

Legislative Report
University of Virginia -- Office of State Governmental Relations
Friday, March 1, 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: 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)
02/07/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB8)
02/13/24 House: Left in Health and Human Services

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: 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)
02/02/24 House: Incorporated by Public Safety (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:

02/28/24 House: House acceded to request

02/28/24 House: Conferees appointed by House

02/28/24 House: Delegates: Torian, Sickles, Bulova, Carr, Austin, Bloxom

02/28/24 Senate: Conferees appointed by Senate

02/28/24 Senate: Senators: Lucas, Deeds, Locke, Boysko, McDougle, Pillion

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:

02/28/24 House: House acceded to request

02/28/24 House: Conferees appointed by House

02/28/24 House: Delegates: Torian, Sickles, Bulova, Carr, Austin, Bloxom

02/28/24 Senate: Conferees appointed by Senate

02/28/24 Senate: Senators: Lucas, Deeds, Locke, Boysko, McDougle, Pillion

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

Chief Patron: Clark

Summary:

Provides that in any action, including those brought by the Commonwealth, upon any contract to collect medical debt, as defined in the bill, such an action is barred if not commenced within three years from the due date applicable to the final invoice for 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:

02/14/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered

02/14/24 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice with amendment (12-Y 3-N)

02/14/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

02/29/24 Senate: Senate subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations with amendment (14-Y 0-N)

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. This bill is identical to [SB 46](#).

Status:

02/21/24 House: Enrolled

02/21/24 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB48ER)

02/21/24 House: Signed by Speaker

02/24/24 Senate: Signed by President

02/26/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB48ER)

HB163 [Higher educational institutions, public; student identification cards, emergency services website.](#)

Chief Patron: Cole

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education to maintain and annually update as necessary to ensure accuracy and currency a website page that includes telephone numbers for certain emergency services enumerated in the bill and to include (i) the URL of such website page on each new digital student identification card and any replacement digital student identification card issued by the institution beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year and (ii) the URL of or a QR Code that directs to such website page on each new physical student identification card and any replacement physical student identification card issued by the institution beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year.

Status:

02/23/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (38-Y 0-N)
02/26/24 Senate: Read third time
02/26/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)
02/29/24 House: Enrolled
02/29/24 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB163ER)

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:

01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education
01/26/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB211)
02/05/24 House: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered
02/05/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
02/07/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Education

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

Chief Patron: Hope

Summary:

Requires state agencies to possess 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 permits employees of any state agency to possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonists.

Status:

02/13/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
02/13/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
02/21/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Health Professions
02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)
02/29/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

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 upon acceptance, grant funds shall be disbursed to the applicable institution of higher education for credit against the recipient's student account.

Status:

02/07/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

02/13/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB366E)

02/15/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (13-Y 0-N)

02/15/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

02/27/24 Senate: Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (13-Y 2-N)

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
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
02/01/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Rules

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, as such uses are approved through the law-enforcement or public safety unit of such institution.

Status:

02/05/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
02/14/24 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice (6-Y 5-N)
02/14/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/28/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations (10-Y 5-N)
02/29/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (39-Y 0-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
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
01/31/24 House: Continued to 2025 in 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, including all new students to the parents of students as appropriate, and to faculty in accessible formats and make such information available in a conspicuous and publicly accessible manner, including on the institution's website.

Status:

02/26/24 House: House acceded to request
02/28/24 Senate: Conferees appointed by Senate
02/28/24 Senate: Senators: Salim, Hashmi, Pillion
02/28/24 House: Conferees appointed by House
02/28/24 House: Delegates: Cohen, Rasoul, Tata

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: Referred to Committee on General Laws
01/26/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Procurement/Open Government
01/30/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB579)
01/30/24 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (8-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in General Laws

HB580 [Animal testing facilities; DACR shall convene task force to identify potential deficiencies.](#)

Companion Bill: SB411

Chief Patron: Simonds

Summary:

Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene a Task Force on Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities, consisting of legislators and stakeholders, for the purpose of identifying potential deficiencies in publicly funded animal testing facilities in the Commonwealth and recommending methods and context for making certain information about such animal testing facilities publicly available. The bill requires the Task Force to report its findings to certain committees of the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2024.

Status:

02/23/24 Senate: Read third time
02/23/24 Senate: Passed Senate (38-Y 1-N)
02/28/24 House: Enrolled
02/28/24 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB580ER)
02/28/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB580ER)

HB609 [Contraception; establishes right to obtain, applicability, enforcement.](#)

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:

02/26/24 Senate: Committee substitute agreed to 24107991D-S1
02/26/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate - committee substitute HB609S1
02/26/24 Senate: Passed Senate with substitute (21-Y 19-N)

02/28/24 House: Senate substitute agreed to by House 24107991D-S1 (55-Y 44-N)
02/28/24 House: VOTE: Adoption (55-Y 44-N)

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. This bill is identical to [SB 624](#).

Status:

02/22/24 House: Enrolled
02/22/24 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB647ER)
02/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB647ER)
02/22/24 House: Signed by Speaker
02/25/24 Senate: Signed by President

HB666 [State agencies; electronic information breach.](#)

Chief Patron: Freitas

Summary:

Requires every state agency to promptly notify affected citizens of the Commonwealth in the event of a breach of such state agency's electronic information system from unauthorized uses, intrusions, or other security threats, which breach compromises such citizens' personal information. The bill requires the Chief Information Officer to provide requirements for such notifications.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation

01/19/24 House: Assigned CT & I sub: Communications
01/28/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB666)
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket (10-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in Communications, Technology and Innovation

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
02/06/24 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket (8-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in Education

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 last day of each student's first academic term 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 last day of each student's first academic

term and reviewed biennially by each returning student at such institution.

Status:

02/23/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (38-Y 0-N)

02/26/24 Senate: Read third time

02/26/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)

02/29/24 House: Enrolled

02/29/24 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB713ER)

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

Companion Bill: SB585

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:

02/23/24 Senate: Passed Senate with substitute (39-Y 0-N)

02/27/24 House: Senate substitute rejected by House 24108096D-S1 (0-Y 97-N)

02/27/24 House: VOTE: REJECTED (0-Y 97-N)

02/29/24 Senate: Senate insisted on substitute (39-Y 0-N)

02/29/24 Senate: Senate requested conference committee

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:

01/25/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations
01/30/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB737)
01/30/24 House: Reported from Labor and Commerce (12-Y 10-N)
01/30/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/13/24 House: Left in 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
02/06/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Health and Human Services

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

Companion Bill: SB36

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 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:

02/14/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB818E)
02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology
02/28/24 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with substitute (12-Y 0-N)
02/28/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24108596D-S1

HB827 [On-campus food insecurity; SCHEV to survey institutions to determine how they are addressing issue.](#)

Companion Bill: SB318

Chief Patron: Cousins

Summary:

Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to (i) survey each public institution of higher education to determine how each such institution is addressing on-campus food insecurity, including specific methods, programs, sources of funding, expenditures, communications strategies, and staffing; (ii) compile and make available to each such institution a guidance document containing best practices for leveraging all available resources and opportunities, including public benefits programs and donation programs, to ensure that students do not face food insecurity on campus; and (iii) report its findings and any recommendations to 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:

02/13/24 House: VOTE: Passage (59-Y 40-N)
02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
02/23/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education
02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (14-Y 1-N)

HB861 [Weapons; carrying into hospital 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 the building of any hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, 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 also provides that notice of such prohibitions shall be posted conspicuously at the public entrance of any hospital and no person shall be convicted of the

offense if such notice is not posted, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and forfeited to the Commonwealth and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

Status:

02/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
02/19/24 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice (7-Y 4-N)
02/19/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/28/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations (10-Y 5-N)
02/29/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (39-Y 0-N)

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:

01/26/24 House: Referred from Rules
01/26/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
01/26/24 House: Assigned App. sub: Higher Education
01/31/24 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (8-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in Appropriations

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:

02/22/24 House: Enrolled

02/22/24 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB894ER)

02/22/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB894ER)

02/22/24 House: Signed by Speaker

02/25/24 Senate: Signed by President

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

Chief Patron: Tran

Summary:

Lowers from five years to three years the amount of full-time clinical experience required before an advanced practice registered nurse may practice without a practice agreement and permits qualified nurse practitioners to attest that a nurse practitioner may be qualified to practice without a practice agreement. The bill permits advanced practice registered nurses to practice without a practice agreement when a patient care team physician is no longer able to serve if such advanced practice registered nurse provides evidence that he meets the requirements to practice without a practice agreement as established by the bill. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Health Professions to collect data on the implementation of the bill and make it publicly available on its website.

Status:

02/13/24 House: VOTE: Passage (98-Y 1-N)

02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed

02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

02/21/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Health Professions

02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)

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

Chief Patron: Tran

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education and nonprofit private institution of higher education to provide information about on-campus individuals or entities that are qualified to provide the appropriate ongoing mental and behavioral health support to any student who reports to the institution an act of hazing or an act of bullying experienced as the result of a report of an act of hazing.

Status:

02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
02/23/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB980H1)
02/23/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education
02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)

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: Referred to Committee on Education
01/19/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education
01/19/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB981)
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
01/31/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Education

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: 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
02/07/24 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket (8-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in Health and Human Services

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:

01/30/24 House: Committee substitute printed 24106634D-H1
01/30/24 House: Incorporates HB780 (Callsen)
01/30/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/02/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1001H1)
02/13/24 House: Left in 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
02/01/24 House: Assigned Education sub: Higher Education
02/05/24 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket (10-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in 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:

01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations
01/31/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1066)
02/01/24 House: Reported from Rules (18-Y 0-N)
02/01/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/13/24 House: Left in Appropriations

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
01/26/24 House: Assigned CT & I sub: Communications
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (6-Y 4-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in Communications, Technology and Innovation

HB1098 [Unpaid family bereavement leave; civil penalty.](#)

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Summary:

Requires that an employer that employs 50 or more employees provide eligible employees, defined in the bill, with up to 10 days of unpaid family bereavement leave in any 12-month period to (i) attend the funeral or funeral equivalent of a covered family member; (ii) make arrangements necessitated by the death of a covered family member; (iii) grieve the death of a covered family member; or (iv) be absent from work due to (a) a miscarriage, (b) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, (c) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party, (d) a failed surrogacy agreement, (e) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility, or (f) a stillbirth. The bill requires the employee to provide notice of his intent to take the leave if reasonable and practicable and provides that an employer may require reasonable documentation of the death or event. The bill requires the employer to restore the employee's position following the leave, to continue to provide coverage for the employee under any health benefit plan, and to pay the employee any commission earned prior to the leave. The bill prohibits the employer from taking retaliatory action against the employee for taking family bereavement leave. The bill requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to enforce its provisions and provides for civil penalties for violations of its requirements.

Status:

02/26/24 Senate: Reported from Commerce and Labor with substitute (10-Y 5-N)
02/26/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24108279D-S1
02/26/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/28/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1098S1)
02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations with substitute (14-Y 0-N)

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

Companion Bill: SB18

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. The bill 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 if the project is funded by funds other than those provided from the state general fund and, if the project is funded by funds from the state general fund and under \$65 million, secure approval from the Six-Year Capital Outlay Plan Advisory Committee. The bill requires a local public body to adopt a resolution or motion to use construction management or design-build, if required by its local governing body, prior to issuing a Request for Qualifications and to publish notice of such resolution or motion on its website or eVA. 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. Finally, the bill requires the Department, with the assistance of staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, assess implementation of construction management and design-build projects and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2029.

Status:

02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology
02/28/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered
02/28/24 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with substitute (15-Y 0-N)
02/28/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24108597D-S1
02/28/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

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

Companion Bill: SB723

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: Referred to Committee on Education

02/01/24 House: Assigned Education sub: K-12 Subcommittee

02/05/24 House: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

02/06/24 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (5-Y 2-N)

02/13/24 House: Left in 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
02/01/24 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (8-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in Health and Human Services

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

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: Referred to Committee on General Laws
01/26/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Procurement/Open Government
01/29/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1191)
01/30/24 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (8-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in General Laws

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: Referred to Committee on General Laws
01/23/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1192)
01/26/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process
02/08/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
02/08/24 House: Continued to 2025 in General Laws

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
02/01/24 House: Assigned Education sub: K-12 Subcommittee
02/06/24 House: Subcommittee recommends striking from docket (8-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in 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
02/13/24 House: Left in 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: 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)
02/01/24 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (6-Y 0-N)
02/13/24 House: Left in Labor and Commerce

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
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
02/01/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Rules

HB1342 Higher educational institutions, certain baccalaureate public; on-campus student health centers.

Chief Patron: Shin

Summary:

Requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education to either (i) staff its on-campus student health center with at least one on-campus certified sexual assault forensic examiner for the purpose of administering a physical evidence recovery kit to any student who is in need of such a kit or (ii) enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local organization or entity that is capable of providing the services of a certified sexual assault forensic examiner for the purpose of administering a physical evidence recovery kit to any student who is in need of such a kit.

Status:

02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
02/19/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1342H1)
02/23/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education
02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)

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:

02/06/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/07/24 House: Assigned App. sub: General Government and Capital Outlay
02/09/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1348H1)
02/09/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
02/09/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Appropriations

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:

02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology
02/16/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1355E)
02/20/24 House: Impact statement from DHCD/CLG (HB1355E)
02/28/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered
02/28/24 Senate: Continued to 2025 in General Laws and Technology (15-Y 0-N)

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 at any time during his enrollment; 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:

02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed

02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
02/23/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education
02/26/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1365E)
02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)

HB1404 Small SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program; established, definitions, report.

Chief Patron: Ward

Summary:

Establishes the Small SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program with a statewide goal of 42 percent of certified small SWaM business utilization in all discretionary spending by executive branch agencies and covered institutions in procurement orders, prime contracts, and subcontracts, as well as a target goal of 50 percent subcontracting to small SWaM businesses in instances where the prime contractor is not a small SWaM business for all new capital outlay construction solicitations that are issued. Executive branch agencies and covered institutions are required to increase their small SWaM business utilization rate by three percent per year until reaching the 42 percent target level or, if unable to do so, to implement achievable goals to increase their utilization rate. In addition, the bill provides for a small SWaM 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 SWaM businesses.

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 SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program, as well as implementing initiatives to enhance the development of small businesses, microbusinesses, women-owned businesses, service disabled veteran-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses in the Commonwealth.

Finally, the bill Requires the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity to conduct a disparity study every five years, the next due no later than January 1, 2026. The study shall evaluate the need for enhancement and remedial measures to address the disparity between the availability and the utilization of women-owned and minority-owned businesses. The bill has a general delayed effective date of January 1, 2025 and a delayed effective dates of July 1, 2025 for covered institutions.

Status:

02/13/24 House: Read third time and passed House (73-Y 26-N)
02/13/24 House: VOTE: Passage (73-Y 26-N)
02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Rules
02/15/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1404H2)

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

01/26/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1422)

02/13/24 House: Left in 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 (i) one faculty member of the institution who is an officer of the institution's faculty senate or faculty-at-large and is chosen by majority vote of such senate or faculty-at-large and (ii) one staff member of the institution who is an officer of the institution's staff senate or staff-at-large and is chosen by majority vote of such senate or staff-at-large.

Status:

02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

02/23/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

02/26/24 Senate: Senate subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health with substitute (9-Y 6-N)

02/29/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24108200D-S1

HB1472 [Water certificates or permits; compliance with water quality standards.](#)

Chief Patron: Gardner

Summary:

Requires the State Water Control Board to ensure all activities allowed under any water certificate or permit are in compliance with the water quality standards promulgated by the Board.

Status:

01/19/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24101575D

01/19/24 House: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

02/13/24 House: Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

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:

02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

02/23/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

02/27/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1505E)

02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health (14-Y 1-N)

02/29/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

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
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
02/01/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Rules

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
01/29/24 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025
02/01/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Rules

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
02/01/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Rules

HR135 [Commending the 2024 Inductees to the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.](#)

Companion Bill: SR84

Chief Patron: Hayes

Summary:

Commending the 2024 Inductees to the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

Status:

02/14/24 House: Presented and laid on Speaker's table 24104052D

02/19/24 House: Engrossed by House

02/19/24 House: Agreed to by House by voice vote

SB18 [Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management & design-build contracting.](#)

Companion Bill: HB1108

Chief Patron: Locke

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 that are open to public inspection exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA. The bill 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 if the project is funded by funds other than those provided from the state general fund and, if the project is funded by funds from the state general fund and over \$65 million, secure approval by a two-thirds vote of all board members. The bill requires a local public body to adopt a resolution or motion to use construction management or design-build, if required by its local governing body, prior to issuing a Request for Qualifications and to publish notice of such resolution or motion on its website or eVA. 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. Finally, the bill requires the Department, with the assistance of staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, assess implementation of construction management and design-build projects and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2029.

Status:

02/27/24 House: House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

02/27/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (8-Y 0-N)
02/27/24 House: Reported from General Laws with substitute (21-Y 1-N)
02/27/24 House: Committee substitute printed 24108354D-H1
02/29/24 House: Read second time

SB21 **Students w/disabilities; SCHEV to study process used to determine eligibility for accommodations.**

Companion Bill: HB509

Chief Patron: Salim

Summary:

Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with representatives of public institutions of higher education, students enrolled at public institutions of higher education, higher education disability accommodation professionals, and a subject matter expert, to (i) study the processes by which each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth determines the eligibility for accommodations of an admitted or enrolled student with a temporary or permanent disability, (ii) identify in such processes any potential barriers to establishing eligibility, and (iii) make recommendations on reducing any such barriers and on the development and establishment of a uniform accommodations eligibility determination in the Commonwealth.

Status:

02/26/24 House: VOTE: Passage (86-Y 10-N)
02/27/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB21H1)
02/28/24 Senate: House substitute rejected by Senate (0-Y 39-N)
02/29/24 House: House insisted on substitute
02/29/24 House: House requested conference committee

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:

02/22/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (40-Y 0-N)
02/22/24 Senate: Passed Senate (38-Y 2-N)
02/26/24 House: Placed on Calendar

02/26/24 House: Read first time
02/26/24 House: Referred to Committee on 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:

02/22/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (40-Y 0-N)
02/22/24 Senate: Passed Senate (38-Y 2-N)
02/26/24 House: Placed on Calendar
02/26/24 House: Read first time
02/26/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

SB36 [Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definitions.](#)

Companion Bill: HB818

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. The bill also exempts members of a public body who attend a public meeting of a second public body without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed. Finally, the bill defines "public business" as activity that a public body has undertaken or proposed to undertake on behalf of the people it represents.

Status:

02/27/24 House: Committee substitute agreed to 24107940D-H1
02/27/24 House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute SB36H1
02/27/24 House: Passed House with substitute BLOCK VOTE (97-Y 0-N)
02/27/24 House: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (97-Y 0-N)
02/29/24 Senate: House substitute rejected by Senate (0-Y 39-N)

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

Companion Bill: HB48

Chief Patron: VanValkenburg

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. This bill incorporates [SB 71](#) and is identical to [HB 48](#).

Status:

02/21/24 Senate: Enrolled

02/21/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SB46ER)

02/21/24 House: Signed by Speaker

02/24/24 Senate: Signed by President

02/27/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB46ER)

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. This bill was incorporated into [SB 46](#).

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:

02/07/24 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with substitute (15-Y 0-N)
02/07/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24106034D-S1
02/07/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/09/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB122S1)
02/12/24 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Finance and Appropriations (13-Y 1-N)

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:

01/17/24 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
02/06/24 Senate: Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (14-Y 0-N)

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
02/05/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Health
02/07/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB153)
02/08/24 Senate: Stricken at request of patron in Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)

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:

01/25/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health with amendment (15-Y 0-N)
01/25/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
01/26/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered
01/31/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB219)
01/31/24 Senate: Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (10-Y 5-N)

SB222 [Commonwealth information security; definitions, requirements.](#)

Companion Bill: HB1095

Chief Patron: McGuire

Summary:

Exempts cybersecurity information, defined in the bill, from the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act while in possession of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA). The bill requires VITA to keep such cybersecurity information confidential unless the Chief Information Officer or his designee authorizes publication or disclosure of reports or aggregate cybersecurity information.

Status:

02/26/24 House: Passed House BLOCK VOTE (96-Y 0-N)
02/26/24 House: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (96-Y 0-N)
02/29/24 Senate: Enrolled
02/29/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SB222ER)
02/29/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB222ER)

SB237 [Contraception; establishes right to obtain, applicability, enforcement.](#)

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:

02/22/24 House: Reported from Health and Human Services (13-Y 8-N)
02/26/24 House: Read second time
02/27/24 House: Read third time
02/27/24 House: Passed House (53-Y 43-N)
02/27/24 House: VOTE: Passage (53-Y 43-N)

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

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:

02/07/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered
02/07/24 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with substitute (10-Y 4-N 1-A)
02/07/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24107364D-S1
02/07/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/12/24 Senate: Incorporated by Finance and Appropriations (SB18-Locke) (15-Y 0-N)

SB277 [Certificate of public need; expedited review process, etc.](#)

Chief Patron: Hashmi

Summary:

Directs the Board of Health to convene the State Health Services Plan Task Force to make recommendations on expedited review of projects subject to certificate of public need requirements.

Status:

02/23/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (6-Y 0-N)
02/23/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations
02/23/24 House: Reported from Rules (16-Y 0-N)
02/23/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/28/24 House: Reported from Appropriations (22-Y 0-N)

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:

01/12/24 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)
01/31/24 Senate: Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (12-Y 3-N)

SB347 [VA Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program; work group to evaluate, etc., Program.](#)

Chief Patron: Reeves

Summary:

Directs the Secretary of Finance, in collaboration with the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the Secretary of Education, to convene a stakeholder work group for the purpose of evaluating the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program and making recommendations on legislative actions and budgetary modifications that could improve the stability, strength, and long-term viability of the Program. The bill requires the Secretary of Finance to submit the work group's recommendations to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2024.

Status:

02/23/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations
02/23/24 House: Reported from Rules (16-Y 0-N)
02/23/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/28/24 House: Continued to 2025 in Appropriations
02/29/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB347S2)

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:

01/29/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24106388D-S1
01/29/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/02/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB374S1)
02/06/24 Senate: Senate subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered
02/14/24 Senate: Left in Finance and Appropriations

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, as such uses are approved through the law-enforcement or public safety unit of such institution.

Status:

02/26/24 Senate: Enrolled

02/26/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SB383ER)

02/26/24 House: Signed by Speaker

02/27/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB383ER)

02/28/24 Senate: Signed by President

SB411 [Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities, Task Force on; VDACS to convene.](#)

Companion Bill: HB580

Chief Patron: Boysko

Summary:

Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to convene a Task Force on Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities for the purpose of identifying potential deficiencies in publicly funded animal testing facilities in the Commonwealth and recommending methods and context for making certain information about such animal testing facilities publicly available. The bill provides that the Task Force shall consist of legislators and certain enumerated stakeholders and shall report its findings to the House Committees on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources, Finance, and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and Finance and Appropriations no later than November 1, 2024.

Status:

02/23/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

02/28/24 House: Reported from Appropriations with substitute (15-Y 7-N)

02/28/24 House: House committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered

02/28/24 House: Committee substitute printed 24108456D-H1

02/29/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB411H1)

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

Chief Patron: Aird

Summary:

Prohibits any public body from implementing any system that employs artificial intelligence, defined in the bill, 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. The bill creates the Commission on Artificial Intelligence to advise the General Assembly on issues related to artificial intelligence and make advisory recommendations on its findings. The Commission sunsets on July 1, 2027. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025. This bill incorporates [SB 621](#).

Status:

02/13/24 House: Referred to Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation
02/26/24 House: Reported from Communications, Technology and Innovation (15-Y 4-N)
02/26/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations
02/28/24 House: Reported from Appropriations with substitute (22-Y 0-N)
02/28/24 House: Committee substitute printed 24108421D-H1

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: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
02/05/24 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice (8-Y 4-N 3-A)
02/05/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/08/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB493)
02/08/24 Senate: Failed to report (defeated) in Finance and Appropriations (6-Y 9-N)

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. The bill also (i) 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 and (ii) requires each governing board of a baccalaureate public institution of higher education to include in its membership one nonvoting advisory faculty representative and one nonvoting advisory staff representative.

Status:

02/28/24 House: Read third time

02/28/24 House: Committee substitute agreed to 24108008D-H1

02/28/24 House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute SB506H1

02/28/24 House: Passed House with substitute (51-Y 49-N)

02/28/24 House: VOTE: Passage (51-Y 49-N)

SB515 [Weapons; carrying into hospital that provides mental health services.](#)

Companion Bill: HB861

Chief Patron: Williams Graves

Summary:

Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly possess in or transport into the building of any hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, 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 also provides that notice of such prohibitions shall be posted conspicuously at the public entrance of any hospital and no person shall be convicted of the offense if such notice is not posted, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and forfeited to the Commonwealth and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

Status:

02/26/24 Senate: Enrolled

02/26/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SB515ER)

02/26/24 House: Signed by Speaker
02/27/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB515ER)
02/28/24 Senate: Signed by President

SB570 [Virginia Human Rights Act; definition of 'employer.'](#)

Chief Patron: Ebbin

Summary:

Waives the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity to a civil action under the definition of "person" in relevant law. The bill also expands the definition of "employer" as it relates to the requirement to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities under the Virginia Human Rights Act to include any government or political subdivision, or agent of such government or political subdivision, employing more than five employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year. The bill also reduces the number of employees from 15 to five for the definition of employer of domestic workers.

Status:

02/16/24 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws
02/19/24 House: Assigned GL sub: Housing/Consumer Protection
02/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (6-Y 2-N)
02/27/24 House: Reported from General Laws (13-Y 9-N)
02/29/24 House: Read second time

SB585 [Six-Year capital outlay plan; Advisory Com. shall communicate Governor-proposed list of projects.](#)

Companion Bill: HB715

Chief Patron: Deeds

Summary:

Provides that the Six-Year Capital Outlay Plan Advisory Committee shall submit and annually amend a Six-Year Capital Outlay Plan that shall include new capital outlay projects (and previously planned or authorized capital outlay projects) that are to be funded entirely or partially from general fund-supported resources for the six fiscal years beginning July 1, 2024. The Plan shall be amended annually through the submission of a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by the Advisory Committee which reflects (i) its recommendations 1516 and (ii) any capital outlay projects authorized by the General Assembly in an appropriation act. The bill also removes the requirement for the Governor to submit in each legislative session a prefiled bill with amendments to the current Plan to be enacted into law.

Status:

02/27/24 House: House insisted on substitute
02/27/24 House: House requested conference committee

02/29/24 Senate: Senate acceded to request (39-Y 0-N)

02/29/24 Senate: Conferees appointed by Senate

02/29/24 Senate: Senators: Deeds, Locke, McPike

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

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)

02/06/24 Senate: Incorporated by Finance and Appropriations (SB585-Deeds) (15-Y 0-N)

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 2024-2025 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. This bill is identical to [HB 647](#).

Status:

02/21/24 Senate: Enrolled

02/21/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SB624ER)

02/21/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB624ER)

02/21/24 House: Signed by Speaker

02/24/24 Senate: Signed by President

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

02/05/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Health

02/06/24 Senate: Senate subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

02/08/24 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Education and Health (9-Y 6-N)

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

Companion Bill: HB1505

Chief Patron: Rouse

Summary:

Status:

01/29/24 Senate: Senate subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

02/01/24 Senate: Reported from Education and Health with substitute (15-Y 0-N)

02/01/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24106363D-S1

02/01/24 Senate: Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations

02/08/24 Senate: Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (14-Y 1-N)

SB717 **Higher educational institutions, public; duties of governing boards, acceptance & use of donations.**

Chief Patron: McDougale

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

01/26/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

02/01/24 Senate: Continued to 2025 in Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)

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

Companion Bill: HB1120

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: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/30/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Public Education

02/01/24 Senate: Senate subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered

02/08/24 Senate: Passed by indefinitely in Education and Health (9-Y 5-N)

02/08/24 Senate: Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered

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:

02/26/24 Senate: Enrolled
02/26/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SB734ER)
02/26/24 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB734ER)
02/26/24 House: Signed by Speaker
02/29/24 Senate: Signed by President

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:

02/07/24 House: Reported from Privileges and Elections (22-Y 0-N)
02/08/24 House: Taken up
02/08/24 House: Agreed to by House (95-Y 0-N 1-A)
02/08/24 House: VOTE: Adoption (95-Y 0-N 1-A)
02/08/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate and House (SJ32ER)

SR84 [Commending the 2024 Inductees to the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.](#)

Companion Bill: HR135

Chief Patron: Rouse

Summary:

Commending the 2024 Inductees to the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

Status:

02/21/24 Senate: Presented 24107771D
02/21/24 Senate: Laid on Clerk's Desk
02/22/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate
02/22/24 Senate: Agreed to by Senate by voice vote
02/22/24 Senate: Bill text as passed Senate (SR84ER)