




NEW 2024 VIRGINIA LAW

**A LEGAL GUIDE FOR SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ADVOCATES AND SURVIVORS IN VIRGINIA**



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Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTIONALLIANCE

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Dear advocates, preventionists, survivors, and policy wonks:

PHEW....the 2024 General Assembly Session proved to be yet another wild ride. This was a “long session” – just 60 calendar days to assign newly elected members of the General Assembly to their committees, hold public hearings for several thousand bills, write, debate, and adopt a new two-year state budget, and advocate for policies and funding that center the diverse needs of Virginia’s survivors of sexual and domestic violence, stalking, harassment, and trafficking.

When the General Assembly convened in January, the number of legislators with less than five years of service was at its highest point in almost two decades. Retirements and election defeats of senior members left both bodies with fewer experienced legislators than they have had in recent years. Both the House and Senate faced record turnover during the 2023 election cycle, caused by newly drawn districts that paired many legislators together and forced them to retire, move, or run against their colleagues in primaries or general elections. This resulted in an incredible loss of institutional knowledge and an environment in which many longstanding political relationships with the sexual and domestic violence field could no longer be counted on. This General Assembly session required us to build new strategic alliances and to lay the foundations for meaningful and lasting relationships with new political leaders. Thankfully, sexual and domestic violence advocates are uniquely skilled in the art of coalition building (to end violence) :)

Virginia’s political leadership in 2024 continues to be ideologically split. The Executive branch remains in the control of Republicans and the House and Senate remain in the (narrow) control of Democrats. This means that many Republican patroned bills never made it to the Governor’s desk while many Democrat patroned bills were sentenced to death by the Governor’s veto pen. Excluding commending and memorializing resolutions, [2,390 bills were introduced](#) during the 2024 General Assembly Session, with only 1,098 being passed (or sent to the Governor for action). Governor Youngkin set a [new record for bills vetoed in a single year, axing a total of 201 bills sent to his desk](#). According to the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), this year alone, Governor Youngkin killed more legislation than any recent Governor of Virginia has in their full four-year term. Given this, this edition of the NEW VA LAWS resource contains an addendum to include major bills of interest that were vetoed by the Governor and that we expect to see (and advocate for) in future General Assembly Sessions. You can find this on pages 28 – 32 of this document.

Despite the highly political nature and very new makeup of the Virginia General Assembly, we accomplished incredible things this year. By joining forces with the [Children’s Advocacy Centers of Virginia](#) (CACVA) and the [Virginia Victim Assistance Network](#) to launch the [PUT VICTIMS FIRST VA campaign](#), **we secured \$29,553,600 in new funding** for frontline victims’ services. **This is the largest state investment our field has ever seen.** And testament to the power of our collective advocacy. But this campaign is far from over. As our field continues to experience drastic and ongoing funding cuts, we are more committed than ever to a sustainable and robust future for victims’ services in Virginia. And we’ll need your help to build this. For more on the 2024 budget numbers, including a breakdown of annual allocations for sexual and domestic violence agencies, please see the “Budget Bill” report on page 5 and 6 of this document.



Now, in the last half of 2024, all eyes are fixed on the monumental election cycle unfolding before us that will determine the future of our nation. With the profound threat of [initiatives like Project 2025](#) - which seek to dismantle our public institutions, strip away rights for LGBTQ+ people, women, and BIPOC communities, limit access to food assistance, housing, worker’s protections, and early childhood programs like HeadStart (among many other harmful policies) - the fight to create a future where ALL survivors, and ALL communities, have opportunities and access to the resources needed in order to fully thrive, has never been more important. These past 8 years or so have been incredibly challenging for those of us working towards economic, reproductive, racial, and gender justice. I know we are all tired of living through “unprecedented times” and “historical events”. But I also know how deeply committed we are to doing our work, on behalf of survivors and those most impacted by violence, in communities that are healthy, happy, and whole.

I continue to be so inspired by this movement – by the big thinkers and the systems agitators, by the healers and coalition builders, and by the community leaders and movement architects spanning identities and generations. I look forward to continuing to build, at every level of government, policies, practices, and leaders that reflect our shared values of equity, justice, and healing for all.

Thank you for your work!

Sincerely,

Action Alliance Policy Staff

**LOVE TO ALL
ADVOCATES**



**LOVE TO ALL
SURVIVORS**



BUDGET BILL

PUT VICTIMS FIRST VA: Responding to the victims' services crisis in Virginia

In 2024, the Action Alliance coordinated with the Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia (CACVA) and the Virginia Victim Assistance Network (VVAN) to propose an all-encompassing and integrative statewide fund to ensure that all victims of crime can access the services they need. Frontline victim service providers across Virginia continue to see an unrelenting spike in pleas for services as a direct result of the pandemic. This spike, coupled with ongoing and worsening funding cuts (VOCA, TANF, etc.), the end of pandemic-era relief funding, and a historical lack of state investment in services, has thrust Virginia's crisis response agencies into crisis themselves – pushing community safety-nets to their limits. The need is tremendous and immediate action was warranted to ensure that agencies can continue providing life-saving services to victims throughout Virginia. Under the leadership of Senator Barbara Favola (40th Senate District) and Delegate Karrie Delaney (9th House District), we proposed an initial \$30 million per year investment in victim services. The funds were to go to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and be dispersed to agencies using this formula:

- 25% (or \$7.5 million per year) to Virginia's 71 Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies
- 25% (or \$7.5 million per year) to Virginia's 114 Victim/Witness Assistance Programs
- 20% (or \$6 million per year) to Virginia's 26 Children's Advocacy Centers
- 15% (or \$4.5 million per year) to other victim service providers funded through DCJS (i.e.: hospital-based programs, legal aid, etc.)
- 10% (or \$3 million per year) to Virginia's Statewide Hotlines and Victim Information Lines
- 5% (or \$1.5 million per year) to DCJS for the administration of these funds.

State budget advocacy and negotiations were challenging, to say the least. Governor Youngkin's budget and the budget produced by the Democratic lead House and Senate had competing priorities and wildly inconsistent numbers. The partisan nature of negotiations threw the budget process into uncertainty and ultimately, required a special session to finalize and adopt a unified statewide budget before the beginning of a new fiscal year. In this process, the creation of a new PUT VICTIMS FIRST VA fund was not successful. However, the joint advocacy efforts of more than 200+ victim service providers in Virginia were incredibly successful.

New total funding for victims' services included....



	<i>Year 1 (Jul 2024 - June 2025)</i>	<i>Year 2 (Jul 2025 - June 2026)</i>
<i>Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies</i>	<i>\$2,068,114</i>	<i>\$5,568,114</i>
<i>Children’s Advocacy Centers</i>	<i>\$1,564,902</i>	<i>\$3,912,256</i>
<i>Victim/Witness Assistance Programs</i>	<i>\$5,045,107</i>	<i>\$7,445,107</i>
<i>Competitive grants through VSGP</i>	<i>\$1,450,000</i>	<i>\$2,500,000</i>
<i>TOTAL FUNDING TO VICTIMS’ SERVICES</i>	<i>\$10,128,123</i>	<i>\$19,425,477</i>

We know that these numbers will not fully offset the cuts we are experiencing in this field – and our campaign will continue. **For now, we can join together in gratitude.** Victim Services were clearly a high priority for both political parties and for the Governor, the House, and the Senate. **These increases are amongst the largest investments in new state funding that we have ever seen.** This is the best possible outcome for Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies, Victim/Witness Assistance Programs and Child Advocacy Centers.

In 2025 and beyond, we will continue our advocacy for a sustainable, robust, and integrative statewide fund that prioritizes the needs of victims. Thank you to the many advocates, survivors, directors, and movement leaders who made calls, set up meetings, sent emails, published op-eds, letters to the editor, etc. Your advocacy has had an incredible impact – it is our hope that we can build on this momentum and create sustainable new futures for our movement. Stay tuned for more.



CAMPUS & UNIVERSITY ADVOCACY

Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; provision of physical evidence recovery kits.

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.

- Passed as: [HB 1342](#)
- VA Code to be changed: amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [23.1-807.1](#), relating to baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; physical evidence recovery kits.



CHILD WELFARE & CUSTODY

Children's advocacy centers; definitions; investigations by local departments of social services.

Replaces the term "child advocacy center" with "children's advocacy center" and defines such term. The bill provides that if it is determined during a human trafficking assessment that a forensic interview of the child is needed, such interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center within the jurisdiction; however, if the interview cannot be completed within 14 days, the forensic interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center located in another jurisdiction. This bill is identical to [SB 12](#).

- Passed as: [HB 1128](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [15.2-1627.5](#), [63.2-100](#), [63.2-1505](#), and [63.2-1506.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to children's advocacy centers; definitions; investigations by local departments of social services.

Department of Law; Address Confidentiality Program; victims of child abduction.

Expands to victims of child abduction eligibility for the Address Confidentiality Program established by the Statewide Facilitator for Victims of Domestic Violence.

- Passed as: [HB 1146](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [2.2-515.2](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Law; Address Confidentiality Program; victims of child abduction.

Legal age for marriage.

Establishes the legal age of marriage to be 18 years of age and eliminates the ability for a minor to be declared emancipated on the basis of the intent to marry.

- Passed as: [HB 994](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [16.1-241](#), [16.1-331](#), [16.1-333](#), [16.1-334](#), [20-45.1](#), [20-48](#), [20-89.1](#), and [20-90](#) of the Code of Virginia and repeals section [16.1-333.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to legal age for marriage.



Family or household member; definition; penalty.

Adds to the definition of family or household member, for the purposes of definitions relating to juvenile and domestic relations district courts and multiple criminal and procedural statutes, an individual who is a legal custodian of a juvenile.

- Passed as: [HB 172](#)
- VA Code to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [16.1-228](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to family or household member; definition; penalty.

Department of Law; Address Confidentiality Program; victims of child abduction.

Expands to victims of child abduction eligibility for the Address Confidentiality Program established by the Statewide Facilitator for Victims of Domestic Violence.

- Passed as: [HB 1146](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [2.2-515.2](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Law; Address Confidentiality Program; victims of child abduction.



CIVIL RIGHTS

Marriage lawful regardless of sex, gender, or race of parties; issuance of marriage license.

Provides that no person authorized to issue a marriage license shall deny the issuance of such license to two parties contemplating a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of the parties. The bill also requires that such lawful marriages be recognized in the Commonwealth regardless of the sex, gender, or race of the parties. The bill provides that religious organizations or members of the clergy acting in their religious capacity shall have the right to refuse to perform any marriage. This bill is identical to [HB 174](#).

- Passed as: [SB 101](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [20-13.2](#), relating to marriage lawful regardless of sex, gender, or race of parties; issuance of marriage license.

Hate crimes and discrimination; ethnic animosity; penalties.

Provides that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to safeguard all individuals within the Commonwealth from unlawful discrimination in employment and in places of public accommodation because of such individual's ethnic origin and prohibits such discrimination. The bill also adds victims who are intentionally selected because of their ethnic origin to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime involving assault, assault and battery, or trespass for the purpose of damaging another's property results in a higher criminal penalty for the offense. The bill also provides that no provider or user of an interactive computer service on the Internet shall be liable for any action voluntarily taken by it in good faith to restrict access to material that the provider or user considers to be intended to incite hatred on the basis of ethnic origin. This bill is identical to [SB 7](#).

- Passed as: [HB 18](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [2.2-3900](#), [2.2-3902](#), [2.2-3904](#), [2.2-3905](#), [8.01-49.1](#), [18.2-57](#), and [18.2-121](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to hate crimes and discrimination; ethnic animosity; penalties.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Admission to bail; act of violence

Provides that a judicial officer who admits a person to bail who is charged with an act of violence shall notify the attorney for the Commonwealth for the jurisdiction in which such person's case is filed contemporaneously with such person's grant of bail or release. The bill provides that such notice may be made by facsimile or other electronic means.

- Passed as: [SB 424](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [19.2-120](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to admission to bail; act of violence.

Eligibility for participation in community corrections alternative program; evaluation and diagnosis; referral to the Department of Corrections.

Provides that a probation and parole officer may refer a defendant on probation to the Department of Corrections for evaluation and diagnosis to determine eligibility and suitability for participation in the community corrections alternative program prior to the approval of the court. Under current law, such referral may take place with the approval of the court. The bill also makes technical amendments.

- Passed as: [HB 1268](#)
- VA Code to be changed: amends and reenact sections [19.2-316.4](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to eligibility for participation in community corrections alternative program; evaluation and diagnosis; referral to the Department of Corrections.

Electronic communication systems within state correctional facilities; telephone calls and communication services; lowest available rates.

Requires the Department of Corrections to provide telephone systems and web-based or electronic communications systems and that such systems shall be established at the lowest available rates. The maximum number of telephone numbers permitted on an approved call list must be no fewer than 20.

- Passed as: [HB 801](#)



- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [53.1-1.1](#) and [53.1-35.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to electronic communication systems within state correctional facilities; telephone calls and communication services.
-

Penalties for failure to appear; exclusion.

Excludes any person who is (i) incarcerated in any correctional facility or (ii) (a) detained in any state or federal facility or (b) in the custody of a law-enforcement officer at the time such person is required to appear before any court or judicial officer from the penalty for willful failure to appear before any such court or judicial officer as required after such person has been charged with any offense or convicted of any offense and execution of sentence is suspended.

- Passed as: [HB 1114](#)
 - VA Code to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [18.2-456](#) and [19.2-128](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to failure to appear; contempt.
-

Custodial interrogation of a child; failure to comply with section; inadmissibility of statement.

Provides that if a law-enforcement officer knowingly fails to comply with existing law regarding parental notification and contact prior to a custodial interrogation of a child, any statements made by such child shall be inadmissible in any delinquency proceeding or criminal proceeding against such child, unless the attorney for the Commonwealth proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the statement was made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

- Passed as: [HB 266](#)
 - VA Code Section to be changed: amend and reenact § [16.1-247.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to custodial interrogation of a child; failure to comply; inadmissibility of statement.
-



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Public utilities; delay of termination of service for certain residential customers; serious medical condition; report.

Requires the State Corporation Commission to conduct a proceeding to establish limitations on the authority of public utilities and cooperatives that provide electric, gas, water, or wastewater services to terminate service to any residential customer who provides certification that the customer has a serious medical condition or the customer resides with a family member with a serious medical condition. The bill directs the Commission to adopt regulations to implement such limitations after consulting with certain stakeholders. The bill requires the Commission to submit a report by November 1, 2026, and every three years thereafter, on the effectiveness of the serious medical condition policy after implementation of the regulations and include any suggested changes to such policy for residential utility and cooperative customers.

- Passed as: [HB 275](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: no code section is required to be changed.

Child Care Subsidy Program; categorical eligibility for certain families.

Provides that any family that receives public assistance through Medicaid or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children shall be deemed to categorically satisfy income eligibility requirements to receive assistance through the Child Care Subsidy Program.

- Passed as: [HB 407](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: adds in Article 1 of Chapter 14.1 of Title 22.1 a section numbered [22.1-289.08:2](#), relating to Child Care Subsidy Program; categorical eligibility for certain families.



FIREARMS

Abuse and neglect of children; causing or enabling child to gain possession of a firearm; penalty.

Creates a Class 5 felony for any parent, guardian, or other person who is 18 years of age or older and is responsible for the care of a child under the age of 18 whose willful act or omission causes or enables that child to gain possession of a firearm (i) after having received notice of a preliminary determination, pursuant to relevant law, that such child poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others or (ii) when such parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the care of the child knows or reasonably should know that such child has been charged with, either by warrant or petition, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent of a violent juvenile felony.

The bill provides that no person shall be subject to arrest or prosecution regarding knowledge of a preliminary threat determination if such person received notice that the threat assessment team concluded that the child does not indicate a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others or that any case or review opened or conducted by that threat assessment team as a result of such preliminary determination has been closed. The bill also provides that no person shall be subject to arrest or prosecution if such person has received notice that any pending charge for a violent juvenile felony has been dismissed or a *nolle prosequi* has been entered.

The bill provides an affirmative defense to prosecution if the parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the care of a child caused or enabled such child to gain possession of a firearm while in a dwelling because of a reasonable belief that he or such child was in imminent danger of bodily injury. Lastly, the bill provides that the new offense is eligible for the enhanced earned sentence credits. This bill is identical to [SB 44](#).

- Passed as: [HB 36](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [18.2-371.1](#) and [53.1-202.3](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to abuse and neglect of children; causing or enabling child to gain possession of a firearm; penalty.



FOSTER SYSTEM

Kinship foster care; barrier crimes.

Allows local boards of social services or child-placing agencies to approve kinship foster care parent applicants who have been convicted of certain felony drug offenses if five years have elapsed since the date of the conviction, where under current law 10 years must have elapsed in order to be eligible for approval as a kinship foster care parent. The bill also adds exceptions for certain misdemeanor assault and battery convictions not involving a minor if five years have elapsed since the date of the conviction. The bill directs the State Board of Social Services to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the bill to be effective no later than September 1, 2024.

- Passed as: [HB 453](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [63.2-901.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to kinship foster care; barrier crimes.

Kinship foster care; alternative living arrangements; Parental Child Safety Placement Program established.

Establishes the Parental Child Safety Placement Program to promote and support placements of children with relatives by local boards of social services in order to avoid foster care. The bill establishes the requirements for a parental child safety placement agreement, the procedure for assessing a proposed caregiver, and the process for terminating the placement. This bill is identical to [SB 39](#).

- Passed as: [HB 27](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [63.2-900.1](#) of the Code of Virginia and amends the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 15 of Title 63.2 an article numbered 7, consisting of sections numbered [63.2-1531](#) through [63.2-1536](#), relating to kinship foster care; alternative living arrangements; Parental Child Safety Placement Program established.



Adoption; parental placement and agency adoption; discharge of newborn infant.

Authorizes a hospital to release a child to his prospective adoptive parents when the birth parent has executed a health care power of attorney. The bill contains technical amendments. This bill incorporates [HB 112](#).

- Passed as: [HB 783](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [20-166](#), [20-167](#), [63.2-1201.1](#), and [63.2-1230](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to adoption; parental placement and agency adoption; discharge of newborn infant.



HOUSING

Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; Eviction Diversion Pilot Program; expiration.

Extends the expiration of the Eviction Diversion Pilot Program to July 1, 2025. Currently, the Program is set to expire on July 1, 2024. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Housing Commission. This bill is identical to [HB 477](#).

- Passed as: [SB 50](#)
- VA Code to be changed: amends and reenacts the fourth enactment of Chapter 355 and the fourth enactment of Chapter 356 of the Acts of Assembly of 2019, as amended by Chapter 797 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; Eviction Diversion Pilot Program; expiration.

Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; early termination of rental agreement; victims of sexual abuse or criminal sexual assault.

Provides that a tenant who is a victim of family abuse, sexual abuse, or other criminal sexual assault may terminate such tenant's obligations under a rental agreement if the tenant has obtained a permanent protective order and has given proper written notice of termination. Under current law, there must be a family abuse protective order or a conviction before the tenant may terminate such obligations under a rental agreement.

- Passed as: [HB 764](#)
- VA Code to be changed: amends and reenacts section [55.1-1236](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; early termination of rental agreement; issuance of a protective order.

Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; inclusive housing plan; individuals with disabilities.

Directs the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (the Commissioner) to work with stakeholders to develop a plan to ensure that people with disabilities across the Commonwealth, including individuals affected by the Settlement Agreement entered into on August 23, 2012, pursuant to U.S. of



America v. Commonwealth of Virginia, have an opportunity to access affordable and inclusive housing, as defined in the bill. The bill requires the Commissioner to present the plan to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2025.

- Passed as: [HB 327](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: No code sections changed.

Department of Education; resource document on supports and services for homeless students.

Requires the Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board a resource document containing guidance and best practices for providing the necessary supports and services to homeless students, including guidance and best practices relating to (i) decisions regarding whether and when such a student should remain enrolled in a school in a previous school division of residence, (ii) wrap-around supports and services for such students that include the parents when they are available and specific wrap-around supports and services for such students who may have experienced additional trauma prior to becoming homeless, and (iii) any other means by which such students can be best served and protected, particularly those homeless children and youths who are at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

- Passed as: [HB 168](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [22.1-3](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Education; resource document on supports and services for homeless students.



HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking response teams.

Requires attorneys for the Commonwealth to establish multidisciplinary human trafficking response teams. The bill provides that each team shall hold a meeting, at least annually, to (i) discuss implementation of protocols and policies; (ii) establish and review guidelines for the community's response to various forms of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking; and (iii) review protocols for the trauma-informed, victim-centered collection, preservation, and secure storage of evidence from physical evidence recovery kit examinations. The bill also provides that the Virginia Freedom of Information Act shall not apply to human trafficking response teams, with certain exceptions.

- Passed as: [HB 581](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [2.2-3703](#), as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, [2.2-3705.7](#), [2.2-3711](#), as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, and [9.1-102](#) of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [15.2-1627.6](#), relating to human trafficking response teams.



PREVENTION & HEALTH PROMOTION

Public schools; certain local school divisions; youth and community violence prevention; Community Builders Pilot Program established; report.

Establishes the Community Builders Pilot Program for the purpose of reducing youth involvement in behaviors that lead to gun violence and increasing community engagement among public school students by providing to students who are entering the eighth grade and enrolled in Roanoke City Public Schools and Petersburg City Public Schools opportunities during the school year after regular school hours and during the summer months for community engagement, workforce development, postsecondary education exploration, and social-emotional education and development. The bill provides that the school boards of Roanoke City Public Schools and Petersburg City Public Schools shall be responsible for the administration of the Program and are directed to collect data and report to the Governor and relevant committees of the General Assembly by November 1 of each year on the progress of the Program. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027. This bill is identical to [SB 484](#).

- Passed as: [HB 626](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [22.1-211.1](#), relating to public schools; certain local school divisions; youth and community violence prevention; Community Builders Pilot Program established; report.

Department of Education; development of Title IX and sexual harassment prevention training modules for students in the ninth and tenth grades.

Requires the Department of Education to develop culturally appropriate, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed Title IX and sexual harassment prevention training modules concerning Title IX rights and protections, consent, and sexual harassment prevention and reporting and to make such training modules available to each school board for the education of ninth and tenth grade students. The bill requires the Department of Education to make such training modules available to each school board by July 1, 2025, and to revise such training modules and make such revised training modules available to each school board by December 31 of each year thereafter. Finally, the bill requires each school board to adopt policies in accordance with the provisions of the bill beginning with the 2025–2026 school year.

- Passed as: [HB 215](#)



- VA Code Section to be changed: amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [22.1-23.4](#), relating to Department of Education; development of Title IX and sexual harassment prevention training modules for students in the ninth and tenth grades.
-

Health education; menstrual education instruction permitted.

Permits each school board to provide a program of instruction on menstrual education as a part of any health education instruction offered at such grade level in grades four through eight as the school board deems appropriate.

- Passed as: [HB 1221](#)
 - VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [22.1-207](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to health education; menstrual education instruction permitted.
-

Board of Education; guidelines on school-connected overdose policies; response and parental notification.

Requires the Board of Education to establish guidelines for school-connected overdose response and parental notification policies to aid local school boards in the implementation of such policies. The bill requires such guidelines to include (i) a model action plan for each school board to follow in responding to any school-connected overdose, including communicating and coordinating with the Department of Education and the applicable law-enforcement liaison or the local law-enforcement agency that employs such school division's school resources officers, and (ii) criteria for issuing parental notification to ensure sensitivity to the privacy interests of affected individuals and compliance with any applicable law, rules, or regulations relating to the disclosure and protection of a minor's personal, confidential, or otherwise sensitive information. This bill is identical to [HB 1504](#).

- Passed as: [SB 498](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [22.1-272.1:1](#), relating to school-connected overdoses; policies relating to parental notification and response; requirements.



PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Protective order in case of family abuse; termination of temporary order of child support.

Provides that when a court includes a temporary child support order with the issuance of a protective order in the case of family abuse, such temporary child support order shall terminate when a court determines child support in a subsequent proceeding or when the protective order expires, whichever occurs first. Current law requires that such temporary child support order terminate only after a court determines child support in a subsequent proceeding.

- Passed as [HB 294](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [16.1-279.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to protective order in case of family abuse; termination of temporary order of child support.

Violation of protective orders; venue.

Allows a person to be prosecuted for a violation of a protective order charge in the jurisdiction where the party protected by the protective order resided at the time of such violation. This bill is identical to [SB 211](#).

- Passed as: [HB 895](#)
- VA Code to be changed: amend and reenact sections [16.1-253.2](#) and [18.2-60.4](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to violation of protective orders; venue.



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Health insurance; coverage for doula care services.

Requires health insurers, corporations providing health care subscription contracts, and health maintenance organizations whose policy, contract, or plan includes coverage for obstetrical services to provide coverage for doula care services provided by a state-certified doula. The bill requires such coverage to include coverage for at least eight visits during the antepartum or postpartum period and support during labor and delivery. The bill provides that health insurance carriers are (i) not required to pay for duplicate services actually rendered by both a state-certified doula and another health care provider and (ii) prohibited from requiring supervision, signature, or referral by any other health care provider as a condition of reimbursement for doula care services, except when those requirements are also applicable to other categories of health care providers. Such provisions of the bill are subject to a reenactment clause.

The bill also requires the Health Insurance Reform Commission to consider coverage for doula care services in its review of the essential health benefits benchmark plan and to include such coverage in its recommendation to the General Assembly unless a compelling reason for excluding such coverage is identified. This bill is identical to [HB 935](#).

- Passed as: [SB 118](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [38.2-4319](#) of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [38.2-3414.2](#), relating to health insurance; coverage for doula care services.

Search warrants, subpoenas, court orders, or other process; menstrual health data prohibited.

Prohibits the issuance of a search warrant, subpoena, court order, or other process for the purpose of the search and seizure or production of menstrual health data, as defined in the bill, including data stored on a computer, computer network, or other device containing electronic or digital information. This bill is identical to [HB 78](#).

- Passed as: [SB 16](#)
- VA Code to be changed: amends and reenacts section [19.2-53](#) of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 5 of Title 19.2 a section numbered [19.2-60.2](#), relating to search warrants, subpoenas, court orders, or other process; menstrual health data prohibited.



Chief Medical Examiner; Maternal Mortality Review Team; work group; expansion plan; report.

Directs the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Maternal Mortality Review Team to convene a work group to expand the work of the Maternal Mortality Review Team. The bill directs the work group to develop criteria and procedures related to the collection of maternal morbidity data. The bill specifies that the Maternal Mortality Review Team's expansion plan shall include certain plans for data collection, data review, and development and implementation of policies and recommendations. The work group is required to report its findings and provide its plan to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Health and Human Services and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and Education and Health by July 1, 2026.

- Passed as: [HB 831](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: no code section is required to be changed.

Maternal Mortality Review Team; membership.

Adds a representative of the Department of Corrections and a representative of the State Board of Local and Regional Jails, both appointed by the Governor, to the membership of the Maternal Mortality Review Team.

- Passed as: [HB 204](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [32.1-283.8](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Corrections; Maternal Mortality Review Team; access to medical records.

Department of Criminal Justice Services; priority treatment for incarcerated women who are pregnant and in need of substance abuse treatment; work group; report.

Directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Health, to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders to study and make recommendations related to prioritizing treatment for incarcerated women who are pregnant and in need of substance abuse treatment. The bill requires the work group to report its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2024.

- Passed as: [SB 603](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: No code sections changed.



SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES & RESPONSE

Carnal knowledge and sexual battery; persons detained or arrested by a law-enforcement officer; confidential informants, pretrial defendants or posttrial offenders; penalty.

Provides that an accused is guilty of carnal knowledge of a person serving as a confidential informant, defined in the bill, if he (i) is a law-enforcement officer; (ii) knows that such person is serving as a confidential informant for the law-enforcement agency where such officer is employed; and (iii) carnally knows, without use of force, threat, or intimidation, such confidential informant while such person is serving as a confidential informant or is expected to testify in a criminal case for which the confidential informant assisted the law-enforcement agency with its investigation. The bill provides that such offense is a Class 6 felony.

The bill also provides that an accused is guilty of sexual battery if he sexually abuses (a) a person detained or arrested by a law-enforcement officer and the accused is a law-enforcement officer, (b) a pretrial defendant or posttrial offender and the accused is an owner or employee of the bail company that posted the pretrial defendant's or posttrial offender's bond, or (c) a person serving as a confidential informant and the accused is a law-enforcement officer. Current law provides that sexual battery is a Class 1 misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class 6 felony for a third or subsequent offense.

- Passed as: [SB 394](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts sections [18.2-64.2](#) and [18.2-67.4](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to carnal knowledge and sexual battery; persons detained or arrested by a law-enforcement officer, confidential informants, pretrial defendants or posttrial offenders; penalty.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; claims.

Provides that in claims for an award under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund involving claims of sexual abuse of a minor where the conduct constitutes a felony, the passage of time shall not be a barrier to when the victim can file a claim. Under current law, such claim involving sexual abuse of a minor shall be filed within 10 years after the minor's eighteenth birthday. This bill is identical to [HB 155](#).

- Passed as: [SB 646](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [19.2-368.5](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; claims.



Juveniles; evidence of trafficking, sexual abuse, or rape by the alleged victim prior to or during the commission of the alleged offense; treatment and rehabilitation.

Requires a juvenile and domestic relations district court, when determining whether to retain jurisdiction of a juvenile defendant during a transfer hearing, to consider any evidence that such juvenile was a victim of felonious sexual assault or trafficking by the alleged victim prior to or during the commission of the alleged offense and that such alleged offense was a direct result of the juvenile being a victim of such felonious sexual assault or trafficking. The bill also requires that a study and report prior to a transfer hearing include any relevant information supporting an allegation that such juvenile was a victim of felonious sexual assault or trafficking by the alleged victim.

The bill also creates a procedure for a juvenile to present such evidence in mandatory transfer cases that under current law require the juvenile and domestic relations district court to transfer the case to the circuit court and provides that upon a finding that the alleged offense was a direct result of the juvenile being a victim of such felonious sexual assault or trafficking, the juvenile and domestic relations district court can instead conduct a transfer hearing to determine whether to keep the case in juvenile court. The bill also creates a similar procedure allowing a juvenile to present such evidence in certain cases where current law requires the juvenile and domestic relations district court to transfer the case to circuit court if the attorney for the Commonwealth gives notice of an intent to proceed with such transfer.

Also, in juvenile cases that are tried in circuit court, the bill allows the court to set aside a guilty verdict and instead render the juvenile delinquent if prior to the final order or within 21 days of such order, the court receives evidence that the juvenile was a victim of such felonious sexual assault or trafficking. Lastly, the bill states that it is the intent of the General Assembly that these juveniles be viewed as victims and provided treatment and services in the juvenile system.

- Passed as: [HB 268](#)
- VA Code Section to be changed: amend and reenact sections [16.1-269.1](#), [16.1-269.2](#), and [16.1-272](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to juveniles; evidence of trafficking, sexual abuse, or rape by the alleged victim prior to or during the commission of the alleged offense; treatment and rehabilitation.

Child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporters; statute of limitations; penalties.

Adds aggravated sexual battery of a child and attempted rape, sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, or object sexual penetration of a child to the list of offenses for which a failure to report subjects a mandatory reporter to criminal liability. This bill incorporates [HB 449](#).



- Passed as: [HB 1542](#)
 - VA Code Section to be changed: amends and reenacts section [63.2-1509](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporters; penalties.
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BILLS OF INTEREST VETOED BY GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN

SB 1 Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from the current rate of \$12.00 per hour to \$13.50 per hour effective January 1, 2025, and to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2026. The bill satisfies a reenactment clause included in Chapters 1204 and 1242 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020. This bill is identical to **HB 1**.

HB 243 Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission; availability of complaint forms in courthouses. Requires that paper copies of any standardized form developed and utilized by the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission or by the Department of Magistrate Services in the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia for the filing of a complaint be made available to the public in the clerk's office in all state courts of the Commonwealth. The bill also requires that a sign be posted in all such courts, in a location accessible to the public, that notes the availability and location of such forms.

HB 803 Expungement of juvenile court records. Provides that if a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent of a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, other than certain felony offenses specified in the bill committed when such juvenile was 14 years of age or older, the court records shall be destroyed when the juvenile has attained the age of 29. The bill provides that if a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent of one of the felony offenses specified in the bill committed when such juvenile was 14 years of age or older, the court records shall be retained. Under current law, the court records shall be retained in all instances when a juvenile was found guilty of a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult. The bill directs the clerk of the juvenile and domestic relations district court to expunge all records pursuant to the bill by July 1, 2027.

SB 449 Juvenile parole; juvenile correctional centers. Provides that any person sentenced to a term of life imprisonment or who has a cumulative term of active sentences that total more than 20 years, regardless of whether such sentences were imposed during a single sentencing hearing or multiple sentencing hearings, for a single felony offense or multiple felony offenses committed while that person was a juvenile and who has served at least 20 consecutive years of incarceration, including any period of commitment in a juvenile correctional center, shall be eligible for parole. Under current law, any period of commitment in a juvenile correctional center for any sentences for such juvenile offender is not considered as a portion of the minimum of 20 years of incarceration served in order for such offender to be eligible for parole.



HB 81 Common-law crime of suicide. Abolishes the common-law crime of suicide. Suicide is currently a common-law crime in Virginia, although there is no statutorily prescribed punishment. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025, and also requires the Bureau of Insurance of the State Corporation Commission to review the effect and implication of abolishing the common-law crime of suicide on insurance throughout the Commonwealth and submit its findings and any recommendations by November 1, 2024, to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice.

HB 46 Firearm transfers to another person from a prohibited person. Provides that a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm because such person is subject to a protective order or has been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member may transfer a firearm owned by such prohibited person to any person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing such firearm, provided that such person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing such firearm is 21 years of age or older and does not reside with the person who is subject to the protective order. Under current law, there is no requirement that such transferee cannot be younger than 21 years of age and cannot reside with such prohibited person. The bill also provides that such prohibited person who transfers, sells, or surrenders a firearm pursuant to the provisions of the bill shall inform the clerk of the court of the name and address of the transferee, the federally licensed firearms dealer, or the law-enforcement agency in possession of the firearm and shall provide a copy of such form to the transferee. The bill also provides that a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm because such person is subject to a protective order or has been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member shall be advised that a law-enforcement officer may obtain a search warrant to search for any firearms from such person if such law-enforcement officer has reason to believe that such person has not relinquished all firearms in his possession. This bill is identical to [SB 47](#).

HB 362 Purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm; assault and battery of a family or household member or intimate partner; penalties. Adds to the existing definition of "family or household member" a person's intimate partner, defined in the bill as an individual who, within the previous 12 months, was in a romantic, dating, or sexual relationship with the person. The bill also provides that any person who knowingly and intentionally purchases, possesses, or transports any firearm following a misdemeanor conviction for an offense that occurred on or after July 1, 2024, for the offense of assault and battery against an intimate partner or an offense substantially similar under the laws of any other state or of the United States is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. This bill is identical to [SB 642](#).

SB 273 Purchase of firearms; waiting period; penalty. Provides that no person shall sell a firearm unless at least five days have elapsed from the time the prospective purchaser completes the written consent form to have a licensed dealer obtain criminal history record information, with exceptions enumerated in relevant law. This bill incorporates [SB 55](#) and [SB 551](#) and is identical to [HB 1195](#).



[HB 637](#) Substantial risk orders; training program. Directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish a Substantial Risk Order Training Program for the purposes of training law-enforcement agencies and other public institutions throughout the Commonwealth to use and implement the substantial risk order law. The bill states that the programming shall provide training regarding proper procedures to follow, the circumstances under which the law can be used, the benefits to public safety from proper use of the law, and the harm that may ensue from the law not being used when lawfully available. The Program shall also include efforts to educate the public on and increase awareness of the substantial risk order law.

[HB 916](#) Substantial Risk Order Reporting System established. Requires the Department of State Police to establish a Substantial Risk Order Reporting System for the purpose of tracking and reporting substantial risk orders by locality and to publish such reports on a monthly basis and distribute them in an electronic format to the General Assembly and the Office of the Governor. The bill provides that the Department shall remove the names and other personal identifying information from the data before the reports are published.

[HB 798](#) Purchase, possession, or transportation of firearm following an assault and battery or stalking violation; prohibition period; penalty. Prohibits a person who has been convicted of assault and battery, assault and battery of a family or household member, or stalking from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm. The prohibition expires five years after the date of conviction, at which point the person's firearm rights are restored, unless he receives another disqualifying conviction. A person who violates the provisions of the bill is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill also extends from three years to five years the existing prohibition period for persons convicted of assault and battery of certain family or household members.

[HB 1174](#) Purchase of certain firearms; age requirement; penalty. Prohibits any person under 21 years of age from purchasing a handgun or assault firearm, with exceptions for the purchase of an assault firearm by a law-enforcement officer, correctional officer, jail officer, or member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Virginia National Guard, or the National Guard of any other state. Accordingly, the bill prohibits a licensed dealer from selling, renting, trading, or transferring from his inventory a handgun or assault firearm to any person under 21 years of age. A violation of either prohibition is a Class 6 felony. The bill also expands the definition of "assault firearm" as the term applies to criminal history record information checks. This bill is identical to [SB 327](#).

[HB 571](#) Policies on parental notification of instructional material that includes sexually explicit content; scope and use. Provides that nothing in the law requiring the Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board model policies for ensuring parental notification of any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and requiring each school board to adopt policies that are consistent with but may be more comprehensive than such model policies or that is in such model policies or school board policies shall be construed to permit the censoring of books in any public elementary or secondary school. This bill is identical to [SB 235](#).



[SB 586](#) Public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices. Prohibits, except in certain cases involving specific offenses enumerated in applicable law or in cases in which the division superintendent or his designee finds that aggravating circumstances, as defined by the Department of Education, exist, any public elementary or secondary school student from being suspended, expelled, or excluded from attendance at school without first considering at least one evidence-based restorative disciplinary practice such as community conferencing, community service, mentoring, a peer jury, peer mediation, positive behavioral interventions and supports, a restorative circle, or the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports. The bill also requires the Department to add as part of the student behavior and administrative response collection required pursuant to relevant law the use of evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices as a behavioral intervention in order to evaluate the use and effectiveness of such practices. This bill is identical to [HB 398](#).

[SB 595](#) Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy. Authorizes a locality, beginning July 1, 2024, to adopt a healthy communities strategy as part of its next and any subsequent reviews of the comprehensive plan. The bill provides that the locality's strategy may include identifying (i) major sources of pollution or hazardous waste sites within the locality, (ii) policies to mitigate the unique or compounded health risks to residents that may be caused by such pollution sources or hazardous waste sites, (iii) objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in public decision-making processes by residents, (iv) objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that promote healthy communities, and (v) objectives and policies that encourage linking public transit with community and health services and siting or co-locating health services in unconventional settings to ensure convenient access for all community members. This bill is identical to [HB 208](#).

[HB 536](#) Student bullying; definition; characteristics of victim. Adjusts the definition of "bullying" in the context of public education to specify that the real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim that is involved in the act of bullying includes such a power imbalance on the basis of the membership of the victim in a group that is protected from discrimination pursuant to the Virginia Human Rights Act.

[HB 398](#) Public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices. Prohibits, except in certain cases involving specific offenses enumerated in applicable law or in cases in which the division superintendent or his designee finds that aggravating circumstances, as defined by the Department of Education, exist, any public elementary or secondary school student from being suspended, expelled, or excluded from attendance at school without first considering at least one evidence-based restorative disciplinary practice such as community conferencing, community service, mentoring, a peer jury, peer mediation, positive behavioral interventions and supports, a restorative circle, or the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports. The bill also requires the Department to add as part of the student behavior and administrative response collection required pursuant to relevant law the use of evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices as a behavioral intervention in order to evaluate the use and effectiveness of such practices. This bill is identical to [SB 586](#).



SB 15 Reproductive health care services; prohibitions on extradition for certain crimes. Provides that no demand for extradition of a person charged with a criminal violation of law of another state shall be recognized by the Governor if such alleged violation involves the receipt or provision of or assistance with reproductive health care services within the Commonwealth unless the alleged criminal violation would also constitute a criminal offense under the laws of the Commonwealth. The bill also provides that such limit on extradition shall not apply when the person who is subject to such demand for extradition by another state was physically present in the demanding state at the time of the commission of the alleged offense and thereafter fled from such state.

HB 609 Contraception; right to contraception; applicability; enforcement. 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. This bill is identical to [SB 237](#).

HB 819 Health insurance; coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices. Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage, under any health insurance contract, policy, or plan that includes coverage for prescription drugs on an outpatient basis, for contraceptive drugs and contraceptive devices, as defined in the bill, including those available over-the-counter. The bill prohibits a health insurance carrier from imposing upon any person receiving contraceptive benefits pursuant to the provisions of the bill any copayment, coinsurance payment, or fee, except in certain circumstances. This bill is identical to [SB 238](#).

HB 1539 Abortion or other reproductive health care services; prohibitions on extradition for certain crimes; prohibited practices under Virginia Consumer Protection Act. Provides that no demand for extradition of a person charged with a criminal violation of the law of another state shall be recognized by the Governor if such alleged violation involves the receipt of or assistance with reproductive health care services, defined in the bill, within the Commonwealth unless the alleged criminal violation would also constitute a criminal offense under the laws of the Commonwealth. The bill also provides that such limit on extradition shall not apply when the person who is subject to such demand for extradition by another state was physically present in the demanding state at the time of the commission of the alleged offense and thereafter fled from such state. The bill adds obtaining, disclosing, selling, or disseminating certain enumerated personal reproductive or sexual health information without the consent of the consumer as a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. This bill incorporates [HB 1493](#).



ABOUT THE ACTION ALLIANCE



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTIONALLIANCE

The Action Alliance is Virginia’s leading voice on sexual and domestic violence. As a network of survivors, sexual and domestic violence agencies, and allies, we work to strengthen Virginia’s response to and prevention of sexual and domestic violence. We believe ALL people have the right to a life free of sexual and domestic violence. We strive to promote healthy relationships, create thriving communities, and build a more equitable world by centering racial justice, reproductive justice, and economic justice. For more information, visit <https://www.vsdvaa.org>



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