

**Legislative Report**  
**University of Virginia -- Office of State Governmental Relations**  
**Friday, January 26, 2024**

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## **HB8**      [Medical Ethics Defense Act; established.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB153

*Chief Patron:* Ware

### **Summary:**

Establishes the right of a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer not to participate in or pay for any medical procedure or service that violates such medical practitioner's, health care institution's, or health care payer's conscience, as those terms and conditions are defined in the bill. The bill provides protections for medical practitioners who disclose violations of the bill or report violations of laws or ethical guidelines for the safe provision of any medical procedure or service. The bill also provides a private right of action for any party harmed by violations of the bill.

### **Status:**

12/01/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100711D  
12/01/23 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services  
01/17/24 House: Assigned sub: Health Professions  
01/18/24 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket (8-Y 0-N)

## **HB23**      [Weapons; possession or transportation into facility that provides mental health services, etc.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Laufer

### **Summary:**

Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to possess in or transport into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) firearm or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

### **Status:**

12/14/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103473D  
12/14/23 House: Referred to Committee on Public Safety  
01/13/24 House: Assigned PS sub: Firearms  
01/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB23)  
01/25/24 House: Subcommittee recommends incorporating (HB861-Hernandez)

## **HB29**      [Budget Bill.](#)

**Companion Bill:** SB29

**Chief Patron:** Torian

**Summary:**

Amends 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.

**Status:**

12/20/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104095D

12/20/23 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

**HB30**     **Budget Bill.**

**Companion Bill:** SB30

**Chief Patron:** Torian

**Summary:**

Provides for all appropriations of the Budget submitted by the Governor of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia, and provides a portion of revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June 2025 and the thirtieth day of June 2026.

**Status:**

12/20/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104112D

12/20/23 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

**HB34**     **Statute of limitations; medical debt payment period.**

**Chief Patron:** Clark

**Summary:**

Provides that the statute of limitations for an action on any contract, written or unwritten, to collect medical debt, including actions brought by the Commonwealth, is three years from the original date of a health care service unless the contract with a hospital or health care provider is for a payment plan that allows for a longer period of time for the collection of debt by the hospital or health care provider.

**Status:**

01/23/24 House: Read first time

01/24/24 House: Read second time

01/24/24 House: Committee substitute agreed to 24104549D-H1

01/24/24 House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB34H1

01/25/24 House: Passed by for the day

**HB48**     [Higher educational institutions, public; admissions applications, legacy admissions, etc.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB46

*Chief Patron:* Helmer

**Summary:**

Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.

**Status:**

12/21/23 House: Referred to Committee on Education  
01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education  
01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (10-Y 0-N)  
01/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB48)  
01/24/24 House: Reported from Education (21-Y 0-N)

**HB163**     [Higher educational institutions, public; student identification cards, contact information.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Cole

**Summary:**

Requires each public institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to clearly print and conspicuously label on each student identification card, in addition to the "988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline," the contact information of the following emergency services: (i) the law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical services serving the geographical area in which such institution is located; (ii) the institution's campus police department and any additional security departments or services and emergency medical services or health departments available on campus; and (iii) the sexual assault crisis center or victim support service with which the institution entered into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to relevant law and the National Sexual Assault Hotline. The bill requires each such institution to annually review the required contact information to ensure that it is accurate and current.

**Status:**

01/22/24 House: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered  
01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (9-Y 1-N)  
01/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB163)  
01/24/24 House: Reported from Education with substitute (20-Y 1-N)  
01/24/24 House: Committee substitute printed 24105873D-H1

## **HB207**     [Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Simonds

### **Summary:**

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student hunger at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student hunger, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student hunger at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program that shall include (i) the total number and amounts of grant awards, (ii) information about the impact that the Program has had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of higher education and reducing the number of students experiencing food insecurity, and (iii) recommendations regarding the potential establishment of an annual appropriation for the Program.

### **Status:**

01/04/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101303D  
01/04/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education  
01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education  
01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends incorporating (HB827-Cousins)  
01/24/24 House: Incorporated by Education (HB827-Cousins)

## **HB211**     [Higher educational institutions, public; Dept. of Education to audit education preparation programs.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Martinez

### **Summary:**

Changes from once every seven years to biennially the frequency with which the Department of Education is required to audit each education preparation program for compliance with the requirements set forth in relevant law relating to student coursework and mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

### **Status:**

01/04/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102043D  
01/04/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education  
01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education

**HB342**     [Naloxone or other opioid antagonists; possession by state agencies, guidelines for private employer.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Hope

**Summary:**

Requires the Department of General Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to promulgate regulations for the possession and the administration by state employees of naloxone or other opioid antagonists used for overdose reversal to a person who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opioid overdose and requires each state agency to possess such naloxone or other opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal in accordance with such regulations. The bill also requires the Department of Health, in consultation with the Safety and Health Codes Board, to issue guidelines for the possession and administration of naloxone or other opioid antagonists by private employers used for overdose reversal to a person who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opioid overdose.

**Status:**

01/05/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100674D  
01/05/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services  
01/17/24 House: Assigned sub: Health  
01/23/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB342)

**HB366**     [Va. Nat'l Guard State Tuition Assistance Program; provisions relating to eligibility for grants.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB219

*Chief Patron:* Reid

**Summary:**

Makes several changes to the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including (i) making the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General, (ii) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester, (iii) simplifying the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing, and (iv) providing that any grant awarded shall be in an amount equivalent to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees at the institution of higher education less any other educational benefits for which an individual is eligible as a member of the National Guard.

**Status:**

01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendments (10-Y 0-N)  
01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations  
01/24/24 House: Reported from Education with amendment(s) (21-Y 0-N)



01/24/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

01/25/24 House: Assigned App. sub: Higher Education

## **HB369**     [Sexual misconduct policies; SCHEV to convene task force on combating violence, civil penalty.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Martinez

### **Summary:**

Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to appoint and convene a task force on combating sexual violence for the purpose of developing a base sexual misconduct campus climate survey to be distributed to institutions of higher education no less than annually. The bill defines "institution of higher education" as any public institution of higher education or any private institution of higher education. The bill permits each institution of higher education to append campus-specific questions to the base survey and, within 120 days after completion of the survey, requires each institution to submit a summary of the results to the Director of the Council and post a summary of the results on the institution's website in an easily accessible manner. The bill also requires survey data to be posted on the Council's website.

The bill directs each institution of higher education to establish a written memorandum of understanding with a sexual assault crisis center, domestic violence center, or other victim support service in order to provide sexual assault victims with immediate access to a confidential, independent advocate who can provide a trauma-informed response that includes an explanation of options for moving forward. Currently, only Richard Bland College and each baccalaureate public institution of higher education and nonprofit private institution of higher education are required to enter into such agreements.

The bill requires each institution of higher education to include in its campus security policy the designation of at least one confidential resource advisor whose role shall be to serve as a confidential resource for students and employees to discuss alleged acts of sexual misconduct and receive information on resources available to such students or employees. The bill creates a statutory privilege between the confidential resource advisor and a student or employee who is sharing information with such confidential resource advisor. The bill sets out required awareness programming and training for students and employees to be conducted each year by each institution of higher education. The bill also requires each institution of higher education to adopt a policy on sexual misconduct that includes information set out in the bill and provides information that the institution shall provide to parties involved in an alleged incident of sexual misconduct.

The bill sets forth data reporting requirements of sexual misconduct incidences and investigations that each institution of higher education shall prepare annually. After reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing, upon determination that an institution of higher education has violated or failed to carry out any provision or any rule adopted under the bill, the Director may impose a civil penalty upon such institution for each violation not to exceed \$150,000, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually, or one percent of an institution's annual operating budget, whichever is lower.

### **Status:**

01/06/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101931D

01/06/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules

01/25/24 House: Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee

**HB454 Firearm/explosive material; carrying w/in Capitol Square or bldg. owned or leased by Commonwealth.**

***Companion Bill:*** SB383

***Chief Patron:*** Callsen

***Summary:***

Limits the exemption from the prohibition on the carrying of any firearm or explosive material within any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth or agency thereof or any office where employees of the Commonwealth or any agency thereof are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties that currently applies to any property owned or operated by a public institution of higher education to instead apply to any individual within a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education who possesses a weapon as part of such public institution of higher education's curriculum or activities or as part of any organization authorized by such public institution of higher education to conduct its programs or activities within such building.

***Status:***

01/19/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

01/19/24 House: Impact statement from VCSC (HB454H1)

01/21/24 House: Assigned App. sub: Transportation & Public Safety

01/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB454H1)

01/24/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (5-Y 3-N)

**HB486 Virginia Higher Education Scholarship Act Fund and Program; created and established.**

***Chief Patron:*** Garrett

***Summary:***

Requires, beginning with the incoming freshman class in the 2025 academic year, the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education, with the exception of Norfolk State University, Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia State University, to ensure that the annual percentage of undergraduate non-Virginia students in each incoming freshman class does not exceed 45 percent. The bill also establishes the Virginia Higher Education Scholarship Act Fund and Program whereby certain Virginia public high school graduates who graduated at or near the top of their graduating classes are permitted to apply to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for a scholarship in an amount equal to the cost of tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees to attend a public institution of higher education enumerated in the bill for eight semesters.

***Status:***

01/08/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102067D  
01/08/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education  
01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education

**HB509**     **Public institutions of higher education; policies; individuals with disabilities.**

*Companion Bill:* SB21

*Chief Patron:* Cohen

**Summary:**

Requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy that makes certain documentation or evidence enumerated in the bill that is submitted by an enrolled or admitted student sufficient to establish that the student is an individual with a disability. The bill requires each such policy to include a transparent and explicit process by which the institution determines eligibility for accommodations for an individual with a disability and requires each such institution to disseminate information about such process to students, the parents of students as appropriate, and faculty in accessible formats, including during any student orientation, and make such information available on a conspicuous and publicly accessible page on the institution's website.

**Status:**

01/08/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education  
01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education  
01/22/24 House: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered  
01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (7-Y 3-N)  
01/24/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB509)

**HB579**     **VA Freedom of Information Act; records of federal animal welfare violations, limitation on fees.**

*Chief Patron:* Simonds

**Summary:**

Prohibits any public body in custody of records that pertain to or were generated as a result of a violation of federal animal welfare regulations, policies, or guidelines from charging more than \$25 for the production of such records regarding any one incident or one animal testing facility.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104558D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws

## **HB580**     [Animal testing facilities; public notification.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Simonds

**Summary:**

Requires any animal testing facility, contract testing facility, or manufacturer, as defined in relevant law, that uses an animal test method to make publicly available, on or before December 1 for the preceding federal fiscal year, the total number of animals used for research, education, testing, or experimental, scientific, or biomedical purposes. The bill requires the report to identify and group such animals according to species (i) by displaying a link to access such information on the homepage or landing page of the animal testing facility's, contract facility's, or manufacturer's website or (ii) if such animal testing facility does not have a website, by making such information available by means of a press release or other similar publication.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources  
01/23/24 House: Assigned ACNR sub: Agriculture  
01/24/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (7-Y 3-N)  
01/24/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations  
01/25/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB580)

## **HB609**     [Contraception; establishes right to obtain.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB237

*Chief Patron:* Price

**Summary:**

Establishes a right to obtain contraceptives and engage in contraception, as defined in the bill. The bill creates a cause of action that may be instituted against anyone who infringes on such right.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102170D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

## **HB647**     [Public education; student literacy measures.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB624

*Chief Patron:* Coyner

**Summary:**

Clarifies several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act (the Act), enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly and effective with the 2024-2025 school year, including (i) clarifying

that the term "evidence-based literacy instruction" does not include practices that instruct students to gain meaning from print through the use of (a) three-cueing, which includes semantic, syntactic, and graphophonic cues; (b) meaning, structure, and visual cues; or (c) visual memory for word recognition; (ii) removing the option to use a literacy screener approved by the Department of Education for certain purposes enumerated in the Act; (iii) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research; and (iv) requiring each divisionwide literacy plan to address how the local school board will align (a) core reading and literacy curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade five and (b) screening, supplemental instruction, and interventions for students in kindergarten through grade eight with evidence-based literacy instruction practices aligned with science-based reading research.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100696D

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: K-12 Subcommittee

01/23/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (8-Y 0-N)

01/24/24 House: Reported from Education (21-Y 0-N)

**HB706**     [Public secondary schools; Internet safety education required, report.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Webert

**Summary:**

Requires the Board of Education to develop and approve objectives for Internet safety education at the middle and high school grade levels to be required of all students in grades six through 12, and to provide for the infusion of such objectives in the relevant Standards of Learning and in career and technical education. The bill also requires the Board, in consultation with the Internet Safety Advisory Council or another appropriate entity, to develop a model curriculum for such Internet safety education. The bill requires each public secondary school to provide instruction on Internet safety education in accordance with the educational objectives and model curriculum developed by the Board. The bill also requires each public institution of higher education to provide instruction on the principles of Internet safety as a part of an existing general education course, a first-year orientation program, or another appropriate program or course and directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to encourage private institutions of higher education to provide instruction on the principles of Internet safety.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101130D

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: K-12 Subcommittee

**HB713**     [Higher educational institutions; campus safety and emergency preparedness training.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Torian

**Summary:**

Requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement policies requiring that a campus safety and emergency preparedness training program be provided to and completed by all first-year students by the first day of the fall academic semester and reviewed biennially by each returning student at such institution. The bill provides that such training program will focus on active shooter event preparedness and may be offered in any format and include any supplementary materials as the governing board of each such institution deems appropriate. Finally, the bill directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to encourage private institutions of higher education to develop and implement policies requiring a campus safety and emergency preparedness training program be provided to each first-year student by the first day of the fall academic semester and reviewed biennially by each returning student at such institution.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100533D

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education

**HB715**     [Capital outlay plan; repeals existing six-year capital outlay for projects to be funded.](#)

**Companion Bill:** SB601

**Chief Patron:** Torian

**Summary:**

Updates the six-year capital outlay plan for projects to be funded entirely or partially from general fund-supported resources.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102528D

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

01/17/24 House: Assigned App. sub: General Government and Capital Outlay

01/19/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB715)

**HB737**     [Paid family and medical leave insurance program; notice requirements, civil action.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Sewell

**Summary:**

Requires the Virginia Employment Commission to establish and administer a paid family and medical

leave insurance program with benefits beginning January 1, 2027. Under the program, benefits are paid to covered individuals, as defined in the bill, for family and medical leave. Funding for the program is provided through premiums assessed to employers and employees beginning January 1, 2026. The bill provides that the amount of a benefit is 80 percent of the employee's average weekly wage, not to exceed 80 percent of the state weekly wage, which amount is required to be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the statewide average weekly wage. The bill caps the duration of paid leave at 12 weeks in any application year and provides self-employed individuals the option of participating in the program.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104612D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce  
01/16/24 House: Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #2  
01/25/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (5-Y 3-N)  
01/25/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations

**HB813**     [Parental access to minor's medical records; consent by certain minors to treatment.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Mundon King

**Summary:**

Adds an exception to the right of parental access to a minor child's health records if the furnishing to or review by the requesting parent of such health records would be reasonably likely to deter the minor from seeking care. Under the bill, a minor 16 years of age or older who is determined by a health care provider to be mature and capable of giving informed consent shall be deemed an adult for the purpose of giving consent to treatment of a mental or emotional disorder. The bill provides that the capacity of a minor to consent to treatment of a mental or emotional disorder does not include the capacity to refuse treatment for a mental or emotional disorder for which a parent, guardian, or custodian of the minor has given consent and that a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a minor shall be notified by a health care provider of the minor's drug abuse, substance abuse, or potential of self-harm.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104505D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services  
01/19/24 House: Assigned sub: Behavioral Health

**HB818**     [Virginia Freedom of Information Act; amends definition of meeting, provisions of Act.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Cherry

**Summary:**

Amends the definition of "meeting" as it relates to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to clarify that a gathering of two or more members of a public body is not a meeting if there is no discussion

or transaction of any public business, defined in the bill, by the members of the public body and that certain educational trainings are not meetings subject to FOIA. The bill is in response to the decision of the Supreme Court of Virginia in *Gloss v. Wheeler* (2023) and is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104175D

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws

01/18/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB818)

01/22/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Procurement/Open Government

**HB827**     [Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB318

*Chief Patron:* Cousins

**Summary:**

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program.

**Status:**

01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations

01/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB827)

01/24/24 House: Reported from Education (12-Y 9-N)

01/24/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

01/25/24 House: Assigned App. sub: Higher Education

**HB861**     [Weapons; knowingly possess or transport into facility that provides mental health services.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB515

*Chief Patron:* Hernandez



**Summary:**

Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly possess in or transport into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency room or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) gun or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101429D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice  
01/19/24 House: Referred from Courts of Justice  
01/19/24 House: Referred to Committee on Public Safety  
01/23/24 House: Assigned PS sub: Firearms

**HB881**     [Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Bulova

**Summary:**

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student hunger at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student hunger, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student hunger at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program that shall include (i) the total number and amounts of grant awards, (ii) information about the impact that the Program has had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of higher education and reducing the number of students experiencing food insecurity, and (iii) recommendations regarding the potential establishment of an annual appropriation for the Program.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101332D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules

**HB894**     [Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings.](#)

**Companion Bill:** SB734

**Chief Patron:** Bennett-Parker

**Summary:**

Amends the number of all-virtual public meetings that public bodies, with certain exceptions, may convene in a calendar year to no more than two times per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. Current law limits the number of all-virtual public meetings to no more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. The bill also provides that with respect to all-virtual public meetings, when audio-visual technology is available, a member of a public body shall, for purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws  
01/19/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB894)  
01/22/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Procurement/Open Government  
01/23/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (8-Y 0-N)  
01/25/24 House: Reported from General Laws (22-Y 0-N)

**HB971**     [Nurse practitioners; patient care team provider, autonomous practice.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Tran

**Summary:**

Allows certain nurse practitioners to oversee patient care teams by changing "patient care team physician" to "patient care team provider." The bill defines "patient care team provider" as a patient care team physician, as defined in relevant law, or a nurse practitioner who meets certain requirements. The bill also lowers from five years to two years the amount of full-time clinical experience required before an advanced practice registered nurse may practice without a practice agreement.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104357D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services  
01/11/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB971)  
01/19/24 House: Assigned sub: Health Professions

**HB980**     [Higher education institutions; students who report acts of hazing or bullying, referral for support.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Tran

**Summary:**

Requires that any student who reports to a public institution of higher education or nonprofit private institution of higher education an act of hazing or an act of bullying experienced as the result of a report of an act of hazing shall be referred to an individual or entity that is qualified to provide the appropriate ongoing mental and behavioral health support.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101461D

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/18/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB980)

01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education

**HB981**     [Higher ed. institutions, public; tuition and financial aid, dependency override application form.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Willett

**Summary:**

Requires each public institution of higher education to develop, maintain, and post publicly on the financial aid page of such institution's website informational materials relating to the dependency override application process and to review and update such materials as necessary to reflect current federal law and guidance on such process. The bill requires such informational materials to include, in a language and format accessible to students enrolled at and potential applicants for admission to such institution, (i) an explanation of the purpose of and eligibility requirements for a dependency override, (ii) an explicit list of the circumstances on which a student may base a dependency override application, (iii) an explanation of the dependency override application process at such institution, and (iv) links to relevant federal guidance on the dependency override process.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103526D

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education

01/19/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB981)

**HB983**     [Nurse practitioners; patient care team provider, autonomous practice.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Walker

**Summary:**

Allows certain nurse practitioners to oversee patient care teams by changing "patient care team physician" to "patient care team provider." The bill defines "patient care team provider" as a patient care team physician, as defined in relevant law, or a nurse practitioner who meets certain requirements. The bill also lowers from five years to two years the amount of full-time clinical experience required before an advanced practice registered nurse may practice without a practice agreement.

**Status:**

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104697D  
01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services  
01/11/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB983)  
01/19/24 House: Assigned sub: Health Professions

**HB1001 [Collective bargaining by public employees; labor organization representation.](#)**

*Companion Bill:* SB374

*Chief Patron:* Tran

***Summary:***

Repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The bill requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The bill repeals a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement.

**Status:**

01/21/24 House: Impact statement from DHCD/CLG (HB1001)  
01/23/24 House: Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #2  
01/25/24 House: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered  
01/25/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (5-Y 3-N)  
01/25/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations

**HB1008 [Higher educational institutions, public; financial value transparency information & acknowledgments.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* Lovejoy

***Summary:***

Requires each public institution of higher education to require each student enrolled at such institution to sign, at the time such student enrolls in such institution or declares or changes his academic major, as defined in the bill, an acknowledgement form outlining (i) the total cost of completing such academic major and (ii) an estimate of the annual income such student could expect to earn upon completing such academic major, based on the median income potential of such academic major as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States or another reputable source.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101218D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

**HB1059 [Hospital price transparency; private right of action, patient payment disputes, noncompliance.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* Helmer

**Summary:**

Allows patients, if a hospital is not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws on the date that an elective procedure, test, or service is provided to a patient by the hospital, and the noncompliance is related to such elective procedure, test, or service, to bring an action, individually or jointly, against the hospital to recover payment of the price of the elective procedure, test, or service. Under the bill, if a hospital is found not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws under such circumstances, the hospital is liable for the price of the elective procedure, test, or service provided; an additional equal amount as liquidated damages; interest accruing from the date the elective procedure, test, or service was provided; and reasonable attorney fees and costs. If a hospital is found not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws under such circumstances, the hospital is liable for an amount equal to triple the amount of the price of the elective procedure, test, or service and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104639D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

01/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1059)

01/23/24 House: Stricken from docket by Health and Human Services (22-Y 0-N)

**HB1066 [History of Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Inst. of Higher Ed., Com. to Study; establish.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* McQuinn

**Summary:**

Establishes the 19-member legislative Commission to Study the History of the Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Institutions of Higher Education for the purpose of studying and determining (i) whether any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth has purchased, expropriated, or otherwise taken possession of property owned by any individual within the boundaries of a community in which a majority of the residents are Black in order to establish or expand the institution's campus and (ii) whether and what form of compensation or relief would be appropriate for any such individual or any of his lineal descendants. The bill sunsets on July 1, 2027.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101945D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules

01/25/24 House: Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee

## **HB1079** [Early College Model Program; established.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Coyner

### **Summary:**

Establishes the Early College Model Program whereby any public institution of higher education may establish a college partnership laboratory school in which each enrolled high school student earns, at no cost to the student, an associate degree or a bachelor's degree concurrently with a high school diploma. Under the bill, provisions of existing law relating to the establishment of college partnership laboratory schools apply to such schools established pursuant to the Program but with certain conditions and exceptions, including (i) requiring a college partnership laboratory school established pursuant to the Program to be administered and governed by the Department of Education and (ii) prohibiting any enrolled student from being charged tuition for the college courses in which the student is dually enrolled and requiring the college partnership laboratory school to receive the statewide average share of Standards of Quality per pupil state funding, including the per pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid, for each student enrolled in such school to support the instruction of each such student in the fall and spring semesters.

### **Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100545D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/22/24 House: Stricken from docket by Education (21-Y 0-N)

## **HB1095** [Commonwealth information security; requirements of state public bodies.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB222

*Chief Patron:* Oates

### **Summary:**

Requires state public bodies, defined in the bill, to (i) comply with the Commonwealth's security policies and standards, (ii) ensure each of their employees completes information security training, (iii) conduct regular security audits, (iv) report the results of such audits to the appropriate entity, and (v) implement security monitoring and enter into memoranda of understanding with the CIO for sharing information with the Commonwealth's central information security systems. The bill directs the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth to (a) publish and maintain a list of the Commonwealth's security policies and standards with which state public bodies are required to comply, (b) ensure that transition meetings with state public bodies occur, and (c) document such transitions and any exemptions from the requirements of the bill.

### **Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24105090D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation

## **HB1108 Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-build contracting.**

*Companion Bill:* SB249

*Chief Patron:* Carr

### ***Summary:***

Limits the use of construction management or design-build contracts by state public bodies and covered institutions for complex projects. The bill requires state public bodies, covered institutions, and local public bodies to provide documentation of the processes used for the final selection of a contract to all the unsuccessful applicants upon request. The bill adds certain requirements for covered institutions, including posting all documents exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA and requires approval by the covered institution's board of visitors or governing board if the covered institution chooses to proceed with construction management or design-build against the recommendation of the Department. The bill requires a local public body to adopt a resolution or motion to use construction management or design-build prior to issuing a Request for Qualifications and to publish notice of such resolution or motion on its website or eVA. Finally, the bill provides that the Department shall report annually, for any construction management or design-build project, on the qualifications that made such project complex.

### **Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103223D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws

01/22/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Procurement/Open Government

## **HB1120 K-12 schools and higher educational institutions; student participation in women's sports, etc.**

*Chief Patron:* Oates

### ***Summary:***

Requires each interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport sponsored by a public school, or any other school that is a member of the Virginia High School League, or by a public institution of higher education to be expressly designated as one of the following based on the biological sex of the students who participate on the team or in the sport: (i) males, men, or boys; (ii) females, women, or girls; or (iii) coed or mixed if participation on such team or sport is open to both males and females. The bill prohibits any such team or sport that is expressly designated for females from being open to students whose biological sex is male. The bill also provides that in the event of a dispute as to the biological sex of any student seeking to participate on any interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport that is expressly designated for males or females, such student may

establish biological sex by presenting to the school or institution a signed physician's statement that attests to such student's biological sex based solely on (a) the student's internal and external reproductive anatomy; (b) the student's normal endogenously produced levels of testosterone; and (c) an analysis of the student's genetic makeup.

The bill prohibits any government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation, or taking any other adverse action against any such school or institution of higher education based on a violation of the provisions of the bill and creates a cause of action for any school or institution of higher education that suffers harm as a result of a violation of the bill. Finally, the bill creates a civil cause of action for any student who suffers harm as a result of a knowing violation of a provision of the bill by a school or institution or as a result of the student's reporting a violation of a provision of the bill by a school, institution, athletic association, or organization.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104306D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

**HB1188 [Certificate of public need program; phased elimination.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* Scott, P.A.

**Summary:**

Creates a three-phase process to eliminate the certificate of public need requirements for many categories of medical care facilities and projects, with elimination of the requirement for a certificate of public need (i) for all medical care facilities other than nursing homes or specialized centers or clinics or that portion of a physician's office developed for the provision of outpatient or ambulatory surgery, cardiac catheterization, computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, radiation therapy, certain stereotactic radiotherapy, or proton beam therapy effective July 1, 2024; (ii) for all such services as described in clause (i) at any existing medical care facility other than nursing homes or specialized centers or clinics or that portion of a physician's office developed for the provision of outpatient or ambulatory surgery, cardiac catheterization, computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, radiation therapy, certain stereotactic radiotherapy, or proton beam therapy located outside of a metropolitan statistical area or in a rural census tract within a metropolitan statistical area effective July 1, 2025; and (iii) for all medical care facilities effective July 1, 2026.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100383D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

01/19/24 House: Assigned sub: Health

**HB1191 [Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-](#)**



## **build contracting.**

**Companion Bill:** SB18

**Chief Patron:** Sickles

**Summary:**

States that design-bid-build, defined in the bill, utilizing competitive sealed bidding is the preferred method of procurement for construction services in the Commonwealth. Complex projects, defined in the bill, may request an exemption from the provisions of the bill and relevant law from the Division of Engineering and Buildings of the Department of General Services. The bill requires all documents related to the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and any available subcontractor opportunities to be posted on eVA. The bill transfers from the Department of General Services to the Division of Engineering and Buildings the authority to evaluate the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and specifies that a local governing body must approve at a public meeting the use of construction management or design-build by a local public body. Finally, the bill prohibits state public bodies, institutions of higher education, and local governing bodies from considering prior construction management or design-build experience of contractors on comparable projects.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104340D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws

01/22/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Procurement/Open Government

## **HB1192 State debt collection; establishes statute of limitations.**

**Chief Patron:** Scott, P.A.

**Summary:**

Establishes a seven year statute of limitations on the commencement of any action by a state agency or institution to collect past due accounts receivable due to the Commonwealth.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100244D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws

01/23/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1192)

## **HB1229 Elementary & secondary schools & higher educational institutions; student participation in sports.**

**Chief Patron:** Higgins

**Summary:**

Requires each interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport sponsored by a public school, or any other school that is a member of the Virginia High School League, or by a public institution of higher education to be expressly designated as one of the following based on biological sex: (i) males, men, or boys; (ii) females, women, or girls; or (iii) coed or mixed if participation on such team or sport is open to both males, men, or boys and females, women, or girls. The bill prohibits any such team or sport that is expressly designated for females, women, or girls from being open to students whose biological sex is male. The bill creates a civil cause of action for any student that suffers harm as a result of a knowing violation of a provision of the bill by a school or institution or as a result of the student's reporting a violation of a provision of the bill by a school, institution, athletic association, or organization. The bill also limits access to any restroom or changing room that is capable of being accessed by more than one individual at one time in any public elementary or secondary school building or building owned or controlled by any public institution of higher education exclusively to individuals of the same biological sex.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103418D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

**HB1255 Higher educational institutions, public; diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.**

**Chief Patron:** Milde

**Summary:**

Requires the chief executive officer of each public institution of higher education to annually submit to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Governor, and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education of Health no later than August 1 a written, signed certification that no diversity, equity, and inclusion-related program, instruction, or initiative provided or sponsored by such institution promotes anti-Semitism.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103182D

01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules

**HB1265 Consumer reporting agencies; prohibited from making reports concerning medical debt.**

**Chief Patron:** Willett

**Summary:**

Prohibits a consumer reporting agency from making any consumer report containing any adverse item of information that the consumer reporting agency knows or should know concerns medical debt except in the case of any consumer report to be used in connection with a credit transaction involving a principal

amount that exceeds the national conforming loan limit value for a one-unit property as determined annually by the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103884D  
01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce  
01/23/24 House: Assigned L & C sub: Subcommittee #2  
01/23/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1265)

**HB1307 [Higher educational institutions, baccalaureate public; student application fees, report.](#)**

**Chief Patron:** Reaser

**Summary:**

Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to survey each baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to determine, for the 2023–2024 academic year, (i) the median, average, and full per-student application fee charged by the institution; (ii) the total number and percentage of student applicants who receive an application fee waiver from the institution; (iii) the total number and percentage of student applicants who were charged the full student application fee by the institution; (iv) the total and per-student applicant revenue generated by the institution through student application fees; and (v) the total and per-student applicant cost to the institution to process student applications, including fully reviewing and acting upon such applications, disaggregated by each cost category deemed relevant by the Council and the institution. The bill requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education to conduct such internal audits as it deems necessary to fully comply with and respond to such survey. The bill requires the Council to report its findings and any associated recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than November 1, 2024.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24105151D  
01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules  
01/25/24 House: Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee

**HB1342 [Higher educational institutions, certain baccalaureate public; on-campus student health centers.](#)**

**Chief Patron:** Shin

**Summary:**

Requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education that has an on-campus student health center to staff such center with at least one on-campus certified sexual assault forensic examiner, as defined in relevant law, for the purpose of administering a physical evidence recovery kit, as defined in

relevant law, to any student who is in need of such a kit.

**Status:**

01/12/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24104491D

01/12/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/25/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education

**HB1348 [Pharmaceutical Services, Office of; establishes in Department of General Services, report.](#)**

**Companion Bill:** SB122

**Chief Patron:** LeVere Bolling

**Summary:**

Establishes in the Department of General Services an Office of Pharmaceutical Services to develop and execute a plan to consolidate state agency prescription drug purchasing and pharmacy benefit management programs to increase efficiency in prescription drug purchasing and constrain spending on prescription drugs. The bill directs the Department to provide to the Governor and the General Assembly an interim report on the development of the plan by November 1, 2024, and a final report on the plan by November 1, 2025.

**Status:**

01/12/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24105140D

01/12/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

**HB1355 [Information Technology Access Act; numerous organizational changes to Act.](#)**

**Chief Patron:** Tran

**Summary:**

Makes numerous organizational changes to the Information Technology Access Act. The bill defines "information and communications technology" as it relates to digital accessibility, defined in the bill, for all persons with disabilities. The bill permits the head of each covered entity, defined in the bill, to designate an employee to serve as such covered entity's digital accessibility coordinator and provides that such digital accessibility coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing such covered entity's digital accessibility policy. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025.

**Status:**

01/14/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24105159D

01/14/24 House: Referred to Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation

01/17/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1355)

## **HB1365 [Higher educational institutions, public; release of student transcripts.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* Carr

### ***Summary:***

Requires each public institution of higher education to release an academic transcript directly to the employer or prospective employer of a student currently or formerly enrolled at such institution upon the request of the student. The bill also prohibits any public institution of higher education from conditioning the release of an academic transcript to a student currently or formerly enrolled at such institution on the payment of an outstanding debt if (i) such outstanding debt is less than \$500; (ii) such outstanding debt is less than \$1000 and such currently or formerly enrolled student received a Federal Pell Grant; or (iii) such currently or formerly enrolled student has enrolled in a repayment plan and has made at least three consecutive monthly payments on such outstanding debt.

### **Status:**

01/15/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24101946D

01/15/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

## **HB1404 [Small Business Procurement Enhancement Program, etc.; established, report.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* Ward

### ***Summary:***

Establishes the Small Business Procurement Enhancement Program with a statewide goal of 42 percent of certified small business utilization in all discretionary spending by state agencies and covered institutions in procurement orders, prime contracts, and subcontracts, as well as a target goal of 50 percent subcontracting to certified small businesses in instances where the prime contractor is not a small business for all new capital outlay construction solicitations that are issued. In addition, the bill provides for a small business set-aside for state agency and covered institution purchases of goods, services, and construction, requiring that purchases up to \$100,000 be set aside for award to certified small businesses and that purchases up to \$10,000 be set aside for award to microbusinesses.

The bill also establishes the Women-owned and Minority-owned Business Procurement Enhancement Program with a statewide goal of 23.1 percent of certified women-owned and minority-owned business utilization in all discretionary spending by state agencies and covered institutions in procurement orders, prime contracts, and subcontracts. The bill creates the Division of Procurement Enhancement within the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity for purposes of collaborating with the Department of General Services, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, the Department of Transportation, and covered institutions to further the Commonwealth's efforts to meet the goals established under the Small Business Procurement Enhancement Program and the Women-owned and Minority-owned Business Procurement Enhancement Program, as well as implementing initiatives to enhance the development of small businesses, microbusinesses, women-owned businesses, and minority-owned businesses in the Commonwealth.

Finally, the bill amends the Virginia Public Procurement Act to permit public bodies to establish purchase procedures, if adopted in writing, not requiring competitive sealed bids or competitive negotiation for single or term contracts for the purchase or lease of goods, or for the purchase of services, insurance, or construction, if the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$125,000. Under current law, such purchase procedures may only be established for (i) goods and services other than professional services and non-transportation-related construction, if the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$200,000; (ii) transportation-related construction, if the aggregate or sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$25,000; and (iii) professional services, provided that the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$80,000. The bill has a general delayed effective date of January 1, 2025, and delayed effective dates of July 1, 2025, for covered institutions, and July 1, 2026, for certain university hospitals and medical centers. The provisions of the bill creating the Women-owned and Minority-owned Business Procurement Enhancement Program sunset on July 1, 2031.

**Status:**

01/17/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24105093D

01/17/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules

**HB1422 [Higher educational institutions, public; legacy admissions prohibited.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* Cordoza

**Summary:**

Prohibits any public institution of higher education from utilizing legacy admissions for any student applicant. The bill defines "legacy admissions" as any policy or practice whereby any individual who applies for admission to an institution of higher education and who is the child, grandchild, or sibling of an alumnus of such institution is afforded preferential treatment in the admissions decision.

**Status:**

01/18/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24100332D

01/18/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

**HB1467 [Higher educational institutions, Baccalaureate public; expands membership of board of visitors.](#)**

*Chief Patron:* Laufer

**Summary:**

Expands the membership of the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to include two nonvoting advisory members consisting of one faculty member of the institution and one staff member of the institution. The bill requires such advisory faculty member to be selected by the faculty of the institution and such advisory staff member to be selected by the staff of the institution in the manner deemed appropriate by the faculty and staff, respectively.

**Status:**

01/19/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24104132D

01/19/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

**HB1505** [Intercollegiate athletics; student-athletes, compensation for name, image, or likeness.](#)

*Companion Bill:* SB678

*Chief Patron:* Austin

**Summary:**

Makes several changes to existing provisions of law relating to compensation of a student-athlete at a public or private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth (institution) for the use of the name, image, or likeness of such student-athlete, including (i) prohibiting any athletic association, athletic conference, or other organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics from preventing an institution, its supporting foundations, or an entity acting on its behalf from identifying, creating, negotiating, facilitating, supporting, engaging with, assisting with, or otherwise enabling a name, image, or likeness opportunity for a student-athlete; (ii) requiring each institution to develop and submit to the institution's governing board or similar governing body for approval policies or procedures that govern the compensation of a student-athlete for the use of his name, image, or likeness; and (iii) permitting any institution to provide assets, resources, or benefits as an incentive to individuals, companies, or other entities to provide money, benefits, opportunities, or services to an outside entity that supports name, image, or likeness opportunities for the institution's student-athletes.

**Status:**

01/19/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24105659D

01/19/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

01/25/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education

**HJ15** [Dependents of public school personnel, etc.; SCHEV to study reduced in-state tuition rates.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Helmer

**Summary:**

Requests the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the feasibility and efficacy of offering the dependents of public school instructional, administrative, and support personnel in the Commonwealth reduced rate in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth for the purpose of improving retention rates of public school instructional, administrative, and support personnel in the Commonwealth.

**Status:**

01/04/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100940D

01/04/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules  
01/25/24 House: Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee

**HJ21**     **Higher educational institutions, public; SCHEV to study guaranteed first-year admission policy.**

*Chief Patron:* Seibold

**Summary:**

Requests the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study the feasibility of implementing a guaranteed first-year admission policy at each public institution of higher education for certain high school graduates in the Commonwealth and report its finding and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

**Status:**

01/08/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104258D  
01/08/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules  
01/25/24 House: Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee

**HJ61**     **Higher ed. institutions, baccalaureate public; SCHEV to study \$10,000 tuition per year degree.**

*Chief Patron:* Runion

**Summary:**

Requests that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (i) study the feasibility of implementing the option for students to pay \$10,000 annually for tuition and mandatory fees to earn a degree at a baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth by surveying each baccalaureate public institution of higher education to determine the likely impact of such an option on enrollment, revenue, costs, services, staffing, and such other factors as the institution deems relevant and (ii) report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2024.

**Status:**

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103567D  
01/10/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules  
01/25/24 House: Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee

**SB18**     **Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management & design-build contracting, applicability.**

*Companion Bill:* HB1191



**Chief Patron:** Locke

**Summary:**

States that design-bid-build, defined in the bill, utilizing competitive sealed bidding is the preferred method of procurement for construction services in the Commonwealth. Complex projects, defined in the bill, may request an exemption from the provisions of the bill and relevant law from the Division of Engineering and Buildings of the Department of General Services. The bill requires all documents related to the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and any available subcontractor opportunities to be posted on eVA. The bill transfers from the Department of General Services to the Division of Engineering and Buildings the authority to evaluate the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and specifies that a local governing body must approve at a public meeting the use of construction management or design-build by a local public body. Finally, the bill prohibits state public bodies, institutions of higher education, and local governing bodies from considering prior construction management or design-build experience of contractors on comparable projects.

**Status:**

11/29/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100807D  
11/29/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

**SB21**     **[Public institutions of higher education; policies; individuals with disabilities.](#)**

**Companion Bill:** HB509

**Chief Patron:** Salim

**Summary:**

Requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy that makes certain documentation or evidence enumerated in the bill that is submitted by an enrolled or admitted student sufficient to establish that the student is an individual with a disability. The bill requires each such policy to include a transparent and explicit process by which the institution determines eligibility for accommodations for an individual with a disability and requires each such institution to disseminate information about such process to students, the parents of students as appropriate, and faculty in accessible formats, including during any student orientation, and make such information available on a conspicuous and publicly accessible page on the institution's website.

**Status:**

01/25/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered  
01/25/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health with substitute (8-Y 6-N 1-A)  
01/25/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered  
01/25/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered  
01/25/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24105963D-S1

**SB29**     [Budget Bill.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB29

*Chief Patron:* Lucas

**Summary:**

Amends 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.

**Status:**

12/20/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104099D

12/20/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

**SB30**     [Budget Bill.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB30

*Chief Patron:* Lucas

**Summary:**

Provides for all appropriations of the Budget submitted by the Governor of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia, and provides a portion of revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June 2025 and the thirtieth day of June 2026.

**Status:**

12/20/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104113D

12/20/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

**SB36**     [Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of meetings.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Locke

**Summary:**

Exempts certain public meetings from the definition of "meeting" under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to clarify that three or more members of a public body may appear and participate in such public meeting without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed.

**Status:**

12/16/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

01/15/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB36)

01/24/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered  
01/24/24 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with substitute (15-Y 0-N)  
01/24/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24105430D-S1

**SB46**     [Higher educational institutions, public; admissions applications, legacy admissions, etc.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB48

*Chief Patron:* VanValkenburg

*Summary:*

**Status:**

01/22/24 Senate: Reading of substitute waived  
01/22/24 Senate: Committee substitute agreed to 24105417D-S1  
01/22/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate - committee substitute SB46S1  
01/22/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB46S1)  
01/23/24 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (39-Y 0-N)

**SB71**     [Higher educational institutions, public; admissions applications, legacy admissions, etc.](#)

*Chief Patron:* McPike

*Summary:*

Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.

**Status:**

12/28/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104326D  
12/28/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health  
01/12/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education  
01/18/24 Senate: Incorporated by Education and Health (SB46-VanValkenburg) (15-Y 0-N)

**SB122**     [Pharmaceutical Services, Office of; establishes in Department of General Services, report.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB1348

*Chief Patron:* VanValkenburg

**Summary:**

Establishes in the Department of General Services an Office of Pharmaceutical Services to develop and execute a plan to consolidate state agency prescription drug purchasing and pharmacy benefit management programs to increase efficiency in prescription drug purchasing and constrain spending on prescription drugs. The bill directs the Department to provide to the Governor and the General Assembly an interim report on the development of the plan by November 1, 2024, and a final report on the plan by November 1, 2025.

**Status:**

01/04/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101273D  
01/04/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology  
01/16/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB122)

**SB124**     [Sports betting; permitted on Virginia college sports.](#)

**Chief Patron:** VanValkenburg

**Summary:**

Permits betting, with the exception of proposition betting, on Virginia college sports. Under current law, betting other than proposition betting is allowed on all college sports except Virginia college sports.

**Status:**

01/04/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology  
01/17/24 Senate: Assigned GL&T sub: Gaming  
01/23/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB124)  
01/24/24 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology (12-Y 2-N 1-A)  
01/24/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

**SB153**     [Medical Ethics Defense Act; established.](#)

**Companion Bill:** HB8

**Chief Patron:** Head

**Summary:**

Establishes the right of a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer not to participate in or pay for any medical procedure or service that violates such medical practitioner's, health care institution's, or health care payer's conscience, as those terms and conditions are defined in the bill. The bill provides protections for medical practitioners who disclose violations of the bill or report violations of laws or ethical guidelines for the safe provision of any medical procedure or service. The bill also provides a private right of action for any party harmed by violations of the bill.

**Status:**

01/05/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104587D

01/05/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**SB219**     [Va. Nat'l Guard State Tuition Assistance Program; provisions relating to eligibility for grants.](#)

**Companion Bill:** HB366

**Chief Patron:** Sturtevant

**Summary:**

Makes several changes to the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including (i) making the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General, (ii) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester, (iii) simplifying the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing, and (iv) providing that any grant awarded shall be in an amount equivalent to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees at the institution of higher education less any other educational benefits for which an individual is eligible as a member of the National Guard.

**Status:**

01/08/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/19/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

01/22/24 Senate: Senate subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

01/25/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health with amendment (15-Y 0-N)

01/25/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

**SB222**     [Commonwealth information security; requirements of state public bodies.](#)

**Companion Bill:** HB1095

**Chief Patron:** McGuire

**Summary:**

Requires state public bodies, defined in the bill, to (i) comply with the Commonwealth's security policies and standards, (ii) ensure each of its employees completes information security training, (iii) conduct regular security audits, and (iv) report the results of such audits to the appropriate entity. The bill directs the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth to (a) publish and maintain a list of the Commonwealth's security policies and standards with which state public bodies are required to comply, (b) ensure that transition meetings with state public bodies occur, and (c) document such transitions and any exemptions from the requirements of the bill.

**Status:**

01/08/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103126D

01/08/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

**SB237**     [Contraception; establishes right to obtain.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB609

*Chief Patron:* Hashmi

**Summary:**

Establishes a right to obtain contraceptives and engage in contraception, as defined in the bill. The bill creates a cause of action that may be instituted against anyone who infringes on such right.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101787D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/11/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB237)

**SB249**     [Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-build contracting.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB1108

*Chief Patron:* McPike

**Summary:**

Limits the use of construction management or design-build contracts by state public bodies and covered institutions for complex projects. The bill requires state public bodies, covered institutions, and local public bodies to provide documentation of the processes used for the final selection of a contract to all the unsuccessful applicants upon request. The bill adds certain requirements for covered institutions, including posting all documents exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA and requires approval by the covered institution's board of visitors or governing board if the covered institution chooses to proceed with construction management or design-build against the recommendation of the Department. The bill requires a local public body to adopt a resolution or motion to use construction management or design-build prior to issuing a Request for Qualifications and to publish notice of such resolution or motion on its website or eVA. Finally, the bill provides that the Department shall report annually, for any construction management or design-build project, on the qualifications that made such project complex.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104319D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

**SB277**     [Certificate of public need; expansion of expedited application and review](#)

**process.**

**Chief Patron:** Hashmi

**Summary:**

Requires the Board of Health to promulgate regulations expanding the expedited application and review process for certificates of public need to numerous additional project types.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101587D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**SB287 Comprehensive community colleges; authority to offer and confer certain baccalaureate degrees.**

**Chief Patron:** Sturtevant

**Summary:**

Authorizes the State Board for Community Colleges, subject to approval and certification by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia of a proposal submitted for such purpose, to establish an upper division of any comprehensive community college consisting of the third and fourth years of baccalaureate degree programs that lead to occupations in a high-demand field and confer baccalaureate degrees in such degree programs. The bill requires any proposal submitted to the Council for such purpose to include (i) the information required for application for Council certification pursuant to relevant law; (ii) any information necessary to establish that the applicable comprehensive community college meets the requirements for Council certification and accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; (iii) the specific baccalaureate degree programs for which the State Board is seeking approval to offer at the applicable comprehensive community college and to establish that such baccalaureate degree programs lead to occupations in a field that meets the criteria of a high-demand field, as set forth in the bill; and (iv) any other information that the Council deems necessary.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101846D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/19/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

01/25/24 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)

**SB318 Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.**

**Companion Bill:** HB827

**Chief Patron:** Roem

**Summary:**

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program.

**Status:**

- 01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
- 01/12/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education
- 01/18/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)
- 01/18/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
- 01/22/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB318)

**SB347**    [VA Military Survivors & Dependents Ed. Prog.; eligibility to receive tuition and fee waiver.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Reeves

**Summary:**

Provides that the stepchild of a living veteran or military service member, as described in the bill, is eligible to receive a tuition and fee waiver under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program if such living veteran or military service member claimed such stepchild on his tax return for at least five years prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted. The bill reduces the scope of the Program's applicability by providing that an admitted qualified survivor or dependent is only eligible for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees (i) for an undergraduate program at any public institution of higher education and (ii) up to the amount necessary to pay for the last-dollar cost of the tuition and mandatory fees after all other federal and state financial aid to which such qualified survivor or dependent is entitled are utilized. Current law does not limit eligibility for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees to undergraduate programs and does not require such waiver to be limited any tuition and mandatory fees remaining after all other federal and state financial aid to which the qualified survivor or dependent is entitled are utilized. The bill also provides that a qualified survivor or dependent, in order to be eligible for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees, must (a) complete the federal Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) each year for which he seeks to receive a waiver and (b) maintain satisfactory academic progress pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1091(c). Finally, the bill exempts from the requirement limiting the receipt and use of such waivers to undergraduate programs any individual who qualified for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees under the Program prior to the provisions of the bill going into effect and is currently enrolled in a public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School.



**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103278D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/12/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

**SB374**     [Collective bargaining by public employees; labor organization representation.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB1001

*Chief Patron:* Boysko

**Summary:**

Repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The bill requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The bill repeals a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24105023D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

**SB383**     [Firearm/explosive material; carrying w/in Capitol Square or bldg. owned or leased by Commonwealth.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB454

*Chief Patron:* Deeds

**Summary:**

Limits the exemption from the prohibition on the carrying of any firearm or explosive material within any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth or agency thereof or any office where employees of the Commonwealth or any agency thereof are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties that currently applies to any property owned or operated by a public institution of higher education to instead apply to any individual within a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education who possesses a weapon as part of such public institution of higher education's curriculum or activities or as part of any organization authorized by such public institution of higher education to conduct its programs or activities within such building.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100412D  
01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice  
01/10/24 Senate: Impact statement from VCSC (SB383)  
01/10/24 Senate: Moved from Judiciary to Courts of Justice due to a change of the committee name

**SB411**     [Animal testing facilities; public notification.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Boysko

**Summary:**

Requires any animal testing facility, contract testing facility, or manufacturer that uses an animal test method to annually make publicly available certain information relating to animal testing by displaying a link to access such information on the home page or landing page of any such facility's or manufacturer's website. The bill also provides that when documents generated from internal reviews pertain to violations of federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines and are the subject of a request for information pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, an animal testing facility shall not charge more than \$25 to produce such documents.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102885D  
01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources  
01/23/24 Senate: Assigned ACNR sub: Companion Animals  
01/25/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB411)

**SB487**     [Artificial intelligence; use by public bodies prohibitions.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Aird

**Summary:**

Prohibits any public body from implementing any system that employs artificial intelligence unless such public body (i) performs an initial impact assessment and ongoing impact assessments of such system to ensure its use will not result in any unlawful discrimination against any individual or group of individuals or have any disparate impact on any individual or group of individuals and (ii) does not implement or ceases to use such system if such effects occur. The bill requires all public bodies that implement such systems to submit an annual report on such assessments and provide an inventory of all such systems used to the appropriate entity designated in the bill. The bill directs the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth to develop, publish, and maintain policies and procedures concerning systems that employ artificial intelligence and are used by public bodies.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology  
01/23/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB487)

01/24/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered

01/24/24 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with amendments (15-Y 0-N)

01/24/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

## **SB493**     **Medical malpractice; limitations on recovery, certain actions.**

*Chief Patron:* Stanley

### **Summary:**

Eliminates the cap on the recovery in actions against health care providers for medical malpractice where the act or acts of malpractice occurred on or after July 1, 2024, and occurred against a patient age 10 or younger.

### **Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100498D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

## **SB506**     **Higher educational institutions, public; duties and powers of governing board.**

*Chief Patron:* Surovell

### **Summary:**

Provides that the governing board of each public institution of higher education shall have authority over the employment of all legal counsel for the institution, including decision-making authority in the commencement or termination of any legal counsel, the employment of outside legal counsel, the oversight and management of any legal counsel, and the appointment of a general counsel to serve as the chief legal officer of the institution. The bill provides that the chief legal officer and the vice president or similarly situated executive officer of such institution shall, under the direction of the governing board of such institution, conduct the legal affairs of and provide legal advice and representation for such institution on any matter that the governing board determines to be in the interest of the institution. The bill clarifies the scope of the involvement of the Attorney General in the legal affairs of public institutions of higher education, providing that the Attorney General may only provide legal service to a public institution of higher education upon request of the governing board of such institution or upon the governing board's decision to delegate all authority in accordance with the provisions of the bill. The bill also provides that the approval of the Attorney General shall be required for any legal settlement involving consideration in excess of \$5 million. The bill permits the governing board of any public institution of higher education with less than 7,500 full-time students to delegate all authority over legal counsel conferred pursuant to the provisions of the bill but requires any such governing board (i) intending to make such delegation to submit notice of such intention by January 1, 2025 and (ii) intending thereafter to delegate such authority or to rescind a prior delegation of such authority to submit notice of such intention by January 1 of the immediately succeeding odd-numbered year. Finally, the bill clarifies the duties of the governing board of each public institution of higher education in its collective capacity and of the members of such governing board in their individual capacities.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104446D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**SB515**     [Weapons; possession or transportation into facility that provides mental health services, etc.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB861

*Chief Patron:* Williams Graves

**Summary:**

Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to possess in or transport into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) firearm or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

**Status:**

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101827D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

01/24/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered

**SB601**     [Capital outlay plan; repeals existing six-year capital outlay for projects to be funded.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB715

*Chief Patron:* Lucas

**Summary:**

Updates the six-year capital outlay plan for projects to be funded entirely or partially from general fund-supported resources.

**Status:**

01/10/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102529D

01/10/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

01/19/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB601)

**SB624**     [Public education; student literacy measures.](#)

**Companion Bill:** HB647

**Chief Patron:** Lucas

**Summary:**

Clarifies several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act (the Act), enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly and effective with the 2024%962025 school year, including (i) clarifying that the term "evidence-based literacy instruction" does not include practices that instruct students to gain meaning from print through the use of (a) three-cueing, which includes semantic, syntactic, and graphophonic cues; (b) meaning, structure, and visual cues; or (c) visual memory for word recognition; (ii) removing the option to use a literacy screener approved by the Department of Education for certain purposes enumerated in the Act; (iii) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research; and (iv) requiring each divisionwide literacy plan to address how the local school board will align (a) core reading and literacy curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade five and (b) screening, supplemental instruction, and interventions for students in kindergarten through grade eight with evidence-based literacy instruction practices aligned with science-based reading research.

**Status:**

01/10/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103040D

01/10/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/24/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Public Education

**SB671**     [\*\*Youth Health Protection Act; established, civil penalty.\*\*](#)

**Chief Patron:** Peake

**Summary:**

Creates the Youth Health Protection Act, which makes it unlawful for any individual to provide gender transition procedures, defined in the bill, for minors and prohibits the use of public funds for gender transition procedures. The bill allows parents, guardians, or custodians to withhold consent for any treatment, activity, or mental health care services that are designed and intended to form their child's conceptions of sex and gender or to treat gender dysphoria or gender nonconformity. The bill prohibits government agents, other than law-enforcement personnel, from encouraging or coercing a minor to withhold information from the minor's parent. The bill establishes a duty for a government agent with knowledge that a minor has exhibited symptoms of gender dysphoria or gender nonconformity or otherwise demonstrates a desire to be treated in a manner incongruent with the minor's sex to immediately notify each of the minor's parents, guardians, or custodians in writing, with descriptions of relevant circumstances. The bill prohibits discrimination against persons (i) providing information regarding violations of the Act to their employer or specified public entities or (ii) who make disclosures under the Act of information that evinces any violation of law, rule, or regulation; any violation of any standard of care or other ethical guidelines for the provision of health care service; or gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to

public health or safety. The bill establishes a civil action for any violation of the Act by a clinic, health care system, medical professional, or other responsible person with a two-year statute of limitations. The bill prohibits political subdivisions of the Commonwealth from enacting, adopting, maintaining, or enforcing any measure that interferes with the professional conduct and judgment of a mental health care professional or counselor undertaken within the course of treatment and communication with clients, patients, other persons, or the public. The bill provides for enforcement by the Attorney General or a mental health care professional or counselor through an action for injunctive relief and allows a mental health care professional to recover reasonable attorney fees and reasonable costs incurred in obtaining an injunction. The bill waives sovereign immunity to suit and immunity from liability under this statute.

**Status:**

01/17/24 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 24104135D

01/17/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**SB678**     [Intercollegiate athletics; student-athletes, compensation and representation for name, image, etc.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB1505

*Chief Patron:* Rouse

**Summary:**

Makes several changes to existing provisions of law relating to compensation of a student-athlete at a public or private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth (institution) for the use of the name, image, or likeness of such student-athlete, including (i) prohibiting any athletic association, athletic conference, or other organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics from preventing an institution, its supporting foundations, or an entity acting on its behalf from identifying, creating, negotiating, facilitating, supporting, engaging with, assisting with, or otherwise enabling a name, image, or likeness opportunity for a student-athlete; (ii) requiring each institution to develop and submit to the institution's governing board or similar governing body for approval policies or procedures that govern the compensation of a student-athlete for the use of his name, image, or likeness; and (iii) permitting any institution to provide assets, resources, or benefits as an incentive to individuals, companies, or other entities to provide money, benefits, opportunities, or services to an outside entity that supports name, image, or likeness opportunities for the institution's student-athletes.

**Status:**

01/17/24 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 24105621D

01/17/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**SB717**     [Higher educational institutions, public; duties of governing boards, acceptance & use of donations.](#)

**Chief Patron:** McDougle

**Summary:**

Provides that the governing board of each public institution of higher education may receive, take, hold, and enjoy any donation or gift made to such institution or governing board and may use and administer any such donation or gift for the uses and purposes designated by the donor or, if no such specific designation is made, for the general purposes of the institution. The bill provides that in the event that a donor specifically designates any particular use or purpose for a donation or gift, each governing board is required to appropriate such donation or gift and any resulting interest, income, and profits only to such specifically designated use or purpose, provided, however, that if such specifically designated use or purpose fails by any means such that the specifically designated use or purpose is permanently frustrated, the whole donation or gift, including unexpended principal and interest, will revert to and be vested in the donor or his legal representatives.

**Status:**

01/19/24 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 24103429D

01/19/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**SB723**    [K-12 schools and higher educational institutions; student participation in women's sports, etc.](#)

**Chief Patron:** Mulchi

**Summary:**

Requires each interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport sponsored by a public school, or any other school that is a member of the Virginia High School League, or by a public institution of higher education to be expressly designated as one of the following based on the biological sex of the students who participate on the team or in the sport: (i) males, men, or boys; (ii) females, women, or girls; or (iii) coed or mixed if participation on such team or sport is open to both males and females. The bill prohibits any such team or sport that is expressly designated for females from being open to students whose biological sex is male. The bill also provides that in the event of a dispute as to the biological sex of any student seeking to participate on any interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport that is expressly designated for males or females, such student may establish biological sex by presenting to the school or institution a signed physician's statement that attests to such student's biological sex based solely on (a) the student's internal and external reproductive anatomy; (b) the student's normal endogenously produced levels of testosterone; and (c) an analysis of the student's genetic makeup.

The bill prohibits any government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation, or taking any other adverse action against any such school or institution of higher education based on a violation of the provisions of the bill and creates a cause of action for any school or institution of higher education that suffers harm as a result of a violation of the bill. Finally, the bill creates a civil cause of action for any student who suffers harm as a result of a knowing violation of a provision of the bill by a school or institution or as a result of the student's reporting a violation of a provision of the bill by a school, institution, athletic association, or organization.

**Status:**

01/19/24 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 24105073D

01/19/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**SB734**     [Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings.](#)

*Companion Bill:* HB894

*Chief Patron:* Marsden

**Summary:**

Amends the number of all-virtual public meetings that public bodies, with certain exceptions, may convene in a calendar year to no more than two times per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. Current law limits the number of all-virtual public meetings to no more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. The bill also provides that with respect to all-virtual public meetings, when audio-visual technology is available, a member of a public body shall, for purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails.

**Status:**

01/19/24 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 24102038D

01/19/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

01/24/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB734)

**SJ32**     [Governor; confirming appointments.](#)

*Chief Patron:* Rouse

**Summary:**

Confirms appointments of certain persons made by Governor Glenn Youngkin and communicated to the General Assembly August 1, 2023.

**Status:**

01/15/24 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 24100148D

01/15/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections