past disparity studies conducted by Virginia and related legislative reporting, such as the September 2020 JLARC Report 537, Operations and Performance of the Department of Small Business & Supplier Diversity, and evaluate Virginia's progress toward the recommendations of those studies. State agencies and covered institutions shall cooperate with and assist in DSBSD's efforts and the new disparity study as needed.

H.B. 1415. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-2306 of the Code of Virginia, relating to civil penalty for demolition of historic structures.

Patrons--McQuinn, Clark, Convirs-Fowler, Green, Henson, Martinez, Rasoul and Simonds

Reported from Committee on Local Government February 26, 2024 (10-Y 3-N 2-A)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (24-Y 15-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 120, enrolled, after *exceed*
insert
twice
2. Line 120, enrolled, after *of the*
insert
razed, demolished, or moved building or structure on the
3. Line 122, enrolled, after *structure.*
strike
the remainder of line 122 and through *located.* on line 123

H.B. 1491. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-585.1:14, relating to Phase I Utility; recovery of development costs associated with small modular nuclear facility.

Patron--O'Quinn

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 29, 2024 (20-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the attached Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (24109355D) be accepted.

H.B. 1504. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-272.1:1, relating to Board of Education; guidelines on school-connected overdose policies; response and parental notification.

Patron--Seibold

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with substitute February 15, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 19, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That the amendment in the nature of a substitute (24109243D) be accepted.

H.B. 1505. An Act to amend and reenact § 23.1-408.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to intercollegiate athletics; student-athletes; compensation for name, image, or likeness.

Patrons--Austin and Kilgore

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute March 4, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 6, 2024 (39-Y 1-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills with Governor's Recommendations

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. Line 114, enrolled, after **2.**
strike
the remainder of line 114, all of line 115, and through **3.** on line 116

H.B. 1519. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 55.1-1208, 59.1-199, and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fees for electronic fund transfers; prohibited.

Patrons--Srinivasan and Tran

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology with substitute February 28, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

1. After line 270, enrolled
insert
 2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2025 Session of the General Assembly.
 3. That the State Corporation Commission is directed to assess the amendments to the Code of Virginia made by the first enactment of this act and report its findings to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 1. An Act to amend and reenact § 40.1-28.10 of the Code of Virginia, relating to minimum wage.

Patrons--Ward, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Clark, Henson, McClure, McQuinn, Price, Shin and Simon; Senator: McPike

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 21, 2024 (10-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1, which mandates an 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.

Even without my signature, current law mandates an increased 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, starting in October 2024. This approach is preferable, allowing wages to adjust over time in response to economic conditions. In contrast, the proposed mandate will harm Virginia's economic progress.

Implementing a \$15-per-hour wage mandate may not impact Northern Virginia, where economic conditions create a higher cost of living, 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.

This proposal is an arbitrary, mandatory 25% increase in the starting wages of all employees. Contrary to ensuring higher compensation, 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.

(continued on next page)

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

This proposal also harms Virginia's economic competitiveness. Neighboring states have reduced business costs and encouraged investment, resulting in thriving economies. The net out-migration of over one hundred thousand residents from Virginia between 2012 and 2021, primarily to states like North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia, none of which have wage mandates.

Contrary to the proponents' claims, the proposal is unlikely to attract jobs to the Commonwealth. Virginia is experiencing a population decline to states with lower minimum wages while gaining population from states with higher minimum wages. Instead of adopting the failed economic policies of states with stagnant economies and persistent fiscal distress to our northeast, Virginia should emulate states prioritizing tax relief and efficient government.

Successful states recognize that the government does not need to set labor prices; instead, they prioritize creating an economic environment conducive to wage growth. The Commonwealth should adopt this approach, reducing taxes, reducing regulations, reforming workforce programs, and investing in public education. Allowing the free market to operate is the only proven long-term path toward sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 2. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-915.5, 18.2-308.09, 18.2-308.2:1, 18.2-308.2:2, 18.2-308.2:3, 18.2-308.2:5, 18.2-308.7, and 19.2-386.28 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 18.2-287.4:1, 18.2-287.4:2, 18.2-308.1:9, and 18.2-309.1, relating to purchase, possession, sale, transfer, etc., of assault firearms and certain ammunition feeding devices prohibited; penalty.

Patrons--Helmer, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Feggans, McClure, Anthony, Askew, Bulova, Callsen, Carr, Cohen, Gardner, Hayes, Henson, Hernandez, Herring, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Martinez, Price, Rasoul, Reaser, Reid, Scott, D., Seibold, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Simon, Srinivasan, Sullivan, Tran, Ward, Watts and Willett

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 2, which creates new penalties for transferring and possessing certain firearms containing certain components.

The Constitution precludes the Commonwealth from prohibiting a broad category of firearms widely embraced for lawful purposes, such as self-defense. Despite this, certain members of the General Assembly have pursued legislation banning most contemporary semiautomatic firearms and specific ammunition-feeding devices.

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 has reduced penalties for criminals, contributing to violent crime. Enhancing penalties for crimes committed with firearms will reverse this trend. Our most significant gap, however, has been in our behavioral health system, which 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 our constitutional rights.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 4. An Act to amend and reenact § 58.1-1745 of the Code of Virginia, relating to plastic bag tax; distribution to towns.

Patrons--Martinez and Reid

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

(continued on next page)

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 4, which distributes revenues collected from the plastic bag tax to towns.

Plastic bag taxes fail to achieve their intended goals and burden Virginians amid escalating inflation. Redirecting tax revenues to towns may further encourage governmental reliance on these taxes, exacerbating the issue.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 26. An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-643 of the Code of Virginia, relating to voter identification; accepted forms of identification; private entities licensed or certified by certain state agencies.

Patron--Reid

Reported from Committee on Privileges and Elections February 20, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 26, which adds privately issued identifications to the accepted forms of voter identification.

Virginia currently permits various acceptable forms of voter identification, including a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document containing the name and address of the voter, including an expired driver's license. Virginia Voter Photo Identification Cards are issued to eligible voters without charge.

Expanding this list presents additional complexities for poll workers in discerning which forms of identification are acceptable.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 45. An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-202.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to earned sentence credits; incarceration prior to entry of final order of conviction.

Patrons--Seibold, Askew, Clark, Gardner, Glass, Henson, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, Maldonado, Martinez, Rasoul, Shin, Simon, Simonds and Willett; Senators: Bagby, Favola and Salim

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendments March 4, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute with amendments March 6, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 45 which includes incarceration prior to entry of the final order of conviction in the calculations for eligibility of earned sentence credits.

The proposal allows inmates to receive earned sentence credits for time served before a conviction, including time spent in state hospitals and retroactively applies to those serving sentences. This is a further departure from the Commonwealth's historical and bipartisan truth-in-sentencing policy.

The ramifications of such a policy shift are alarming. Not only would it necessitate recalculating virtually every inmate's sentence, but it would also undermine public safety by releasing individuals at a heightened risk of re-offending. Data shows that similar measures have led to higher re-arrest rates, increased volumes of new convictions, and elevated recidivism risks.

Applying broadened earned sentence credits raises serious concerns for the justice system and public safety. Eligibility for these credits extends to individuals who are already parole-eligible, leading to absurd outcomes where offenders currently under supervision could be released prematurely.

Lastly, the proposal bill fails to shield the Commonwealth from potential legal liabilities adequately. While it may offer limited protection against specific claims brought under § 8.01-195.11, it does not provide protections brought under Tort Claims Against the Commonwealth of Virginia (§ 8.01-195.1 et seq.) and cannot shield claims brought under federal law. The burden placed on our judicial system by these potential lawsuits, coupled with the resources required for sentence recalculations, further underscore the impracticality and recklessness of this bill.

(continued on next page)

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

By prioritizing leniency over accountability, it disregards the interests of victims and places our communities at risk. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 46. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-308.1:4 and 18.2-308.1:8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to firearm transfers to another person from a prohibited person.

Patrons--Bennett-Parker, Helmer, Carr, Price, Shin, Simon and Tran

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 14, 2024 (6-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (20-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 46, which relates to firearm transfers to another person from a person subject to a protective order or convicted of a misdemeanor.

I 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.

The legislation fails to achieve its intended purpose and is unnecessary. 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. Additionally, all firearm transfers are currently limited to individuals who are legally allowed to possess firearms.

To avoid 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, which contradicts our current legal age of possession, on certain transfers adds further confusion.

As I advocate for greater protections for victims, I strongly urge the General Assembly to shift its focus towards proven strategies aimed at combatting violent crime - mandatory minimums for armed criminals and the presumption against bail.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 47. An Act to amend and reenact § 10.1-104.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to invasive plant species; retail sales; civil penalty.

Patrons--Seibold, Helmer, Reid, Askew, Clark, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Gardner, Henson, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Laufer, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, Shin, Simon, Simonds and Tran; Senators: Marsden and Salim

Reported from Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources with substitute February 16, 2024 (12-Y 2-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 22, 2024 (31-Y 9-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 47, which creates civil penalties for the retail sale of certain plant species.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (the Department) already publishes and distributes educational information related to invasive plant species and the benefits of planting native species. Virginia should continue to educate consumers about invasive plant species and encourage them to seek alternatives.

The proposal, however, places additional requirements and imposes civil penalties on Virginia's small businesses for the sale of plants with low levels of invasiveness, such as periwinkle and winter honeysuckle.

Additionally, the Department's invasive species list would function as the legally binding authority regarding invasive species, circumventing the Administrative Process Act, which involves a public notice and comment period.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 63. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-262.01 and 19.2-295 of the Code of Virginia, relating to criminal cases; request for a jury to ascertain punishment.

Patron--Simon

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 19, 2024 (8-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 21, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 63, which relates to requests for a jury to ascertain punishment.

The proposal allows an accused individual to withdraw a jury sentencing request until the commencement of the sentencing proceeding and allows counsel to examine jurors regarding the potential range of punishment regardless of whether the jury will provide a sentence.

The determination of guilt or innocence of an individual should not be influenced by the potential range of punishments. The procedure for informing jurors of the sentencing range changed in 2020. Since then, jurors are made aware of the sentencing range during the jury selection process, as they will be responsible for determining the sentence.

Providing the potential range of sentencing during jury selection only serves to influence juror decision-making inappropriately. In practice, this proposal endorses jury nullification, which occurs when a jury acquits despite evidence proving guilt.

The bill will also unduly burden victims who have prepared to testify before the jury about the effects of the crime.

Further, the proposed ability to revoke the request for jury sentencing before and after the sentencing phase will require prosecutors to expend unnecessary resources. Our courts operate with funding constraints, and providing defendants with the right to retract their request for jury sentencing until sentencing commences would be burdensome for our legal system.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 77. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-309.1, 16.1-330.1, 17.1-805, 18.2-46.1, 18.2-50.3, 18.2-90, 19.2-297.1, 53.1-40.02, 53.1-131.2, 53.1-151, 53.1-165.1, and 53.1-202.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to robbery.

Patron--Watts

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with substitute February 26, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 77, which extends enhanced earned sentence credits and parole eligibility to individuals convicted of robbery.

The proposal poses significant public safety consequences for the Commonwealth, further reducing the tiered penalties for the different types of robberies.

The legislation's most concerning component is its retroactive nature. The Department of Corrections (DOC) has reported that as of March 1, 2024, approximately 3,340 inmates with robbery as their most serious offense are incarcerated.

Releasing violent offenders early harms our community. Of the cohort of inmates released last July and August with enhanced earned sentence credits, 804 were re-arrested within three months of their release date. Fifty of those who were re-arrested committed a robbery offense.

This bill further erodes the public's confidence in safe streets. The legislative changes made during the prior administration substantially reduced the potential punishment for robbery offenses. This bill further reduces the consequences for robbery, including those committed using a deadly weapon or physical force or committed by repeat offenders.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 81. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-16.1, relating to abolishing the common-law crime of suicide.

Patrons--Simon and Feggans

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with amendment February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 81, which abolishes the common-law crime of suicide.

Over a century ago, the Commonwealth abolished criminal penalties for suicide. In recent years, the Commonwealth has made significant improvements in mental health, including decriminalizing the effects of mental health conditions, and increasing resources for those in crisis.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 110. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 20-159 and 20-162 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 20-165 of the Code of Virginia, relating to surrogacy brokers; repeal of prohibition against.

Patron--Sullivan

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 14, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (20-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 110, which repeals the Commonwealth's prohibition on commercial surrogacy brokers.

While I recognize the desire for an efficient surrogacy process, the Commonwealth must carefully consider the serious concerns that arise when we allow the increased commercialization and profit-driven commodification of surrogacy.

In 1991, Virginia took a significant and virtuous step by legalizing surrogacy. The Commonwealth recognized the complexities surrounding surrogacy regulation and opted for a permissive framework with notable restrictions, including the prohibition of for-profit brokering. This deliberate decision was made to safeguard against the risks associated with financial motives dominating the surrogacy landscape. Removing this prohibition without a simultaneous review of regulations, potentially disrupts Virginia's established legal structure.

Commercial surrogacy brokers, driven primarily by financial gain, may divert attention from the successful pregnancy, the welfare of the child, and the interests of both the intended parents and the surrogate. Our current legal framework acknowledges some of those concerns and has sought to strike a balance, which may be disrupted by the unchecked entry of profit-driven brokers into this space.

Allowing brokers, who are contractually obligated to represent the intended parents, leads to the possibility of coercion and abuse of surrogates. Human trafficking related to commercial surrogacy is increasing worldwide, resulting in exploitation, extortion, and ethical abuses such as requesting specific hormones or medications for the surrogate, which would be exacerbated with commercialization.

Virginia's existing legal framework requires legal representation for both intended parents and surrogates, a requirement that attempts to ensure impartiality; however, this falls short in addressing the nuances and potential abuses that may arise. Some attorneys might lack the specialized experience needed to navigate the intricate details of surrogacy contracts, which will necessitate negotiating with well-resourced, experienced, and professional brokers, leaving surrogates vulnerable to potential abuses.

The free market is a powerful and significant force for raising individuals out of poverty, but we must recognize that not all areas are suitable for commodification. Surrogacy involves a profound bond between a mother and her child, a relationship that transcends monetary transactions. These brokers may bring some element efficiency to the process, but the potential erosion of the ethical foundations that underpin surrogacy goes too far.

My commitment is to ensure that this treatment is fair and provides opportunities for intended parents and children, while ensuring that financial motives never overshadow the profound and selfless act of bringing life into the world.

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 157. An Act to amend and reenact § 40.1-28.9, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to minimum wage; farm laborers or farm employees; temporary foreign workers.

Patrons--McClure, Hernandez, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Clark, Cohen, Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Feggans, Gardner, Glass, Henson, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, Price, Rasoul, Seibold, Shin, Simon, Thomas, Tran, Watts and Willett; Senator: Salim

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 29, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 157 which removes the farmworker exemption from the Virginia Minimum Wage Act.;

Producers who employ H-2A workers must adhere to the U.S. Department of Labor's Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR), currently set at \$15.81 per hour. Even farms that do not employ H-2A workers pay the AEWR to compete with those that do.;

The AEWR is determined using various domestic workers' annual average gross wage rates in a state or region, and therefore the prevailing market wage influences the AEWR.

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. The data from the USDA Census of Agriculture and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Policy further emphasize the importance of supporting our agriculture industry. The loss of five thousand farms and nearly five hundred thousand acres of farmland in the last five years has dramatically altered our economy and communities.;

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.;

The AEWR already materially determines the labor rates. A further wage mandate financially strains farmers, leading to farm closures, job losses, and increased consumer food prices.;

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

H.B. 161. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-251.03 of the Code of Virginia, relating to arrest, prosecution, and disciplinary or administrative procedures and penalties for individuals experiencing or reporting overdoses while incarcerated.

Patrons--Seibold, Clark, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Glass, Henson, Jones, Maldonado, Martinez, Shin and Simonds; Senators: Bagby, Boysko and Pekarsky

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 21, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 27, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 161, which relates to individuals experiencing or reporting overdoses while incarcerated.

The proposal expands the current safe harbor statute, reducing the requirements for immunity for inmates and extending immunity for a range of crimes. This expansion could exacerbate drug abuse in correctional facilities and impede sheriffs' and corrections officers' efforts to maintain safety.

Granting immunity to inmates from internal discipline and prosecution for possessing drugs, including narcotics, undermines our system of law and order. Our correctional facilities' primary responsibility is to ensure a safe environment for those in our care and those who work there.

Additionally, I have received numerous letters from sheriffs around the Commonwealth who have asked me to stand with them for public safety.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 175. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carrying assault firearms in public areas prohibited; penalty.

Patrons--Simon, Carr and Shin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 175, prohibiting the carrying of assault firearms in public areas.

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.

H.B. 183. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.7:1, relating to storage of firearms in a residence where a minor or person prohibited from possessing a firearm is present; penalty.

Patrons--Simon and Lopez

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 183, which relates to the storage of firearms where a minor or person prohibiting a firearm is present.

This legislation would limit individuals' access to firearms in their homes.

A similar law was deemed unconstitutional in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. 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.

The proposed language could prove problematic in cases of necessary home defense when firearm access may be crucial. Further, it would completely disarm individuals who cannot afford a storage device. While the intent may not be to strip the poorest Virginians of their right to self-defense, the proposal would price them out of the market for a fundamental right.

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

The suggested exemption for carrying weapons is impractical, for example, while sleeping or doing household chores. This exemption leaves individuals with only one option for self-defense; such a requirement would lead to law-abiding Virginians carrying their weapons irresponsibly and dangerously. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 208. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2223.6, relating to comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy.

Patron--Simonds

Reported from Committee on Local Government with amendment February 19, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendment February 21, 2024 (25-Y 15-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 208, which would permit localities to integrate a "healthy communities' strategy" into their upcoming and subsequent comprehensive plan reviews. Localities have more than sufficient powers to regulate their communities through the comprehensive planning process under existing law. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 212. An Act to amend and reenact § 30-310 of the Code of Virginia, relating to MEI Project Approval Commission; board-level gender and diversity requirements.

Patrons--Watts, Helmer, Shin and Carr

Reported from Committee on Rules with substitute March 1, 2024 (9-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 212 relating to board-level gender and diversity requirements for economic development incentives.

The proposal seeks to alter the responsibilities of the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission (the Commission). While diversity and inclusivity are commendable aspirations for businesses, noble intentions should not justify circumventing the Commission's obligations.

The Commission's role is to scrutinize financing for individual incentive packages, not assess whether a business adheres to a requirement akin to a demographic-based quota. Such requirements could deter companies from investing in the Commonwealth, especially privately held or family-owned enterprises, which may be wholly precluded.

The quota-like system overlooks the achievements of women and minorities in their own right. Both groups have made significant strides in board representation and mandating specific demographic compositions risks undermining their accomplishments.

Ultimately, the proposal fails to acknowledge that the primary beneficiaries of economic development are not board members but individuals who secure gainful employment. A genuinely egalitarian approach should focus on attracting businesses to the Commonwealth and fostering opportunities for expansion and investment in individuals.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 243. An Act to amend and reenact § 17.1-917 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 19.2 a section numbered § 19.2-43.1, relating to the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission; magistrates; availability of complaint forms in courthouses.

Patron--Martinez

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 26, 2024 (13-Y 1-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (32-Y 6-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 243, relating to the public placement of Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission forms.

This legislation is unnecessary because Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission (JIRC) forms are already publicly available, and there is an existing requirement that JIRC form availability be noted in public signage within a courthouse. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 250. An Act to amend and reenact § 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Criminal Justice Services; law-enforcement officers; interrogation practices.

Patron--Glass

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 250, which directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop interrogation guidelines for law enforcement.

While the intention to improve interrogation practices is commendable, the proposal is unnecessary. Virginia already has established training standards covering the interrogation of adults and juveniles, including references to federal and state legal precedents. These existing standards are regularly updated to incorporate the latest research, best practices, and the evolving needs of the law enforcement community.

Imposing additional statutory requirements when current practices are sufficient and adaptable is not prudent. This proposal would create unnecessary bureaucratic burdens without significant added benefit.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 265. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-233, 24.2-235, and 24.2-237 of the Code of Virginia, relating to removal of public officers from office; petition requirements; procedures.

Patron--Simon

Reported from Committee on Privileges and Elections with substitute February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 265, relating to petition requirements for the removal of public officials from office. 

This bill increases recall petition requirements by restricting circulation time and disallowing public circulation for petitions that have previously been circulated. Recall petitions are a tool for voters to hold public officials accountable. 

Accordingly, I veto this bill. 

H.B. 267. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-57 of the Code of Virginia, relating to assault and battery; affirmative defense; penalty.

Patrons--Watts and Price

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with substitute February 28, 2024 (7-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 267, which creates an affirmative defense for assault and battery.

First and foremost, the Commonwealth has made great strides in handling our mental health crisis and remains focused on providing treatment to those individuals.

A new, loosely defined, and excessively broad affirmative defense is unnecessary because Virginia laws already provide protections for individuals who are not criminally responsible due to mental illness.

The proposal 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.

H.B. 318. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 57, consisting of sections numbered 59.1-603, 59.1-604, and 59.1-605, relating to firearm industry members; standards of responsible conduct; civil liability.

Patrons--Helmer, Clark, Cole, Srinivasan, Thomas, Cohen, Feggans, Hernandez and Willett

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with amendments February 26, 2024 (8-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 318, which relates to civil penalties for firearm industry members.

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 has 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.

Our legal system should prioritize punishing criminals rather than targeting law-abiding manufacturers and retailers within the firearms industry.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 333. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2699.10 and 2.2-2699.11 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Council on Environmental Justice; meetings and staffing; appointment of members.

Patron--Jones

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 333, relating to the scope and staffing of the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice.

Under the proposal, the Virginia Council of Environmental Justice (the Council) would be eligible for increased taxpayer-funded travel reimbursement and gain extensive authority over the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources staff despite its statutorily defined status as an advisory collegial body.

While I oppose those specific provisions, the Council was established with the ostensibly proper recognition that environmental issues can have varying effects on different communities. In a broader context, however, the theory of the Council conflicts with its duties as a state-level body capable of obstructing local projects.

The proposed top-down approach would perpetuate past disparities, preventing the construction of infrastructure in underserved communities, hindering permits necessary for the advancement of clean energy, and imposing regressive costs that disproportionately affect Virginia's poorest citizens. Consequently, this approach reinforces historical barriers to achieving overdue objectives.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 335. An Act to direct the Department of Labor and Industry to study increasing tipped employee wages and address wage theft by employers of tipped employees.

Patrons--Gardner, Helmer, Anthony, Clark, Cousins, Glass, Henson, Martinez, Reaser and Shin

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor with amendments February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 29, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 335, which directs the Department of Labor and Industry to study increasing tipped minimum wages.

This bill would have required the Department to conduct a study with a predetermined outcome without studying whether tipped minimum wages should, in fact, be increased. In other jurisdictions that have increased tipped minimum wages, many tipped workers have seen a decrease in earnings.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 351. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-56.3, relating to firearm locking device required for purchase of a firearm; households where minor resides; warning against accessibility to children; penalty.

Patrons--Clark, Helmer, Anthony, Callsen, Carr, Cohen, Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Glass, Henson, Hernandez, Hope, Keys-Gamarra, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, Price, Rasoul, Seibold, Shin, Simonds, Ward and Willett; Senators: Favola and Salim

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations March 4, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 6, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 351, which requires firearm locking devices or certifications to sell, purchase, or transfer firearms to individuals in households where minors reside.

In 2023, I signed House Bill 2387, which created a tax credit for firearm safety devices. This legislation enhanced public safety and encouraged responsible firearm ownership. I remain willing and ready to collaborate with the General Assembly on more incentives to ensure secure firearm storage and prevent access by dangerous individuals.

Just this year, the General Assembly passed bipartisan legislation, which I signed, that prevents parents from willfully allowing a minor child to gain access to a firearm if that child poses a threat of credible violence.

These approaches are collaborative and account for areas of bipartisan compromise, which can ultimately lead to the safety and well-being of children without affecting law-abiding citizens or their constitutional guarantees.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 354. An Act to amend and reenact § 32.1-248.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public pools; regulations.

Patron--Hope

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 22, 2024 (8-Y 6-N 1-A)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 354, which directs the Board of Health to adopt regulations expanding their governance of swimming pools operated for public use.

Current law already gives the Department of Health an appropriate role regulating the water quality at swimming pools operated for public use or in conjunction with a tourist facility or spa. Therefore, this legislation is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 362. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228 and 18.2-308.1:8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm; assault and battery of a family or household member or intimate partner; penalties.

Patrons--McClure, Callsen, Clark, Helmer, Simon, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Henson, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, LeVere Bolling, Maldonado, Martinez, Price, Rasoul, Seibold, Shin, Ward and Watts

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 362, which relates to the purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following a misdemeanor conviction of assault and battery.

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.

H.B. 385. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 7 of Chapter 13 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-425.1, relating to railroad safety; minimum train crew; movement of freight; civil penalties.

Patrons--Simonds, Anthony, Hernandez, Ward, Askew, Clark, Convirs-Fowler, Glass, Hayes, Henson, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Maldonado, Martinez, McQuinn, Mundon King, Reid, Seibold, Sickles and Srinivasan; Senator: Carroll Foy

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor February 26, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 29, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 385, which mandates crew sizes for trains, locomotives, or light engines.

While I support the goal of improving safety within the rail industry, the proposed methods appear premature and lack the necessary nuance required for effective regulation. A comprehensive strategy is best achieved through the established framework of the federal government's ongoing rulemaking process.

According to reports from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the available evidence does not conclusively support the notion that two-person crews are inherently safer.

Mandating crew sizes, as proposed, is a blunt regulatory tool that encroaches upon the established mechanisms for railroads and unions to negotiate staffing and scheduling matters through collective bargaining.

The effect of the proposed legislation extends beyond a labor-related concern. Short-line railroads, our last mile freight transport providers, are significantly affected. The proposed regulations disrupt their ability to access new markets, jeopardizing the success of initiatives such as the establishment of inland ports ~ initiatives crucial for the economic progress of our rural communities and the Commonwealth.

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

Moreover, the proposed regulations would impose constraints on our supply chain, impeding our ability to manage inflation and cope with rising costs of living and doing business in Virginia. The economic repercussions pose a genuine threat to the stability of our economy.

The proposal also distorts the entirety of our transportation sector by diverting traffic from rail to our highways. At a time when the Commonwealth is diligently working to address congestion issues, the proposed regulations appear counterproductive.

Finally, the proposed legislation risks hindering technology and innovation in the rail industry, by impeding the development of opportunities, such as autonomous rail operations.

Prematurely constraining a fuel-efficient mode of freight transport while simultaneously advocating for the mandating of electric vehicles to address environmental concerns raises questions about the coherence and foresight of the proposal.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 398. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-276.01, 22.1-277, and 22.1-279.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices.

Patrons--McQuinn, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Clark, Cousins, Henson, Martinez, Price, Shin, Simon and Ward; Senators: Boysko and Favola

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with substitute February 29, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 398, which prohibits certain school discipline methods without first using a restorative practice.

Virginia is in the midst of a school discipline crisis. On November 17, 2023, twenty-seven Charlottesville High School teachers refused to come to school after a wave of classroom violence resulted in police being called to the school twice in one day. Teachers who are concerned about decaying discipline in our schools consistently point to a failure to confront and address the small number of students who are responsible for this violence.

Fundamentally, for our schools to be safe places for young Virginians to learn and become active citizens, they must be safe. The bill proposes a top-down mandate, forcing school administrators to first utilize restorative practices rather than immediately suspending or otherwise disciplining students who are violent in school.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 405. An Act to direct the State Corporation Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide technical assistance to the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation if the Commission evaluates the design and deployment of the electrical distribution infrastructure necessary to support the installation of electric vehicle charging facilities in certain residential developments.

Patrons--McClure, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Glass, Henson, Hope, Maldonado, Martinez, Rasoul, Shin and Watts

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 6, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 405, which directs the State Corporation Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development to assist the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation to study electric vehicle infrastructure.

To date, the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation, which was reformed through legislation I signed into law in 2023, is in the process of hiring staff and beginning the ongoing activities required of them by law. No legislation or resolution has yet been passed to direct the Commission to study the issue contemplated by this bill. Therefore, this bill is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 418. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 8.01 a chapter numbered 5.2, consisting of sections numbered 8.01-267.10 through 8.01-267.15, relating to civil actions filed on behalf of multiple persons; class actions.

Patron--Simon

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with substitute February 14, 2024 (7-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 19, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 418, establishing the types, certification, rules, and venue for civil actions filed on behalf of multiple persons.

The legal landscape in Virginia accommodates class actions, with federal courts empowered to adjudicate such cases under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Even claims solely rooted in Virginia law can find recourse in federal jurisdictions.

The proposed changes have far-reaching implications by broadening the scope of statutory damages available under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The possible statutory damages resulting from these consumer class actions will coerce defendants into settlements to avoid potentially ruinous financial consequences.

The recent expansion of the Court of Appeals within the Commonwealth's legal apparatus must be considered when assessing this proposal. This was the most significant modification to our legal system in decades, and consequently, the court continues to absorb the backlog of dockets, which must be resolved.

Commerce is based on a legal environment that maintains fairness. Excessive tort liabilities and the threat of litigation expenses can force businesses to close their doors, imperiling economic growth. Achieving a balanced legal system means addressing the concerns of both litigants and businesses in tandem. Only through a nuanced approach that acknowledges both excesses and deficiencies can Virginia's economy continue to flourish.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 442. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1245, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; landlord remedies; noncompliance with rental agreement; payment plan.

Patrons--Bennett-Parker, Price, Glass and Shin

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (22-Y 18-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 442, which requires housing providers to enter into dictated payment plans with delinquent tenants.

Housing providers and tenants often enter into arrangements supplemental to the rental agreement to address issues, including nonpayment of rent. This bill would insert the government between housing providers and tenants and interfere with these relationships and the parties' freedom to craft an arrangement that fits their needs.

Additionally, the payment plan procedures established by this bill would be burdensome on small businesses and expose housing providers to legal liability. Compliance with Virginia's rental regulations is already complex and cumbersome for these small businesses, and this bill would exacerbate those issues.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 454. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-283.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carrying a firearm or explosive material within Capitol Square or building owned or leased by the Commonwealth; exemptions; public institutions of higher education; penalty.

Patrons--Callsen, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Feggans, Laufer, Martinez, Reid, Seibold, Simonds and Thomas

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 454, which criminalizes an individual's possession of a firearm in a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education.

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.

The Boards of Visitors at Virginia's institutions of higher education already have the authority to regulate their respective campuses, including implementing firearms prohibitions. This allows for consideration of the differences across regions and students' unique circumstances.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 455. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-3466.1, relating to possession of an item containing residue of a controlled substance; penalty.

Patron--Callsen

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with substitute February 28, 2024 (14-Y 1-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (31-Y 8-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 455, which relates to the possession of an item containing residue of a controlled substance.

This bill empowers Commonwealth attorneys to request a reduction in criminal charges for possession of a controlled substance if the amount in question constitutes residue. The Commonwealth had a staggering 2,490 drug overdose deaths in 2022, tearing apart families and communities while fueling crime and violence.

Reducing charges for possession of controlled substances undermines the seriousness of drug offenses. The proposal will lead to the public's perception that possession of residue of a scheduled drug such as cocaine or heroin is not a serious offense, akin to underage alcohol possession. Such perception would hinder our efforts to combat drug crises, such as the opioid epidemic.

Finally, law enforcement and prosecutors already have discretion in charging decisions, allowing for consideration of individual circumstances. The proposal's additional discretion will lead to inconsistent enforcement and legal confusion.

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

Virginia must remain steadfast in its efforts to combat drug abuse and its devastating consequences. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 457. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-304 of the Code of Virginia, relating to decreasing probation period; criteria for mandatory reduction; report.

Patrons--Callsen and Glass

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 457, which establishes criteria to reduce a defendant's supervised probation period.

Many of the offenders covered by the proposal committed serious crimes and demonstrated their capacity to act as dangerous individuals.

Courts determine the length of probation based on the severity and circumstances of a crime, while probation officers oversee rehabilitation. Requiring a reduction in the probation period without a hearing poses a risk of offenders losing valuable oversight and guidance from the probation system.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 466. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.014 of the Code of Virginia, relating to concealed handgun permits; reciprocity with other states.

Patrons--Helmer, Cohen, Srinivasan, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Cousins, Henson, Hernandez, Herring, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, McQuinn, Reid, Seibold, Shin, Sickles, Simon, Ward and Watts

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 466, relating reciprocity with other states regarding concealed handgun permits.

Virginia's current system of concealed handgun permit reciprocity works. 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 2015, the previous Attorney General unilaterally revoked concealed handgun permit reciprocity with twenty-five other states, using a law similar to the proposed legislation.

A few months later, the General Assembly came together in a bipartisan effort to restrict the previous Attorney General's authority in revoking permits. The agreement addressed limitations on firearm possession during protective orders, implemented heightened background checks at gun shows, and demonstrated bipartisan unity in navigating the complexities of firearm ownership and its effects on public safety.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 519. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2915 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board of Medicine; unprofessional conduct.

Patrons--Mundon King, Anthony, Clark, Henson, Maldonado, Martinez, McQuinn and Shin

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 22, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 519, which relates to punishment for unprofessional conduct for providers performing abortions.

The primary mission of the Board of Medicine is to protect the public from incompetent, dangerous, and unprofessional medical providers. This legislation compromises the Board's ability to fulfill that mission.

This bill also opens the door to a resurgence of unsafe, risky abortions occurring outside of clinical settings, and it places any unprofessional behavior during an abortion outside the Board's jurisdiction for disciplinary action.

In the pursuit of mitigating disciplinary actions by the Board of Medicine against physicians performing abortions, this proposal jeopardizes the safety of women and undermines the duty of the Board in providing necessary disciplinary measures against doctors engaging in unsafe practices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 529. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-961 of the Code of Virginia, relating to conservation and replacement of trees during development process.

Patrons--Hope, Sullivan and Bennett-Parker; Senator: Favola

Reported from Committee on Local Government February 26, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 529, 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.

Virginia's 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.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 569. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 40.1 a section numbered 40.1-28.7:11, relating to employment discrimination; employee notification of federal and state statute of limitations.

Patrons--Henson, Lopez, Clark, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Keys-Gamarra, Martinez and Shin

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor with substitute February 19, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 22, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 569, which requires employee notification of federal and state statutes of limitations.

The proposed expansion of employer obligations and broadened definition of employer will disproportionately affect small businesses and nonprofits in the Commonwealth.

Under this proposal, employers must notify employees in writing of their right to file charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) during any new employee orientation, workplace conduct training, or after receiving any complaint that an employee may pursue through the EEOC or the OAG.

Small businesses, especially those lacking legal expertise, would be required to provide filing instructions amidst various workplace scenarios. This requirement places a heavy burden on small businesses, forcing them to consistently remember to provide employees with information.

For instance, a small retail establishment that hires a temporary, seasonal employee could face litigation risk simply for not mentioning filing instructions during a cashier's orientation, or a small restaurant may be liable for not being aware that harassment can extend beyond the victim, including offensive conduct affecting anyone, even those without economic injury, and that non-employees can be harassers.

Employers are not legal counselors and should not be expected to provide legal advice to employees regarding potential legal actions against their own companies.

While the proposal may aim to bolster employee protections, its practical application poses significant challenges and heightens litigation risks for small businesses.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 570. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-3442.02 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 7.3, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-276.12 through 32.1-276.19, relating to Prescription Drug Affordability Board established; drug cost affordability review.

Patrons--Delaney, Clark, Helmer, Seibold, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Callsen, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Glass, Henson, Hernandez, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Martinez, McClure, Price, Rasoul, Shin, Simon, Simonds, Srinivasan, Tran, Watts and Willett; Senators: Bagby, Pekarsky and Williams Graves

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 29, 2024 (10-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (25-Y 15-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 570, establishing a Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

Though noble in its intent, the proposal carries numerous unintended consequences. While it is imperative to lower drug prices, it must not compromise patient welfare.

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. As we are acutely aware, 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. Considering the pharmaceutical supply chain's complexity, imposing arbitrary UPLs could limit access to life-saving pharmaceuticals and harm patients' health.

Experiences from other states like Maryland and Colorado, which have similar PDABs, show high implementation costs, including higher taxes, without significant savings for those in need.

Pharmaceutical affordability is a major issue for Virginians. Full transparency into actual pricing and discounts and more competition are key to bring prices down while not stifling innovation. This year I have also signed bipartisan legislation to provide cost-saving transparency and regulations pharmaceutical benefit managers and legislation that directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to study and plan for import lower cost drugs for Virginians.

The Commonwealth should prioritize patient well-being, maintain access to essential medications, and support healthcare innovation. We can do all this and lower the cost of prescription drugs for Virginians.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 571. An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-16.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to policies on parental notification of instructional material that includes sexually explicit content; scope and use.

Patrons--Delaney, Clark, Feggans, Thomas, Willett, Convirs-Fowler, Lopez, Martinez, Rasoul, Shin, Simon and Simonds; Senator: Pekarsky

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 22, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 571, which relates to the scope and use of policies on parental notification of instructional material that includes sexually explicit content.

In accordance with Senate Bill 656 (2022), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released "Model Policies on Instructional Materials with Sexually Explicit Content." Developed through collaboration with educational leaders and parents, the model policy bolsters parental rights by granting parents more decision-making authority in their child's education. The model specifically states: "the Act shall not be construed to require or provide for the censoring of books in public elementary and secondary schools."

Despite the proponents' claim that the current proposal codifies the enactment clause found in Chapter 100 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, there are significant language differences that may cause confusion among school administrators, divisions, parents, and students.

Current law unequivocally affirms that the adoption of these model policies by a school board should not be interpreted as requiring or providing for the censorship of books in public elementary and secondary schools. Therefore, the bill is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 585. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-4200 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-4201.3, relating to home-based firearms dealers; prohibited near schools; penalties.

Patrons--Mundon King, Lopez, Maldonado, Sewell, Thomas, Anthony, Clark, Henson, Hope, Martinez, Rasoul, Seibold and Shin

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 585, which criminalizes home-based firearm dealers who maintain their place of business at their residence within one and a half miles of an elementary or middle school.

By all appearances, this legislation targets one individual in Prince William County, to whom the Prince William Board of County Supervisors granted a home-based firearms license.

The legislation's specificity, coupled with the circumstances preceding its passage, comprises a bill of attainder. Consequently, it is unconstitutional under Virginia's Bill of Rights.

Home-based firearm dealers are already subject to comprehensive federal, state, and local regulations. The imposition of this restriction on a lawful commercial activity appears unconstitutional, retaliatory, and arbitrary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 598. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1245, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; landlord remedies; noncompliance with rental agreement.

Patrons--Price, Bennett-Parker, Glass, Thomas and Cousins

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (8-Y 5-N 2-A)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 598, which increases the mandatory waiting period before housing providers can initiate eviction proceedings.

Under current law, tenants have a right of redemption and can pay any amounts due before an eviction to halt the eviction process, making the bill unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 612. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-349 and 19.2-354 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fines, costs, forfeitures, penalties, and restitution; collection fees; assessment against incarcerated defendant; deferred payment agreement.

Patrons--Price, Bennett-Parker and Shin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 612, which extends the period of delinquency prior to an account being included on a clerk of court's report of delinquent accounts.

Extending the period of delinquency from 90 to 180 days weakens the accountability traditionally associated with court-ordered fines and restitution, diminishing the court system's ability to enforce accountability and ensure compliance with legal obligations.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

H.B. 614. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-354 of the Code of Virginia, relating to community service work in lieu of payment of fines and costs; work performed while incarcerated.

Patrons--Price, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Cousins and Glass

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 614, which relates to community service work in lieu of payment of fines and costs.

The existing mandate that the court establish a program to allow individuals to offset all or part of these expenses by participating in community service changes from an option the court may provide to a requirement. The bill also permits individuals to count work performed during incarceration towards this community service requirement.

Furthermore, work performed while incarcerated is fundamentally different from community service work. Additionally, the potential loss of court revenue could adversely affect victim services funded by court fines and fees, such as contributions to the Virginia Victims Fund.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 623. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-126, 24.2-128, 24.2-129, 24.2-130, 24.2-701.1, and 24.2-701.2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1.1 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-132, relating to rights of voters; covered practices; civil cause of action; standing, jurisdiction, and venue.

Patron--Price

Reported from Committee on Privileges and Elections with substitute February 27, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 623 which will grant certain organizations to institute a civil cause of action for alleged violations of certain laws related to voting and allow local governing bodies to establish annual plans for voter satellite offices.

Current law allows voters to sue for violations under the Virginia Voter Rights Act. The proposal will lead to administrative burdens and legal complexities that could hinder the fair and efficient administration of elections in our Commonwealth.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 637. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 9.2 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-152.18, relating to substantial risk orders; training program.

Patrons--Sullivan and Watts

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 637, which directs the Department of Criminal Justice programs to create a Substantial Risk Order Training Program.

This initiative duplicates existing training provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to various constituent groups across the Commonwealth upon request. Moreover, the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund already permits the utilization of grant funds to support safe firearm removal practices for individuals prohibited from possessing a firearm.

The substantial risk order law became effective in Virginia on July 1, 2020, prompting the General Assembly to create a full-time position at DCJS to oversee statewide risk order training and implementation. DCJS has since been actively conducting risk order training to offer instruction on the law, procedures, and recommendations for best practices from law enforcement.

In addition, \$500,000 was allocated in 2021 for DCJS to establish a grant program funding substantial risk order training for localities. However, due to a lack of interest, the fund carried significant balances at the end of the fiscal year and was recommended to be discontinued in the proposed Budget by the preceding Governor.

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 645. An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-1219.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to parking spaces reserved for charging electric vehicles; signs.

Patrons--Reaser, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Martinez and Rasoul; Senator: Surovell

Reported from Committee on Transportation February 22, 2024 (9-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 27, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 645, which eliminates the requirement for signs related to parking spaces reserved for charging electric vehicles. Drivers deserve clear signage indicating that parking in spaces reserved for electric vehicle charging stations may result in a civil penalty. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 651. An Act to direct the Virginia Information Technologies Agency to assess the creation of a cyber civilian corps for the Commonwealth; report.

Patron--Feggans

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 14, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (39-Y 0-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 651, which directs the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to assess the creation of a cyber civilian corps for the Commonwealth. The challenges in developing a civilian cybersecurity corps include continued financial obligations, background checks, liability protections, and ongoing recruitment. Additionally, implementation of the proposal is complicated by the need to balance the potential civilian corps with the established cybersecurity team at the Virginia National Guard. I believe that the proposed workgroup could successfully address some of these issues, but in the context of the Commonwealth's present cybersecurity situation, it is premature. The ability of the National Guard to be deployed by the Governor for cyber-related support is currently legally ambiguous. This year, legislation to clarify this authority was rejected. The continued uncertainty potentially limits the Commonwealth's ability to assist in emergency cybersecurity situations. The rejection of the proposed legislation to clarify the Governor's powers is troubling for its evident partisanship and strains the resources of VITA. As we address cybersecurity, the Commonwealth should prioritize collaboration, transparency, and foresight. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 698. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2499.8, 3.2-4113, 4.1-352, 4.1-600, 4.1-601, 4.1-603, 4.1-604, 4.1-606, 4.1-607, 4.1-611, 4.1-614, 4.1-621, 4.1-1100, 4.1-1101, 4.1-1121, 4.1-1500, 4.1-1501, 4.1-1502, 4.1-1601, 4.1-1604, 5.1-13, 9.1-1101, 16.1-69.40:1, 16.1-260, 16.1-273, 16.1-278.9, 18.2-46.1, 18.2-247, 18.2-248, 18.2-248.01, 18.2-251, 18.2-251.03, 18.2-251.1:1, 18.2-251.1:2, 18.2-251.1:3, 18.2-252, 18.2-254, 18.2-255, 18.2-255.1, 18.2-255.2, 18.2-258, 18.2-258.02, 18.2-258.1, 18.2-265.1, 18.2-265.2, 18.2-265.3, 18.2-287.2, 18.2-308.012, 18.2-308.4, 18.2-460, 18.2-474.1, 19.2-66, 19.2-81, 19.2-81.1, 19.2-83.1, 19.2-188.1, 19.2-303.01, 19.2-386.22 through 19.2-386.25, 19.2-389, 19.2-389.3, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 19.2-392.02, 19.2-392.6, 22.1-206, 22.1-277.08, 23.1-1301, 46.2-105.2, 46.2-347, 48-17.1, 53.1-231.2, 54.1-2903, 58.1-301, and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-629, 4.1-630, and 4.1-631, by adding in Title 4.1 chapters numbered 7 through 10, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-700 through 4.1-1008, by adding sections numbered 4.1-1102 through 4.1-1105, 4.1-1106, 4.1-1113, 4.1-1114, 4.1-1115, 4.1-1117, 4.1-1118, and 4.1-1119, by adding in Title 4.1 a chapter numbered 12, consisting of sections numbered 4.1-1200 through 4.1-1206, by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1300, 4.1-1301, and 4.1-1303 through 4.1-1309, by adding in Chapter 14 of Title 4.1 sections numbered 4.1-1403 through 4.1-1406, by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 6.2 a section numbered 6.2-108, and by adding in Chapter 44 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-4426; and to repeal §§ 4.1-1101.1, 4.1-1105.1, 18.2-248.1, and 18.2-251.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to cannabis control; retail market; penalties.

Patrons--Krizek, Cole, Helmer, Herring, Carr, Jones and Keys-Gamarra; Senator: Ebbin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 28, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 698, establishing a framework for creating a retail marijuana market in the Commonwealth.

The proposed legalization of retail marijuana in the Commonwealth 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.

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

The most concerning consequence of cannabis commercialization is its impact on adolescents and our children. As cannabis has become legalized and commercialized, calls to U.S. Poison Control for children who have overdosed on edible cannabis products have increased by 400% since 2016.

In particular, Colorado, Washington, Ohio, and Massachusetts have experienced significantly more cannabis-related calls to poison control centers and increased emergency department visits for cannabis poisonings in children following legalization and is much higher compared to nonlegal states. In Virginia, the Blue Ridge Poison Control Center reports that minors overdosing on edible cannabis products have increased by 85% since Virginia legalized cannabis possession.

Intentional youth cannabis use has also increased in states and localities with legal retail markets. In New York City, instances of controlled substances and drug paraphernalia discovered on students in schools increased by 8% compared to 2019, despite a concurrent 11% decrease in the K-12 population. Data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration show that the five states with the highest youth marijuana use are also all states with legal retail cannabis. Cannabis commercialization and diminished cannabis enforcement have resulted in youth cannabis use increasing by 245% between 2000 and 2022, contrasting with declines in teen alcohol and tobacco use.

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

Medical studies show that individuals using cannabis at younger ages have a higher chance of developing more severe cannabis use disorder and persistent and uncontrollable substance use disorders. Research indicates that 11% of juveniles who consumed cannabis in 2023 and 21% of juveniles who consistently consumed cannabis for three years have developed cannabis use disorder.

Additionally, doctors at Boston Children's Hospital have reported an increase in children developing psychosis following cannabis use. Nearly one-third of adolescents attending checkups admit to using cannabis, and one-third of children who used cannabis and sought treatment reported hallucinations or paranoia.

Data suggest that marijuana use in adolescence can lead to other addictive behaviors in adulthood by reducing dopamine reactivity in the brain's reward regions, prompting users to seek a more potent product. The widespread availability of cannabis can compound this effect. The connection between daily cannabis use among children and long-term addiction has long-term consequences, considering research indicates that an estimated 6.5% of twelfth graders are daily cannabis users.

Treating children for cannabis-related issues, including lost intelligence, psychosis, and other mental health problems, is complex due to the acute and long-term effects of cannabis consumption. Stabilization and counseling are inadequate for treating cannabis use disorder in children, as evident by the limited effectiveness of counseling, and there are no medications available for treatment, resulting in long-term adverse health outcomes.

Medical experts and health professionals provided policymakers with information regarding the consequences of cannabis commercialization on Virginians' health during the General Assembly session. They emphasized that a retail marijuana marketplace creates a misconception that cannabis use is safe for minors, even though cannabis use leads to adverse mental health outcomes, increased anxiety and depression in minors, and impaired brain development.

II. The Failures of States with Legalized Retail Marijuana

States that have attempted to regulate the black-market for cannabis have generally failed. Colorado is touted as a successful example of legalization, but a decade after legalization, the illicit cannabis market still accounts for approximately 35% of all cannabis sales. Similarly, six years after legalization, California's legal cannabis market represented only about 10% of total cannabis sales. With the black-market's persistent pressure, gang activity escalates and violent crime surges.

Legal cannabis markets also do not guarantee product safety. In New York, which has legal cannabis markets, a study conducted by the New York Medical Cannabis Industry Association found that 40% of the cannabis products failed to meet required standards, including tests for E. Coli, salmonella, accurate THC, and heavy metals. Likewise, growers consistently evade state environmental regulations, labor standards, and product testing requirements in California, as reported by PBS News Hour.

Cannabis-induced disorder rates surged by 50% in November 2023 compared to 2019, attributed to intentional breeding for higher potency, a trend seen post-legalization, according to electronic health records. In Washington, post-legalization, cannabis extracts gained 150% market share, boasting nearly triple the potency of flower, prompting a reassessment of legalization's benefits by their legislature.

Moreover, the expectation that cannabis legalization will result in a meaningful net increase in state tax revenues has not materialized in states with legal markets. States with legal retail cannabis have been challenged in transitioning their existing, robust black-markets into legal, regulated, and taxed markets. As a result, their projected revenues have fallen short of expectations and forecasts.

According to an official Colorado state study, cannabis taxes have not solved budget shortfalls, and for every dollar of additional revenue generated, Coloradans spend approximately \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of legalization. In addition to healthcare costs, the state also must contend with a lack of productivity in the economy, with research indicating that regular marijuana use increases the probability that a student will drop out of high school.

A 2023 analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City showed that cannabis legalization led to higher social costs without boosting tax revenue, resulting in increased consumption, substance use disorder, homelessness, and arrests, leaving state governments financially worse off.

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

In 2021, cannabis use was estimated to be responsible for 10% of drug-related emergency department visits in the U.S., and it accounts for 11% of all psychosis cases in emergency rooms, totaling approximately 90,000 cases.

Cannabis contributes to a higher probability of users developing psychosis than other illicit drugs, according to the American Journal of Psychiatry. Cannabis-induced psychosis takes the form of perceptual alterations, hallucinations, and delusions.

Psychosis is a strong risk factor for violence. Schizophrenia resulting from cannabis-induced psychosis has significant public safety implications. People diagnosed with schizophrenia are five times as likely to commit violent crimes and are almost twenty times as likely to commit murder. Individuals with schizophrenia account for approximately 6% to 9% percent of murders.

Research also demonstrates that cannabis commercialization contributed to increased crime among all categories. Following cannabis legalization in Oregon, violent crime, property crime, larceny, aggravated assault, and burglary all increased significantly compared to other states that maintained laws against the commercial sale of marijuana.

The consensus from the leading medical journals, backed by extensive studies and research, indicates that cannabis is neither beneficial nor safe. The uniform experience of other states that have legalized retail cannabis is increased cannabis use, including among minors, increased THC potency, and increased crime.

In addition to increased gang and violent crime activity, there are also the effects of decreased public safety on our roads. In Colorado, after legalization, there was a 40% increase in fatal crashes where the driver tested positive only for THC. All marijuana-related traffic fatalities increased by 76.2%.

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 tourism industry, fueling an international drug trade dominated by organized crime.

IV. Virginia's Current Cannabis System

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

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

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.

H.B. 770. An Act to amend and reenact § 40.1-27.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to retaliatory action against employee prohibited; remedies available.

Patron--Delaney

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor with amendment February 19, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendment February 22, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 770 which allows a jury to order the reinstatement of an employee to a similar position following a retaliatory action.

Current law provides that a judge can order the reinstatement of an employee to a similar position or other forms of equitable relief after a verdict. Juries are, appropriately, defined as finders of fact that deliver verdicts, not remedies.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 776. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-1705 of the Code of Virginia, relating to minimum qualifications for law-enforcement officers; citizenship; waiver.

Patrons--Herring, Carr and Henson

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 776, which amends the minimum qualifications for law-enforcement officers.

The bill is unnecessary as under current law allows the Department of Criminal Justice Services to issue a waiver for qualifications under § 15.2-1705, including the requirement that law-enforcement officers be citizens of the United States. Current DCJS practice is to issue waivers upon request of the law enforcement agency if the prospective employee is a legal permanent resident who is both eligible for and applied for citizenship.

Other waivers issued to the minimum qualification for law enforcement officers include those with alternative education backgrounds who have not received a high school diploma.

In its current form, this bill removes DCJS's ability to make waiver determinations on these other qualifications and may hinder law enforcement agency recruitment. With the existing waiver process in place, the legislative changes are unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 797. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-915.4, 18.2-308.02, 18.2-308.06, and 22.1-204.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to demonstrated competence for a concealed handgun permit; firearms instructors and safety programs.

Patron--Hope

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendment February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 797, which amends the requirements for concealed handgun permits.

This legislation prohibits recognized and widely accepted firearm safety and training courses from being valid for evidence of demonstrated competence in firearms safety for obtaining a concealed handgun permit or training minors in pneumatic gun use. Consequently, this change could compromise Virginians' safety and increase the likelihood of individuals circumventing these requirements.

This legislation would necessitate the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to become the exclusive certifying agency for courses essential to prove competence for obtaining a concealed handgun permit. However, DCJS primarily serves as a criminal justice agency, and its firearm training and safety courses are tailored for that specific purpose, not addressing the broader needs of the general public.

Additionally, the new requirements establish barriers to determining competency, introducing bureaucratic obstacles that impede an individual's right to self-defense.

This additional government approval process, funded by taxpayer dollars, is despite the established effectiveness of existing certifications currently available.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 798. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.1:8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm following an assault and battery or stalking violation; prohibition period; penalty.

Patrons--Hope and Lopez

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 798, relating to the purchase, possession, or transportation of a firearm following a misdemeanor conviction of assault and battery or stalking.

Individuals convicted of felonious assault and battery or subsequent instances of stalking already automatically lose their firearms rights.

Despite Virginians already having mechanisms in place for disarming individuals deemed dangerous, such as through protective orders, the proposed legislation seeks to remove a constitutional right for misdemeanor offenses.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 799. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.02 of the Code of Virginia, relating to concealed handgun permit applications; fingerprints required by local governments.

Patrons--Hope and Shin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendment February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 799, which requires fingerprints to be submitted with an application for a concealed handgun permit or a renewal of such a permit.

This legislation targets individuals already subject to background checks and mandatory training, creating superfluous and onerous restrictions on responsible citizens exercising their Second Amendment right to self-defense. Despite an existing comprehensive instant background check system, this proposal would include an additional and redundant step in the concealed carry permit process.

Moreover, while the legislation mandates the destruction of fingerprints collected by the Commonwealth during the application process, the Federal Bureau of Investigation retains these fingerprints for the individual's lifetime. This record retention raises legitimate concerns regarding the privacy and civil liberties of those seeking to exercise their Second Amendment rights.

In 2012, in a bipartisan effort, the General Assembly repealed the local option to mandate fingerprints for a concealed handgun permit, recognizing the diminishing relevance of such requirements. This sensible shift is overshadowed in the current hyper-partisan climate, especially considering that concealed carry permit holders are known for being law-abiding citizens in the Commonwealth.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 803. An Act to amend and reenact § 16.1-306 of the Code of Virginia, relating to expungement of juvenile court records.

Patrons--Rasoul, Clark, Glass, Keys-Gamarra, Seibold and Shin; Senators: Aird, Favola and Salim

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 803, which relates to the expungement of juvenile court records.

Automatically erasing criminal records at a specific age, especially for serious offenses committed during adolescence, will negatively affect public safety. Without access to this information, law enforcement would struggle to accurately assess an individual's background and potential risk.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 805. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-602, 58.1-605, 58.1-605.1, and 58.1-606.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to additional local sales and use tax to support schools; referendum.

Patrons--Rasoul, Cole, Mundon King, Simonds, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Bulova, Callsen, Carr, Cohen, Cousins, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Laufer, Lopez, McQuinn, Price, Reid, Shin, Sullivan and Ward; Senator: McPike

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 21, 2024 (11-Y 3-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 23, 2024 (27-Y 12-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 805, which authorizes counties and cities to implement an increased sale and use tax rate for school construction.

School construction is a worthy cause, and Virginia has made significant progress. In 2022, the Budget supported more than three billion dollars in school construction projects through targeted assistance, formula-based school construction and modernization grants, and low-interest loans. This was achieved all while providing more than five billion dollars in tax relief.

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.

The proposed Common Ground budget supports a \$1.2 billion increase K-12 appropriations over the biennium and makes available substantial construction loan and grant funding for school construction.

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.

H.B. 817. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 55.1-1258 and 55.1-1314 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act; retaliatory conduct prohibited.

Patrons--McClure, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Henson, Lopez, Martinez and Seibold; Senator: Surovell

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 21, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 817, which pertains to prohibited retaliatory actions by housing providers and protected tenant activities.

While this bill commendably seeks to clarify housing providers' and tenants' rights under the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, it contains contradictory and ambiguous language.

This bill would make the Residential Landlord Tenant Act more confusing and compliance more difficult.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 833. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228, 16.1-278.15, 20-124.2, and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia, relating to child abuse and neglect; custody and visitation; possession or consumption of authorized substances.

Patrons--Cousins, Clark and Henson

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 14, 2024 (9-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate February 19, 2024 (38-Y 1-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 833, which creates exemptions to the definition of the abused and neglected child and restricts the consideration of courts related to an individual's consumption and possession of controlled substances.

The proposed legislation, aiming to address a non-existent problem, has potential consequences that may expose children to harm.

Child protective service (CPS) referrals rarely, if ever, involve screening solely based on parents' legal use of controlled substances or marijuana. Instead, cases typically encompass additional risk factors like impaired supervision, access to drugs or drug paraphernalia, or a parent's inability to meet the child's basic needs. The inherent risk of unintended consequences, potentially endangering child safety by dissuading local departments of social services from implementing necessary protective measures, disrupts the balanced approach of current CPS policies, thus jeopardizing the well-being of vulnerable children.

The proposed exemption to the definition of an "abused or neglected child" raises concerns by needlessly complicating an already intricate legal domain. These exceptions overlook the necessity for judges and CPS workers to assess unique factors and circumstances in each case, potentially hindering effective decision-making.

The proposal undermines the tangible link between substance use and harm to children, evident in the increased calls to poison control and emergency room visits for children consuming cannabis-infused substances following the authorization of personal marijuana possession. The blanket exemption further places children at risk by potentially endangering their welfare.

This is a significant threat to child safety, potentially shielding parents engaging in substance possession or consumption from scrutiny. This failure to consider nuanced circumstances undermines the child's best interests and contradicts our efforts to address substance misuse in families and communities.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

H.B. 838. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-392.2, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to expungement of police and court records.

Patron--Hope

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendment February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute with amendment March 6, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 838, which allows a charging offense to be expunged after a person is found guilty of a lesser offense related to the same conduct.

This bill would allow individuals to avoid the full consequences of their actions by having more serious charges expunged from their record after being found guilty of a lesser offense. This bill reduces transparency and accountability as it will obscure important information about an individual's criminal history.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 857. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-340, 19.2-341, and 19.2-354 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fines and costs; period of limitations on collection.

Patrons--Hernandez, Anthony, Clark, Price and Shin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with amendment February 28, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 857, which lowers the period of limitations for the collection of court fines and requires courts to determine payment plans for convicts. 
Court costs are a vital revenue source for local court systems and are appropriately charged to individuals who are convicted of crimes that are heard before such courts. This bill would prevent local governments from collecting these costs from certain convicted defendants and could risk underfunding local court systems.  
Accordingly, I veto this bill. 

H.B. 916. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-387.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Substantial Risk Order Reporting System established.

Patrons--Srinivasan, Shin and Sullivan

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 916, which establishes a Substantial Risk Order Reporting System.
Currently, the Virginia State Police maintains the Substantial Risk Order Registry, every order is entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) after it is issued, and after the order expires, the VCIN is updated.
Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 924. An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-2099.53 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 15 of Chapter 20 of Title 46.2 a section numbered 46.2-2099.54, relating to transportation network companies; publishing and disclosure requirements.

Patrons--Srinivasan, Helmer and Tran; Senator: Salim

Reported from Committee on Transportation February 22, 2024 (11-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate February 27, 2024 (26-Y 12-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 924 which requires transportation network companies (TNCs) to submit an annual report to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This report mandated by the bill would entangle DMV in the partnership between TNCs and their drivers. The DMV must maintain its focus on public safety and consumer protection. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 938. An Act to amend and reenact § 60.2-612 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unemployment insurance; benefit eligibility conditions; lockout exception to labor dispute disqualification.

Patrons--LeVere Bolling and Lopez

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 938, which provides unemployment insurance benefits in the case of a lockout due to a labor dispute. Virginia remains a right-to-work state, a status that this proposal would compromise. Labor unions negotiate contracts with employers, and if negotiations fail, employers are permitted to hire replacements or lockout workers until a resolution is reached. During a lockout, employers cannot permanently replace workers, and workers may seek back pay through a National Labor Relations Board proceeding. The proposal would involve the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) in labor disputes for the first time by requiring it to determine eligibility for unemployment benefits during such a dispute. This would be a significant departure from current practices, potentially entangling the VEC in contentious issues. Furthermore, unemployment benefits are funded through contributions to the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance Trust fund, with tax collections increasing when solvency is low. While this process is fair for rebuilding the Trust fund during economic downturns, allowing labor unions or a few employers to raise taxes on others is unjust for employers and employees. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 939. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-107, 24.2-411, 24.2-413, 24.2-604, 24.2-653.01, 24.2-671, 24.2-679, 24.2-701.1, 24.2-707.1, 24.2-712, and 24.2-802.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elections administration; certain activities or conduct prohibited at polling places applicable to locations for absentee voting in person; possession of firearm within 100 feet of locations used for certain voting-related and elections-related activities; penalty.

Patrons--Shin, Clark, Lopez and Bennett-Parker

Reported from Committee on Privileges and Elections with substitute February 27, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 939, which prohibits possession of a firearm within 100 feet of locations used for certain voting-related and elections-related activities. Current law prohibits possessing a firearm within forty feet of the entrance to a polling place. Additionally, the act of brandishing a weapon is already a criminal offense. This legislation proposes intricate time-and-place restrictions on carrying firearms, potentially turning law-abiding citizens into unintentional criminals if they are unaware of the presence of a ballot drop-off box or an electoral board meeting.

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

The expanded election-related restrictions would necessitate individuals to navigate around various locations permanently, regardless of their purpose in the area; moreover, on specific days and during designated hours, they would be obligated to avoid an extended list of locations to avoid legal consequences. These restrictions could be in effect for up to forty-five days in some years and one hundred thirty-five days or more in others.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 949. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 an article numbered 13, consisting of sections numbered 62.1-44.34:29 through 62.1-44.34:33, relating to hazardous substances; Hazardous Substance Facility Response Plans; civil penalties.

Patrons--Lopez and Simonds

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendments February 29, 2024 (10-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 5, 2024 (24-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 949, pertaining to Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Hazardous Substance Worst Case Discharge Planning regulations.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) currently regulates the underground storage of hazardous substances including petroleum, and through its water and waste programs, DEQ regulates the release and remediation of hazardous substances. DEQ also currently regulates the aboveground storage of petroleum and hazardous wastes.

The hazardous substances contemplated by this bill are not currently regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, and while Federal regulations are forthcoming, Virginia should avoid creating state regulations until Federal regulation is settled.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 953. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 15.2 a chapter numbered 24.4, consisting of a section numbered 15.2-2441, relating to Local Environmental Impact Fund.

Patrons--Lopez, Bennett-Parker, Clark, Henson, Martinez, Rasoul, Shin and Simonds

Reported from Committee on Local Government February 19, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate February 21, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 953, which would permit localities to establish a permanent Local Environmental Fund.

Localities should not have the power to leverage local funds, including taxpayer dollars, to finance purchases by private citizens, such as lawn care equipment, home appliances, HVAC units, and micromobility devices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 958. An Act to require the Commission on Civic Education to create model guidance on the inclusion and involvement of enrolled students in the work of local school boards.

Patrons--Lopez, Clark, Henson, Hope, Martinez and Rasoul

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with amendment February 29, 2024 (15-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with amendment March 4, 2024

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 958, which mandates the Commission on Civic Education to develop model guidance on student participation in the work of local school boards, including a process and structure for adding a student representative to the local school board.

Increasing student participation in civic life as a form of civic education is commendable and should be a goal of all local school divisions. While some local school boards may currently choose to incorporate some student representation, the Commonwealth should not establish a model that implies a state mandate.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

H.B. 972. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-271.7, relating to prohibiting inquiry into the immigration status of defendant; notification of consequences.

Patrons--Lopez, Clark, Glass, Henson, Martinez, Rasoul, Simonds and Watts

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with amendments February 28, 2024 (9-Y 2-N 4-A)

Passed Senate with amendments March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 972 which relates to immigration status disclosure during trials.

Deportation is a serious outcome for noncitizens convicted of crimes, however, the Court must absolutely have the right to inquire as to the immigration status of a defendant, as it is relevant information to the way the justice system should handle his or her case, including whether or not the defendant is a flight risk.

Courts must be able to inquire if an individual is in the country illegally as it can affect absconding potential and inform legal proceedings.

Establishes a precedent lacking a clear endpoint. In other contexts, a future General Assembly could use this proposal as the basis to prohibit inquiries into mental state to prevent civil commitments or restrict questions about military status to avoid dishonorable discharges. Such limitations on the information available to courts risk impeding their ability to adjudicate cases fairly and accurately, potentially resulting in severe consequences for those outside the courtroom.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 974. An Act to amend and reenact § 65.2-105 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; presumption that certain injuries arose out of employment.

Patrons--Keys-Gamarra (By Request), Clark, Henson and Simonds

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 29, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 974, which allows certain evidence for specific injuries arising from employment related to workers' compensation.  

Current law provides a balanced approach to workers' compensation with claims adjudicated by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission in a timely and fair manner. This proposal, however, creates a disproportionate imbalance in favor of one party.

Under current law, to prove work-relatedness, injured workers must demonstrate that the injury resulted from something related to their employment and occurred during work hours and at the workplace. This proposal reduces the burden of proof for employees to demonstrate the work-relatedness of a fall incident.

Employees seeking workers' compensation for unexplained falls may rely on circumstantial evidence and hearsay; however, employers disputing the work-related aspect must provide direct evidence, disturbing the existing balance.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 990. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 40.1 a section numbered 40.1-28.7:11, relating to prohibiting employer seeking wage or salary history of prospective employees; wage or salary range transparency; cause of action.

Patrons--Maldonado, Bennett-Parker, Glass, Shin, Clark, Convirs-Fowler, Henson, Martinez, Rasoul and Simonds

Reported from Committee on Commerce and Labor with substitute February 19, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 22, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 990, which prohibits employers from seeking the wage or salary history of prospective employees.

While I share concerns regarding wage inequality among women and minorities, the proposed legislation represents government overreach, offering incomplete information during the hiring process, disregarding business needs, and potentially exposing small businesses to lawsuits.

The Commonwealth's objective is to attract, retain, and expand job opportunities, and our laws should not burden or incur excessive costs compared to competitor states. Regulations should consider the overall business expenses, encompassing taxes, fees, insurance, and regulatory obligations, to foster a favorable business climate.

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. Gender or race are legally prohibited from influencing these decisions.

This legislation adopts a one-size-fits-all approach, disregarding the diverse nature of businesses across the Commonwealth spanning various sizes, industries, and geographic locations. While large corporations might navigate the new regulations, smaller companies or nonprofits lacking dedicated human resources departments would struggle, hindering their ability to evaluate candidates effectively.

Addressing wage disparities across gender and racial lines is imperative, but the potential adverse effects on small businesses, prospective employees, and the economy are too high.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1028. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2305.2, relating to affordable housing; assisted living facilities.

Patrons--Reaser, Clark, Glass, McClure, Anthony, Bennett-Parker, Callsen, Cohen, Cousins, Gardner, Henson, Martinez, Shin and Tran; Senator: Favola

Reported from Committee on Local Government February 26, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1028, which allows certain localities to require new assisted living facilities to set aside affordable rental units.

Requiring affordable housing unit set-asides as contemplated by this bill can discourage the supply of new housing and shift housing costs onto other residents. I agree with the patron that affordable housing for Virginia's senior citizens is a priority, but housing is best made more affordable by encouraging development rather than mandating cost-raising regulations on Virginia's builders.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1088. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-212.1:3, relating to Board of Education; instructional materials on climate change and environmental literacy; model policies and procedures for selection.

Patrons--Carr, Cole, Sullivan, Bennett-Parker, Hope, Laufer, Price and Reaser

Reported from Committee on Education and Health February 29, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1088, which requires the Board of Education to adopt model policies related to climate change and environmental literacy.

The Standards of Learning already provides instructional material related to environmental issues.

The proposal imposes a significant and redundant task on the Department of Education and the Board of Education. It mandates a separate and independent review for a specific topic, in addition to the review of science Standards of Learning and instructional material.

Additionally, school divisions must integrate these new resources into their curriculum outside the standard process, necessitating purchasing instructional material and reallocating instructional time without additional funding.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1098. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 40.1 an article numbered 2.3, consisting of sections numbered 40.1-33.13 through 40.1-33.17, relating to unpaid family bereavement leave; required; remedies.

Patrons--Rasoul, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Clark, Cohen, Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Feggans, Henson, Hernandez, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Martinez, Shin, Simonds, Ward and Willett; Senators: Boysko and Salim

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with substitute February 29, 2024 (14-Y 0-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1098 which requires certain employers to offer up to 10 days of annual unpaid family bereavement leave.

Many employers already offer employees bereavement leave as part of their benefit package designed specifically for their employees' needs. This practice should be determined by management and the employees, and not imposed as a one-size-fits-all mandate.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 1100. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-961.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to conservation of trees.

Patrons--Carr, Helmer, Keys-Gamarra, Seibold, Simonds, Bennett-Parker and Cousins

Reported from Committee on Local Government February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (23-Y 16-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1100, seeks to increase the number of localities that can impose an ordinance providing for the planting and replacement of trees during the development process. Virginia's 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. This bill amends a second of code which allows localities within Planning District 8 who meet certain federal Clean Air Act standards to adopt a tree ordinance, other portions of the code allow any localities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed or any locality with a population density of at least 75 persons per square mile to adopt such an ordinance. According to the Virginia Department of Forestry, sixty percent of Virginia is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed already. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1167. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-918.1, relating to local prohibition on the sale of English ivy; civil penalty.

Patrons--Krizek, Bulova, Clark, Cousins, Simon and Sullivan; Senator: Surovell

Reported from Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources February 20, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1167, which creates local civil penalties on the sale of English Ivy. While the intent to regulate invasive species is praiseworthy, this bill proposes a prohibition on a single species, potentially establishing a precedent for banning other legal plant species in the future. Such a precedent could sow confusion and inconsistency in regulations statewide. The prospect of a patchwork of laws requires small business owners and garden enthusiasts to navigate complex legal landscapes. The most effective approach to addressing this issue is education and allowing the market to determine what is best for Virginians. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1174. An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to assault firearms; purchase; age requirement; penalty.

Patrons--Sickles, Lopez, Carr, Cohen and Henson

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1174, relating to age requirements for purchasing or transferring certain firearms.

The proposed 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.

Recently, 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.

H.B. 1177. An Act to require the Commonwealth's participation in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Patrons--Sickles, Clark, Cole, Thomas, Willett, Carr, Gardner, Hernandez, Lopez and Sewell

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1177, which requires the Commissioner of Elections to apply for, enter into, and maintain membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center.

The decision for the Commonwealth to exit the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) in 2023 was a result of persistent management issues, improper data use, escalating costs, and the inability to meet statutory requirements for border state information sharing.

ERIC's reluctance to implement reforms and address a bipartisan working group of member states concerns reflects a departure from its core mission of improving voter roll accuracy, which called into question Virginia's continued participation.

This is particularly concerning due to the controversy surrounding ERIC's sharing of personal information with external organizations. These organizations are funded by sources that the General Assembly has on a bipartisan basis prohibited Virginia's election officials from accepting.

The financial burden of rejoining ERIC includes membership fees, which have increased more than 115% since 2022, and participation expenses. ERIC's mandatory Eligible but Unregistered mailing will cost the Commonwealth hundreds of thousands of dollars, which is superfluous considering Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles' automatic registration policies and same-day registration for voting.

Since leaving ERIC, Virginia established data-sharing agreements with numerous states incurring no additional costs. Additionally, the Department of Elections has increased its data sources by collaborating with forty-one states to obtain driver's license surrender data, while ERIC only provides data sharing with twenty-five states.

I have been explicitly clear about my affirmation of the legitimacy of our elections. My focus is safeguarding Virginians' private information and continuously improving an efficient, cost-effective voter registration system.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1178. An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-2353 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Commonwealth of Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority; board of directors; membership.

Patron--Sickles

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 21, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute February 27, 2024 (24-Y 15-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1178, which alters the current and future composition of the Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority.

In 2020, pivotal legislation consolidated disparate entities and bolstered the Commonwealth's capacity to drive innovation in the newly created Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority (VIPA). This restructuring aimed to leverage Virginia's unique strengths, combining the expertise of the Virginia Research Investment Committee and the Center for Innovative Technology. The result was a more robust framework to propel research, commercialization, and investment while instituting much-needed oversight.

This proposal would undo the recent achievements and efficiencies with additional bureaucratic layers, stifling the agility and dynamism of our entrepreneurship ecosystem. These changes risk eroding the confidence of stakeholders and investors.

Of particular concern is the provision that would upend VIPA's governance. The proposal, by abruptly ousting our nonlegislative citizen members from the Board of Directors, injects uncertainty for those willing to commit time and effort to serve the Commonwealth.

Even unenacted, the ramifications of this proposal signal to entrepreneurs and investors across Virginia that the very Authority meant to support them is entangled in political machinations. That is the wrong message to send when VIPA has made recent record investments in economically disadvantaged individuals, increased savings, and achieved national prominence in small business initiatives.

While collaboration with the General Assembly is essential for effective governance, the current proposal further diverges us from that goal.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

H.B. 1190. An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-1133 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board for Contractors; offering or approving exams; language counterparts.

Patron--Thomas

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1190 which requires the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations (DPOR) to create and administer certain Board of Contractors exams in any language that election materials are printed in.

This mandate would add cumbersome changes to the administration of these exams as it would be necessary for the test proctors to be proficient in these languages and require accurate translations of resource material and publications. These costs would be passed onto applicants through higher licensing fees.

Considering that current non-English exams are utilized for less than five percent of applicants, this bill could raise costs on applicants with minimal public benefit.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1195. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-308.2:2 and 18.2-308.2:5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to purchase of firearms; waiting period; penalty.

Patrons--Hayes, Helmer, Bennett-Parker, Carr, Keys-Gamarra, Price and Shin

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1195, which requires a waiting period to purchase a firearm.

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.

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.

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.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1207. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 36-139, 55.1-1200, and 55.1-1203 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Housing and Community Development; Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; affordable housing; criminal record screening model policy.

Patrons--Hayes and Shin

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology with amendments February 21, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 26, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1207, which requires the Commonwealth to develop an affordable housing criminal record screening model policy.

This bill, in practical effect, prohibits an affordable housing provider from inquiring about, requiring disclosure of, or rejecting a housing application based on an applicant's criminal or arrest record unless the provider does so according to such model policy.

Further, 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.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1244. An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-39.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to restorative housing and isolated confinement; restrictions on use.

Patrons--Cole, Hope, Mundon King, Rasoul, Seibold and Glass

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 4, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1244, which regulates the use of restorative housing.

During the 2023 legislative session, the General Assembly came together in a bipartisan manner to enact reforms to improve 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 represent the culmination of significant efforts by the Department, positioning 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 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.

Additionally, I have concerns regarding the budgetary implications of implementing this proposal. The allocated resources in the proposed Budget may not adequately cover the costs, potentially diverting 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, the establishment of a Department of Corrections Ombudsman in the Budget, and my continued support for new leadership within the Department underscore my dedication to this cause.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1251. An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1244 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; material noncompliance by landlord; rent escrow; relief.

Patrons--Cousins, Callsen, Clark, Henson, Martinez and Rasoul

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 21, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 26, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1251, 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.

Many small housing providers depend on regular rent payments to satisfy their obligations, including to lenders. By allowing tenants to withhold rent, this bill may make housing providers unable to properly and timely meet those obligations, which could cause cascading negative consequences.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 1252. An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-306.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to limitation on sentence upon revocation of suspension of sentence; technical violations.

Patrons--McClure, Clark, Henson, Rasoul and Simonds

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice with amendments February 19, 2024 (8-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with amendments February 21, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1252, which requires courts to release defendants being held for a probation violation under certain circumstances.

This bill's requirements would put Virginia law at odds with the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, which governs probation violation release timeframes across all state governments.

The bill also mandates that offenders be held for probation violations after fourteen days, even if they were a flight risk or likely to re-offend based on past behavior. The fourteen-day timeframe is insufficient for attorneys to collect and present evidence on whether the offender should be released or remain in custody.

In addition, this bill uses technical terms without clear definitions, creating uncertainty for courts when determining probation violations or releasing offenders. Consequently, disparate outcomes may arise based on individual judges' interpretations.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1264. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-278.8, 16.1-278.10, 17.1-275.5, 19.2-159, 19.2-163, 19.2-163.4:1, and 46.2-808.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to discretionary juvenile fines, costs, and fees; traffic infractions.

Patrons--Shin, Cousins, Hernandez, Bennett-Parker and Callsen

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 27, 2024 (10-Y 5-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1264, which relates to juvenile fines, costs, and fees for traffic infractions.

The bill proposes specific provisions regarding fee determination for legal representation and potential waivers based on financial circumstances, largely duplicating the court's existing discretion in these matters.

Ultimately, the bill undermines public safety by sending the wrong message about accountability and responsibility among young offenders.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

H.B. 1386. An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia, relating to firearms; workplace rules of localities.

Patron--Convirs-Fowler

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 26, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate February 28, 2024 (20-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1386, which restricts localities' ability to adopt workplace rules for firearms.

Localities can currently adopt these provisions if they choose, and the existing process allows localities to account for the numerous variations in Virginia's diverse geographic, cultural, and societal norms across different regions of the Commonwealth or the unique situations of fire marshals, school security officers, judges, or Commonwealth attorneys.

The proposal undermines localities' ability to adopt workplace rules based on the best interests of their employees in specific workplaces.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1398. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 36 a chapter numbered 13, consisting of sections numbered 36-176 through 36-181, relating to preservation of affordable housing; definitions; civil penalty.

Patrons--Bennett-Parker, Shin and Price

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1398, which grants localities a right of first refusal for affordable housing program participation changes and sales.

This bill would allow a locality the right to purchase affordable housing properties after the property owner has accepted an offer from a private party to sell it. A locality is also authorized to transfer this right to another private party that may be a competitor to the initial prospective purchaser. This bill would allow a locality to arbitrarily interfere in the private market and pick winners and losers.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1408. An Act to direct the Department of Elections to develop standards and guidelines for determining the number and location of voter satellite offices.

Patrons--Srinivasan, Helmer, Martinez and Shin

Reported from Committee on Privileges and Elections February 20, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate February 23, 2024 (21-Y 18-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1408, which directs the Department of Elections to develop standards and guidelines for local governing bodies regarding voter satellite offices.

The Department of Elections currently maintains regulations and guidance regarding the establishment and operation of voter satellite offices in the General Registrar and Electoral Board Handbook. Therefore, this legislation is unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 1420. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228, 16.1-278.8, and 18.2-371 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 16.1-278.9:1, relating to juveniles; adjudication of delinquency.

Patron--Watts

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 19, 2024 (8-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate February 21, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1420, which establishes the age of a delinquent child.

Although this bill purports to protect juveniles under eleven by preventing them from being charged with delinquency, some youth under age eleven who might otherwise receive delinquency adjudication for an offense may lose access to Department of Juvenile Justice funding for mental health and counseling services, following a delinquency determination.

Additionally, a court would lose the ability to require restitution that could benefit victims of acts committed by children under eleven.

Finally, the proposal serves as an additional incentive for criminal street gangs to continue the heinous practice of recruiting children younger than eleven years old to carry out gang-related offenses.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1454. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-328.1, 46.2-328.3, and 46.2-345.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to limited-duration licenses and driver privilege cards and permits; expiration.

Patrons--Lopez, Shin, Tran, Clark, Henson, McClure, Rasoul and Simonds

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations February 28, 2024 (10-Y 3-N)

Passed Senate March 1, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1454, which concerns limited-duration licenses, driver privilege cards and permits, and identification privilege cards.

This bill removes the requirement that driver privilege cards have printed restrictions identical to limited duration licenses, which indicate that the card is valid only for a limited period. This information is used to distinguish between legal and non-legal resident IDs.

This bill would also enable a person permitted by the Federal government to be in the United States for a limited duration to obtain a Virginia Driver's license for a full eight-year term even though their eligibility to be legally present here may have expired.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1462. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 46.2 a section numbered 46.2-1215.1, relating to firearm in unattended motor vehicle; civil penalty.

Patrons--Laufer, Hernandez, Callsen, Clark, Cohen and Glass

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 19, 2024 (7-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate February 21, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1462, which relates to firearms in motor vehicles.

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.

H.B. 1467. An Act to amend and reenact § 23.1-1300 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public institutions of higher education; governing boards; membership.

Patron--Laufer

Reported from Committee on Education and Health with substitute February 29, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate with substitute March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1467, which adds 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 Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act of 2005 granted public colleges and universities increased operational and administrative autonomy in exchange for a reaffirmed dedication to their public missions. The proposal mandates the inclusion of faculty and staff representatives within our Boards of Visitors, in contrast to that dedication.

There are Boards of Visitors that oversee budgets that exceed one billion dollars, requiring judicious investments and adjustments, including assessments of staffing levels. Unfortunately, the proposal will diminish the opportunities for cost efficiencies, resulting in higher tuition and increased expenses for hardworking Virginia families.

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.

H.B. 1475. An Act to direct the Board of Housing and Community Development to amend the Uniform Statewide Building Code to require that owners and operators of certain apartment buildings supply cooling and heating during certain times of year.

Patrons--Keys-Gamarra, Bennett-Parker and Watts

Reported from Committee on General Laws and Technology February 28, 2024 (9-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

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House Bills Vetoed by Governor

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1475, which relates to regulations concerning heating and cooling systems in the Virginia Maintenance Code.

Mandating specific temperature requirements would impose significant financial burdens on owners, limit flexibility, and increase regulatory compliance costs, ultimately reducing the availability of rental housing in Virginia.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

H.B. 1515. An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 4.2 of Chapter 15 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-264.15, relating to discovery; electronic means.

Patrons--Srinivasan, Davis and Glass

Reported from Committee on Finance and Appropriations with amendments February 29, 2024 (10-Y 4-N)

Passed Senate with amendments March 5, 2024 (23-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1515, which mandates Commonwealth Attorneys to provide discovery material electronically.

While the bill aims to establish a commendable goal of a universal statewide electronic discovery system, the current state of information technology infrastructure across the Commonwealth significantly challenges achieving this objective.

The Commonwealth should first coordinate and fund information technology solutions for Commonwealth Attorneys' offices. Technology requirements and financial support have traditionally been a local government concern, resulting in a balkanized patchwork of incompatible information technology systems across offices.

To provide context, some offices still rely on typewriters due to limited digital infrastructure, while others struggle with digital file management and lack server space and personnel to handle electronic data. The best course of action would be first to investigate and understand the scope of the difficulties before imposing a statewide electronic discovery mandate.

The proposal requires the Commonwealth to operate without first understanding the information technology infrastructure and necessary resources, creating an enormous unfunded mandate for localities.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

H.B. 1534. An Act to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-431, 24.2-504, 24.2-525, 24.2-652, and 24.2-706 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal §§ 24.2-429, 24.2-430, 24.2-432, 24.2-433, and 24.2-651 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elections; challenges to voter or voter's registration; challenges to candidate qualifications or eligibility.

Patron--Sickles

Reported from Committee on Privileges and Elections February 20, 2024 (8-Y 7-N)

Passed Senate February 23, 2024 (22-Y 17-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1534, which relates to challenging a voter's registration and a candidate's qualifications or eligibility.

This bill imposes stringent procedural hurdles for citizens seeking to raise objections to voter registrations and candidate eligibility, effectively limiting their ability to participate in the democratic process.

Accordingly, I veto the bill.

House Bills Vetoed by Governor

H.B. 1539. An Act to amend and reenact § 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 19.2-87.1, relating to abortion or other reproductive health care services; prohibitions on extradition for certain crimes; prohibited practices under Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Patrons--Simon, Seibold, Shin, Cousins, Lopez, Price, Reaser and Tran

Reported from Committee for Courts of Justice February 28, 2024 (7-Y 6-N)

Passed Senate March 5, 2024 (21-Y 19-N)

GOVERNOR'S VETO

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1539, which prohibits extradition for certain crimes.

This bill is aimed at medical professionals from other states who may be in Virginia and subject to an extradition.

The extradition process among the states has a long and successful history within an established legal framework required by the U.S. Constitution. This bill would undermine that framework and disrupt the extradition laws in all fifty states. Our cooperative extradition system could collapse if individual states were to carve out crimes for which they would not recognize codified laws because of differing political positions.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

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S.B. 196.....	6	S.B. 588.....	47
S.B. 212.....	7	S.B. 595.....	48
S.B. 225.....	7	S.B. 597.....	48
S.B. 235.....	28	S.B. 606.....	48
S.B. 236.....	28	S.B. 608.....	19
S.B. 237.....	8	S.B. 628.....	20
S.B. 238.....	8	S.B. 634.....	49
S.B. 246.....	29	S.B. 642.....	50
S.B. 256.....	9	S.B. 654.....	50
S.B. 258.....	29	S.B. 696.....	51
S.B. 259.....	30	S.B. 713.....	20
S.B. 260.....	9	S.B. 716.....	51
S.B. 271.....	9	S.B. 719.....	52
S.B. 273.....	30	S.B. 729.....	20
S.B. 274.....	31		
S.B. 276.....	31		
S.B. 300.....	10		
S.B. 306.....	32		
S.B. 313.....	10		
S.B. 327.....	32		
S.B. 329.....	33		
S.B. 334.....	34		
S.B. 338.....	34		
S.B. 350.....	11		
S.B. 357.....	35		
S.B. 361.....	11		
S.B. 362.....	12		
S.B. 363.....	12		
S.B. 364.....	12		
S.B. 368.....	35		
S.B. 370.....	36		
S.B. 373.....	36		
S.B. 383.....	37		
S.B. 393.....	37		
S.B. 405.....	13		
S.B. 422.....	13		
S.B. 428.....	38		
S.B. 447.....	38		
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S.B. 477.....	42		
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S.B. 542.....	45		
S.B. 544.....	16		
S.B. 550.....	17		
S.B. 565.....	18		
S.B. 569.....	18		

*Today's Invocation by
The Reverend Zachary D. OBey
Love Outreach Tabernacle
Petersburg*

*Today's Pledge of Allegiance by
Maryann Horch
Senior Systems Analyst & Sergeant-At-Arms*

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees meet in the General Assembly Building unless otherwise announced.

Individuals requiring interpreter services or other accommodations please call (804) 698-7450 (text callers use VRC at 1-800-828-1120) or TDD # (804) 698-7419 or write to: Senate Committee Operations, P.O. Box 396, Richmond, VA 23218. State the type of accommodation and the meeting for which services are required. Requests should be received at least 5 working days in advance.

Committee

Time and Place

Remarks

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

JOINT MEETING OF THE SENATE AND
HOUSE PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEES

9:30 a.m.
House Room C

COMMITTEE ON RULES

9:45 a.m.
Senate Room C

Republican Caucus

11:00 a.m.
Senate Room 2, Capitol

Democratic Caucus

11:15 a.m.
Senate Room 1, Capitol

***Susan Clarke Schaar
Clerk of the Senate***