



Virginia NOW (the Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women) is a statewide feminist advocacy organization advancing women's rights and social justice for all. Chapter locations: Alexandria, Arlington, Vienna Area, Charlottesville, Rockbridge County, Fredericksburg, Montgomery County, Richmond, & Williamsburg with individual members all across Virginia.

Virginia NOW Bill Sheet: Family Health

Access to Healthcare—SUPPORT

HB 134 Diabetes; care of students who have been diagnosed. Introduced by Mark L. Cole

Permits the parents of any public school student who has been diagnosed with diabetes to designate in a diabetes care plan a delegated care aide to provide diabetes care for the student, including the administration of insulin and glucagon, when a school nurse or physician is not present in the school or at a school-sponsored activity. The bill also requires the delegated care aide to receive training in diabetes care and every school employee to receive basic training in responses to emergency situations and changes from one to two the minimum number of employees in a school that must be trained with regard to a student with diabetes who attends the school. The bill contains technical amendments.

HB 292 Virginia Health Benefit Exchange; established & operated by new SCC division. Introduced by Mark D. Sickles

Creates the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, which will be established and operated by a new division within the State Corporation Commission (SCC). The Exchange shall facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health plans and qualified dental plans to qualified individuals and qualified employers. The Exchange shall make qualified plans available to qualified individuals and qualified employers by January 1, 2016, unless the SCC postpones this date. The bill authorizes the SCC to review and approve accident and sickness insurance premium rates applicable to health benefit plans in the individual and small group markets and health benefit plans providing health insurance coverage in the individual market through certain non-employer group plans. The Exchange will be funded by assessments on health insurers offering plans in the Exchange. A health plan will not be required to cover any state-mandated health benefit if federal law does not require it to be covered as part of the essential benefits package. The essential health benefits are items and services included in the benchmark health insurance plan, which is the largest plan in the largest product in the Commonwealth's small group market as supplemented in order to provide coverage for the items and services within the statutory essential health benefits categories. The SCC may contract with other eligible entities and enter into memoranda of understanding with other agencies of the Commonwealth to carry out any of the functions of the Exchange, including agreements with other states or federal agencies to perform joint administrative functions. Such contracts are not subject to the Virginia Public Procurement Act

HB 913 Inmates; eligibility for health care. Introduced by Mark D. Sickles

Health care costs for inmates.. Requires the Director of the Department of Corrections to develop procedures for identifying inmates who may be eligible for medical assistance, enrolling such inmates in the state medical assistance program, and ensuring that claims for eligible services are submitted to the Department of Medical Assistance Services rather than the Department of Corrections, and directs the Attorney General to include providers of inpatient medical services to inmates who are eligible for medical assistance services in audits and investigations of providers of services furnished under the state plan for medical assistance. The bill also requires the Director of the Department of Corrections to develop procedures for reviewing claims for reimbursement for medical services submitted to the Department for accuracy and for identifying fraudulent or inaccurate claims and recovering amounts paid pursuant thereto.

SB 416 Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan; eligibility for assistance. Introduced by Emmett W. Hanger

Eliminates the requirement that an individual under the age of 19 must have been without health insurance for at least four months or must meet the requirements set forth in the Virginia Plan for Title XXI of the Social Security Act (Children's Health Insurance Program) to be eligible for assistance under the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan.

OPPOSE

HB 338 Health benefit exchange; plan management functions. Introduced by Mark J. Berg

Prohibits the State Corporation Commission from contracting or entering into a memorandum of understanding to carry out its plan management functions with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or any other federal agency. The measure provides that the Commission's duty to certify plans for participation in the health benefit exchange is subject to the provision of federal funding sufficient to pay the operating expenses necessary to carry out the plan management functions. The measure also limits the Health Department's duty to provide services to the Commission in the performance of its plan management functions.

HB 18 Health insurance; health care plan that includes contraception coverage, etc. Introduced by Robert G. Marshall

Provides that each insurer issuing individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies, corporation providing individual or group accident or sickness subscription contracts, or health maintenance organization providing a health care plan for health care services that offers a policy, contract, or plan that includes coverage for contraception methods, sterilization procedures, or abortifacient drugs or devices shall be required to

offer a policy, contract, or plan identical in all respects except that no such coverage is included. The bill also provides that any employer who provides for health and medical care or reimbursement of medical expenses for his employees as a self-insurer is not required to include coverage for contraception methods, sterilization procedures, or abortifacient drugs or devices.

HB 19 Health insurance; contraception coverage if subscriber or enrollee requests such coverage. Introduced by Robert G. Marshall

Provides that no individual or group accident and sickness insurance policy, individual or group accident or sickness subscription contract, or health care plan for health care services shall provide coverage for contraception methods, sterilization procedures, abortifacient drugs or devices unless the subscriber or enrollee in the policy, contract, or plan requests such coverage. The bill also provides that any employer who provides for health and medical care or reimbursement of medical expenses for his employees as a self-insurer is not required to include coverage for contraception methods, sterilization procedures, or abortifacient drugs or devices.

HB 20 Health insurance; no health insurance plan is required to include contraception coverage, etc. Introduced by Robert G. Marshall

Provides that no health insurance plan, regardless of whether such plan consists of self-insurance, purchased insurance, a combination of purchased and self-insurance, or the use of a health maintenance organization, offered by the Commonwealth or any locality to its employees or by any agency, department, division, or institution of the Commonwealth or any locality authorized by law to offer such a plan to its employees is required to include coverage for contraception methods, sterilization procedures, or abortifacient drugs or devices.

Reproductive Justice—SUPPORT

HB 546 Abortion; optional ultrasound. Introduced by Eileen Filler-Corn

Eliminates the requirement that a pregnant woman undergo a mandatory transabdominal ultrasound prior to the performance of an abortion to determine the gestational age of the fetus and provides that a pregnant woman shall be offered the opportunity to have an ultrasound performed.

HB 547 Ultrasound prior to abortion; physician civil penalty. Introduced by Eileen Filler-Corn

Provides that no physician shall be subject to a civil penalty for failure to perform or supervise the performance of the ultrasound imaging required prior to an abortion if, in his medical judgment, such ultrasound imaging is not medically necessary. Currently, any physician who violates any provision of the abortion informed consent statute is subject to a \$2,500 civil penalty.

HB 565 Birth control; definition. Introduced by Vivian E. Watts

Adds a definition of birth control. "Birth control" means contraceptive methods that are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Birth control shall not be considered abortion for the purposes of Title 18.2.

HB 1056 & SB 617 Abortion; informed consent. Introduced by Jeion A. Ward; Mamie E. Locke

Removes the requirement that an ultrasound be performed 24 hours prior to an abortion.

HB 1186 & SB 618 Essential health benefits; abortion coverage. Introduced by Jennifer L. McClellan; Mamie E. Locke & A. Donald McEachin

Removes the prohibition on the provision of coverage for abortions in any qualified health insurance plan that is sold or offered for sale through a health benefits exchange established or operating in Virginia.

OPPOSE

HB 98 Abortions; sex-selective, penalty. Introduced by Robert G. Marshall

Provides that a person who performs an abortion with knowledge that the abortion is sought solely and exclusively on account of the sex of the unborn child is guilty of a Class 4 felony. The bill also requires that the information that must be provided to a woman seeking an abortion prior to obtaining her informed written consent to the procedure include a statement that the physician would be committing a criminal offense if he performs an abortion solely on account of the sex of the unborn child.

Access to Mental Health Services—SUPPORT

HB 86 Inpatient psychiatric hospital admission from local correctional facility; criteria. Introduced by Christopher P. Stolle

Repeals the second enactment of the 2012 act that amended the criteria for the psychiatric admission of inmates from local correctional facilities to add mentally ill inmates for whom there exists a substantial likelihood that they will suffer serious harm due to their lack of capacity to protect themselves from harm. The second enactment provides that the use of this additional criterion shall expire on July 1, 2014.

HB 243 & SB 200 Temporary detention order; facility of detention. Introduced by Joseph R. Yost; Janet D. Howell

Provides that in cases in which a facility for temporary detention has not been identified prior to the running of the time for emergency custody, the magistrate shall issue the temporary detention order if the person meets the criteria for temporary detention and the community services

board certifies that it will continue to make good faith efforts to identify the facility of temporary detention until such time as a facility is identified or the temporary detention order expires for lack of execution.

HB 659 Community services boards and behavioral health authorities; information for secondary students about available services. Introduced by Robert B. Bell

Requires each community services board (CSB) and each behavioral health authority to annually make a presentation to each local school board in the locality or localities that the CSB or the behavioral health authority serves regarding services available to students with emotional disability, intellectual disability, or mental illness upon transition into the community after graduation from high school. The bill requires each local school board or its designee to annually make a presentation about services available through the CSB or the behavioral health authority to high school students with emotional disability, intellectual disability, mental illness, or any combination thereof and their parents. The bill requires each such student and his parents to attend the annual presentation of the local school board at least once before the student graduates from high school.

HB 894 Auxiliary grants; expands eligibility for program to certain individuals. Introduced by Christopher K. Peace

Auxiliary grants. Expands eligibility for the auxiliary grant program to include individuals who reside in supportive housing licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and directs the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to promulgate regulations for licensure of auxiliary grant service coordination providers for individuals with blindness or physical disabilities and the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to promulgate regulations for licensure of auxiliary grant service coordination providers for individuals with mental illness or intellectual disabilities.

HB 1185 Health insurance; coverage for mental health services. Introduced by Lionell Spruill, Sr.

Prohibits an insurer that provides coverage for inpatient and partial hospitalization mental health and substance abuse services for a family member of the insured or subscriber from denying coverage based primarily on a subjective evaluation of the imminence of the individual's suicide risk or risk of danger to others made by an employee or contractor of the insurer or corporation. An insurer's determination of whether inpatient treatment is medically necessary is required to give due consideration to the treatment recommendation of the health care provider treating the individual. In addition, the measure provides that if an insurer validly denies coverage for inpatient and partial hospitalization because a less intensive treatment option represents the medically necessary level of care, and the covered individual nevertheless receives the more intensive treatment, the insurer shall provide coverage for the more intensive treatment on the basis of the reimbursement and payment rates that would have applied had the less intensive treatment been provided.

SB 126 & SB 263 Acute psychiatric bed registry; DBHDS to establish. Introduced by Stephen D. Newman; Creigh Deeds

Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to establish an acute psychiatric bed registry that will provide real-time information on the availability of beds in public and private psychiatric facilities and residential crisis stabilization units for individuals who meet the criteria for temporary detention.

SB 301 Jail construction; state reimbursement for cost of renovating, etc., to provide mental health beds.

Introduced by Ryan T. McDougle

Provides that the Commonwealth will reimburse 50% of the cost of constructing, enlarging, or renovating a jail or regional jail to provide mental health beds and 100% of the cost of treating personnel. The jails must go through an application and approval process. The bill limits the current 50% reimbursement for construction, enlargement, or renovation of regional jails to projects approved by the Governor prior to July 1, 2014.

OPPOSE

HB 392 Assault and battery; emergency health care provider. Introduced by Christopher P. Stolle

Provides that the commission of an assault or an assault and battery against an emergency health care provider in an emergency room of a hospital or clinic or on the premises of any other facility rendering emergency medical care is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

HB 778 School boards; administration of student surveys and questionnaires. Introduced by Tony O. Wilt

Prohibits school boards from administering surveys and questionnaires requesting of students (i) sexual information, (ii) mental health information, (iii) medical information, (iv) information on student health risk behaviors, (v) information on controlled substance use, or (vi) other information that the school board deems to be sensitive in nature without written, informed parental consent for the student's participation.



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Virginia NOW Bill Sheet: Personal and Community Safety

Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Stalking—SUPPORT

Budget Amendment, Item 401 #1s. Introduced by Adam Ebbin

Public Safety, Department of Forensic Science. Provides \$300,000 each year from the general fund and three forensic scientist positions to process physical evidence recovery kits, to reduce the backlog of unprocessed kits and to allow sexual assault cases to be processed more quickly in the future. These kits collect DNA evidence used to document, investigate, and prosecute cases of sexual assault.

HB 1 & SB 4 Sexual and Domestic Violence Subfund; funding of sexual and domestic violence prevention, etc.

Introduced by Barbara J. Comstock; Janet D. Howell

Funding of sexual and domestic violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution. Creates a new subfund in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund to be known as the Sexual and Domestic Violence Subfund. The Subfund consists of all funds, from whatever source, in the Commonwealth related to sexual and domestic violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution. The bill also directs the Workers' Compensation Commission to appoint a coordinator to administer and oversee the use of the funds.

HB 48 & SB 510 Firearms; possession following conviction of certain crimes, penalty. Introduced by Marcus B. Simon; Barbara A. Favola

Prohibits any person who is convicted of stalking, sexual battery, or assault and battery of a family member that results in serious bodily injury from possessing, transporting, or carrying a firearm or any other weapon for a period of five years following his conviction. A violation would constitute a Class 6 felony. The bill also provides for the forfeiture of any weapon possessed, transported, or carried in violation of the prohibition. The bill provides for a process by which a violator may petition the circuit court for a reinstatement of his rights to possess, transport, or carry a weapon.

HB 708 Assault and battery; family or household member. Introduced by C. Todd Gilbert

Adds unlawful wounding in violation of § 18.2-51 and strangulation in violation of § 18.2-51.6 to the list of offenses that, if a person has been previously convicted of two such offenses within a 20-year period and such offenses occurred on different dates, enhance the penalty of assault and battery against a family or household member from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony.

HB 833 Safe days for employees; duty of employer to provide. Introduced by Mark L. Keam

Requires private employers to allow an employee safe days, with pay, if the employee or a family member is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking or is a family member of a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Employers are required to provide employees with 32 hours per year of safe day time if the employee has less than 120 months of employment with the employer, and 40 hours per year of safe day time if the employee has 120 or more months of employment with the employer. Safe leave is leave from work that is used to allow the employee to obtain for the employee or the employee's family member, as applicable, (i) medical attention needed to recover from physical or psychological injury or disability caused by domestic violence or sexual assault; (ii) psychological or other counseling; (iii) relocation due to the domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or (iv) legal services. Employers are prohibited from discharging or discriminating against an employee because the employee exercises the right to safe days.

HB 1226 Stalking; penalty. Introduced by Sam Rasoul

A bill to amend and reenact § [18.2-60.3](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to stalking; penalty.

HB 1233 Address Confidentiality Program; victims of stalking eligible for Program. Introduced by David J. Toscano

Makes victims of stalking eligible for the Address Confidentiality Program. Under current law, only victims of domestic violence are eligible for participation. The bill also allows the Office of the Attorney General to cancel a program participant's certification if the participant obtains a name change through an order of the court and does not provide notice and a copy of the order to the Office of the Attorney General within seven days after entry of the order.

Human Trafficking—SUPPORT

HB 595 Criminal Justice Services, Department of; human trafficking policy. Introduced by Mamye E. BaCote

Requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish compulsory training standards and publish and disseminate a model policy or guideline for law-enforcement personnel involved in criminal investigations or assigned to vehicle or street patrol duties to ensure that law-enforcement personnel are sensitive to and aware of human trafficking offenses and the identification of victims of human trafficking offenses.

HB 716 & SB 373 Trafficking in persons; penalties. Introduced by Jennifer L. McClellan; John S. Edwards

Creates new felonies for trafficking in persons for forced labor or sexual servitude and adds the new felonies as a predicate criminal act under the criminal gang statute, as racketeering crimes, and to the functions of a multijurisdiction grand jury, and also allows seizure and forfeiture of property used in committing such felonies. The new felonies and the existing felony of receiving money for procuring a person are added to the rape shield statute. The bill also makes sexual servitude an affirmative defense to the crime of prostitution and allows a petition for a child in need of services to be substituted for a delinquency petition for certain minors arrested for prostitution, disallows the release of certain victim information, specifies law-enforcement protocol for victims who may not be legally present, requires persons convicted of the new felonies to pay restitution that compensates for the victim's labor, and creates a civil action for trafficked persons. The Secretary of Public Safety is required to convene an anti-trafficking committee and the Virginia Prevention of Human Trafficking Victim Fund is created, which will be administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

SB 453 Human trafficking; penalties. Introduced by Mark D. Obenshain

Creates new felonies for trafficking in persons for forced labor or sexual servitude. The bill adds definitions of coercion, commercial sexual activity, debt bondage, and serious harm.

Gun Violence—SUPPORT**HB 1246 Concealed handgun permits; proof of competence. Introduced by Eileen Filler-Corn**

Removes the option for an applicant for a concealed handgun permit to take an online firearms training or safety course to demonstrate the requisite competence with a handgun in order to obtain a permit.

SB 39 & SB 287 Firearms; criminal history record information check on transferee; penalties. Introduced by David W. Marsden; R. Creigh Deeds

Adds a definition of "firearms show vendor" and requires that a criminal history record information check be performed on the prospective transferee before the vendor may transfer firearms at a gun show. In order to be a "firearms show vendor" the person must have paid or given other thing of value to the promoter for the opportunity to sell guns at the gun show. Under current law, only licensed dealers must obtain such a check. The bill also requires that the promoter of a firearms show provide vendors access to licensed dealers who will conduct the check.

SB 520 Firearm transfers; penalties. Introduced by A. Donald McEachin

Creates a Class 2 misdemeanor for a person who is not a licensed dealer to sell, rent, trade, or transfer a firearm to any other person who is not a licensed dealer. The bill also creates a Class 2 misdemeanor for a person who is not a licensed dealer to buy, rent, trade, or transfer a firearm from any other person who is not a licensed dealer. Exempts certain transfers, such as between immediate family members and by operation of law.

OPPOSE**HB 43 Federal firearms laws; enforcement. Introduced by Robert Marshall**

Provides that agencies and political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, and employees thereof, shall not knowingly aid any employee or entity of the federal government (i) in the enforcement of federal firearms laws that take effect on or after December 1, 2013, or (ii) in the conduct or enforcement of a criminal background check related to any intrastate sale, loan, gift, or other transfer of a firearm between citizens of the Commonwealth.

HB 114 Private or religious schools; possession of firearm, etc., on school property. Introduced by Mark Cole

Possession of firearm, etc., on school property; private or religious schools. Eliminates the crimes of possession on the property of a private or religious elementary, middle, or high school; a school bus owned or operated by such school; or any property being used for functions or extracurricular activities sponsored by such school of a stun weapon, knife, or other weapon (currently a Class 1 misdemeanor) or a firearm (currently a Class 6 felony). The bill does not affect the criminal penalties for the possession of such weapons on public school property.

HB 644 Concealed handgun; issuance of lifetime permits to Virginia residents. Introduced by Jeffrey L. Campbell

Provides for the issuance of concealed handgun permits for Virginia residents that do not expire. Currently, such permits must be renewed every five years.

SB 396 Firearms; criminal background check for transfer, exemption for holders of concealed permits. Introduced by Jill Holtzman Vogel

Provides that a licensed firearms dealer does not have to have a criminal background check performed to determine a person's eligibility to purchase a firearm if the purchaser possesses a valid concealed handgun permit and presents a photo-ID issued by an agency of the Commonwealth or the Department of Defense.



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Virginia NOW Bill Sheet: Social and Economic Equity

Poverty Reduction—SUPPORT

HB 1068 Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies. Introduced by Robert D. Orrock, Sr.

Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families assistance shall not be denied assistance solely because he has been convicted of a felony offense of possession of a controlled substance, provided that he complies with all obligations imposed by the court and the Department of Social Services, is actively engaged in or has completed substance abuse treatment, and participates in drug screenings.

SB 10 Water and sewer; discounted fees and charges for certain low-income and disabled customers. Introduced by Thomas A. Garrett

Discounted fees and charges for certain low-income and disabled customers; population density. Removes the requirement that a locality owning a water and sewer system have a population density of no more than 200 persons per square mile before it may by ordinance develop criteria for providing discounted water and sewer fees and charges for low-income and disabled customers.

SB 67 Discounted fees and charges; City of Richmond may develop criteria for certain customers. Introduced by Henry L. Marsh III

Discounted fees and charges for certain customers; City of Richmond. Allows the City of Richmond to develop criteria for providing discounted water and sewer fees and charges for low-income, elderly, and disabled customers.

SB 157 & SB 164 Payday loans; permitted interest. Introduced by John C. Miller; Mamie E. Locke

Repeals provisions of the Payday Loan Act that authorize lenders to charge a loan fee or verification fee, thereby limiting permissible charges on payday loans to simple interest at a maximum annual rate of 36 percent.

OPPOSE

HB 642 & HB 234 Substance abuse screening and assessment of public assistance recipients. Introduced by Jeffrey L. Campbell; Robert B. Bell

Requires local departments of social services to screen each Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) program participant to determine whether probable cause exists to believe the participant is engaged in the use of illegal drugs. The bill provides that, when a screening indicates reasonable cause to believe a participant is using illegal drugs, the local department of social services shall require drug testing. Any person who fails or refuses to participate in a screening or assessment without good cause or who tests positive for the use of illegal drugs shall be ineligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments for a period of one year, unless he enters into and complies with the requirements of a drug treatment program.

Education—SUPPORT

HB 59, HB 88, HB 747, SB 249, SB 327 Tuition, in-state; student eligibility, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Introduced by Kaye Kory; Alfonso Lopez; Thomas Davis Rust; Donald McEachin & Adam P. Ebbin; David W. Marsden

In-state tuition; Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Declares a student eligible for in-state tuition if (i) he has attended a public or private high school in the Commonwealth for at least three years; (ii) he has graduated from a public or private high school in the Commonwealth or has received a General Education Development (GED) certificate in the Commonwealth; (iii) he has registered as an entering student or is enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth; (iv) he has provided an I-797 Approval Notice stating that he has been approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and (v) he has submitted evidence that he or, in the case of a dependent student, at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis has filed, unless exempted by state law, Virginia income tax returns for at least three years prior to the date of enrollment.

HB 229 Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth & Families; special education programs. Introduced by Mark L. Cole

Expands eligibility for services through the Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families program to students placed in public school special educational programs established by a school division for the purpose of providing special education when the public school special educational program is able to provide services comparable to those of an approved private school special educational program, and the student would require placement in an approved private school special educational program but for the availability of the public school special educational program.

HB 318 Individual school performance; A-to-F school grading system. Introduced by Kaye Kory

Abolishes the A-to-F grading system for measuring individual school performance.

HB 362 State funding; instructional positions for students identified with limited English. Introduced by Kaye Kory

Requires state funding to be provided to support 30 full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students identified as having limited English proficiency. Current law requires the General Assembly to fund 17 such positions for each 1,000 students.

HB 472 Student conduct; parental responsibility to prevent bullying. Introduced by Delores L. McQuinn

Authorizes principals to request that parents meet with the principal or his designee to receive training in bullying prevention. The bill also authorizes the relevant juvenile and domestic relations court, upon petition from the local school board, to order the parent to meet to receive such training.

HB 618 Public schools; individual school performance grading system. Introduced by T. Monty Mason

Delays from October 1, 2014, to October 1, 2017, the date by which the Board of Education is required to implement the A to F individual school performance grading system. The bill requires the Board to report individual school take into account certain additional factors in assigning grades including all state mandated assessments; any assessment developed by the relevant local school board; student mobility; the experience and qualifications of staff; cost and funding per pupil; extracurricular activities; and parental engagement and satisfaction levels. The bill also requires the Board to make the system and grades available to the public in a format which allows for a comparison of similarly situated schools in terms of percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, percentage of English language learners, local funding beyond what is required by the composite index, student mobility, and any other category the Board deems appropriate.

HB 1182 A-to-F school grading system; exemption for schools with alternative accreditation plans. Introduced by Sam Rasoul

Exempts from the A-to-F school grading system schools for which the Board of Education has approved an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark.

HB 1187 School Safety, Virginia Center for; bullying. Introduced by Jennifer L. McClellan

Requires the Virginia Center for School Safety to use the definition of bullying found in § 22.1-276.01 of the Code of Virginia for purposes of training on evidence-based anti-bullying tactics and providing information to school divisions regarding school safety concerns.

HJ 10 Early childhood education; recognizing value to children and sets goal of extending availability.

Introduced by Kaye Kory

Recognizes the inestimable value of early childhood education to children and sets a goal of extending the availability of early childhood education so that the Virginia Preschool Initiative and Head Start together serve 50,000 children in the Commonwealth by 2019.

SJ 10 Study; improving access to higher education for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Introduced by David W. Marsden

Requests that each public institution of higher education in Virginia report to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), in the form and manner determined by SCHEV, on the number and percentage of students with developmental and intellectual disabilities who were enrolled at each public institution of higher education based on the fall counts for the 2014-2015 academic year, identify strategies that public institutions of higher education in other states use to improve access to higher education for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities, recommend strategies that the institution could use to annually increase the percentage of enrolled students with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and estimate the fiscal impact to the institution of an annual increase in the percentage of enrolled students with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The resolution requests that SCHEV collect and summarize the data, strategies, recommendations, and estimates received from each public institution of higher education and report its findings to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Disability Commission no later than November 30, 2015. The study is a recommendation of the Disability Commission.

OPPOSE

HB 21 School boards; employee firearms training. Introduced by Robert G. Marshall

Requires every school board in the Commonwealth to designate at least one qualified person for every school in the district who, upon application with the school board, may carry a concealed handgun on school property. The bill requires all designated persons, including certain school division employees, certain school volunteers who carry valid concealed handgun permits, and certain retired law-enforcement officers, to be certified and

trained by the Virginia Center for School Safety or the National Rifle Association in the storage, use, and handling of a concealed handgun. The bill also outlines the training requirements for designated persons as designed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

HB 157 Charter schools, conversion; restrictions and pre-lottery enrollment for current students. Introduced by J. Randall Minchew

Provides that in the case of the conversion of an existing public school, students who attend the school and the siblings of such students shall be given the opportunity to enroll in advance of the lottery process. The bill removes the requirement that at least one-half of public charter schools per division be for at-risk students.

HB 207 Science; Board of Education, et.al., to encourage students to explore scientific questions. Introduced by Richard P. Bell

Instruction in science. Requires the Board of Education, local school boards, division superintendents, and school board employees to (i) create an environment in public elementary and secondary schools that encourages students to explore scientific questions, learn about scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills, and respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about scientific controversies in science classes; (ii) assist teachers to find effective ways to present scientific controversies in science classes; and (iii) allow teachers to help students understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in science classes.

HB 493 & SB 236 Student religious viewpoint expression; limited public forums, school division policy. Introduced by L. Scott Lingamfelter; Charles W. Carrico, Sr.

Requires each school division to adopt a policy to permit a student speaker to express a religious viewpoint at all school events at which a student is permitted to publicly speak. The policy shall declare each such school event to be a limited public forum, provide a neutral method for the selection of student speakers, and require each school principal to provide a disclaimer in advance of each such school event that the school division does not endorse any religious viewpoint that may be expressed by student speakers.

HJ 44 Constitutional amendment (first resolution); aid for nonpublic higher education; religious,etc. Introduced by Thomas A. Greason

Constitutional amendment(first resolution); aid for nonpublic higher education; religious or theological education for military chaplains. Allows the General Assembly to provide for loans to, and grants to or on behalf of, students attending nonprofit institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth whose primary purpose is to provide religious training or theological education, provided the students are approved candidates for the chaplaincy of any active duty or reserve component of the United States armed forces, including the Virginia National Guard.

Gender Equity—SUPPORT

HJ 12 & SJ 78 United States Constitution; General Assembly to ratify and affirm Equal Rights Amendment. Introduced by Scott A. Surovell; Henry L. Marsh III

Ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution that was proposed by Congress in 1972. This joint resolution advocates the position that the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment remains viable and may be ratified notwithstanding the expiration of the 10-year ratification period set out in the resolving clause, as amended, in the proposal adopted by Congress.

SB 632 Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity; establishment of minority-owned and women-owned state purchasing program. Introduced by L. Louise Lucas

Provides for the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity, in conjunction with the Department of General Services, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and the Department of Transportation, to develop a program establishing a requirement that at least 15 percent of all state purchases be made from minority-owned or women-owned businesses that are also certified as small businesses.



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Virginia NOW Bill Sheet: Civil and Human Rights

Voting Rights—SUPPORT

HB 76 Provisional voting; meetings of electoral board to determine validity of provisional ballots. Introduced by Marcus B. Simon

Permits the representative or legal counsel of a person whose provisional vote is being considered to attend the meeting of the electoral board to determine the validity of that provisional vote, without requiring the person whose provisional vote is being considered to be in attendance.

HB 83 Voter identification; an unexpired Virginia driver's license remains valid at polls. Introduced by K. Rob Krupicka

Elections; voting procedures; and voter identification. Provides that an unexpired Virginia driver's license remains valid for purposes of voter identification at the polls notwithstanding the fact that it has been suspended or revoked under certain circumstances.

HB 119, HB 601, HB 622, HB 692, SB 3 Absentee voting; allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without an excuse. Introduced by Rosalyn R. Dance; Charniele L. Herring; T. Monty Mason; Luke E. Torian; Janet D. Howell

Elections; no-excuse in-person absentee voting. Allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

HB 126, HB 759, SB 11 Absentee voting and procedures; secure return of voted military-overseas ballots. Introduced by John M. O'Bannon, III; Thomas Davis Rust; Linda T. Puller

Requires the State Board of Elections to provide instructions, procedures, and services to enable uniformed-service voters outside of the United States to return voted military-overseas ballots securely by electronic mail or fax. The bill requires the State Board to develop and annually update security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of such votes and requires the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth to approve the measures. The State Board is directed to convene a working group for the initial development of the security measures. Additionally, the State Board is directed to work with the U.S. Department of Defense to use smart cards issued to active-duty military personnel to authenticate and enable the return of such military-overseas ballots. The bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Technology and Science.

HB 343 Provisional ballots; voters unable to vote in person or by absentee ballot due to hospitalization. Introduced by Scott W. Taylor

Permits a voter who is hospitalized after the deadline for receiving an emergency application and absentee ballot pursuant to § 24.2-706 but before the close of polls on election day to cast a provisional ballot. The bill requires the hospitalized voter and his designated representative to sign a statement that the voter is hospitalized and unable to vote in person or by absentee ballot, and upon receipt of such statement, the general registrar provides a paper ballot, to be filled out by the hospitalized voter and returned by his designated representative to the general registrar by the close of polls on election day. At the meeting of the electoral board to determine the validity of provisional ballots offered in the election, the voter, his designated representative, or both shall present a valid form of identification and a certification by a hospital administrator or the licensed physician who attended the voter that the voter was hospitalized after the deadline for receiving an emergency application and absentee ballot but before the close of polls on election day.

HB 556 Restoration of civil right to vote; felon eligible to vote upon completion of sentence. Introduced by: Betsy Carr

Restoration of civil rights. Provides for the automatic restoration of a felon's civil right to be eligible to vote upon the completion of his sentence, including any term of probation or parole, and the payment of all restitution, fines, costs, and fees assessed as a result of the felony conviction. The bill has a contingent effective date of January 1, 2017, provided that the voters approve an amendment to Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia at the 2015 November election.

HB 564 Voter identification; reasonable match of identification and pollbook name. Introduced by Vivian E. Watts

Provides that if a voter's name as listed in the pollbook matches or is reasonably similar to the name listed on the form of identification presented and the name stated by the voter, the voter shall be permitted to vote. Does not eliminate the other qualifications for being permitted to vote.

HB 669 Absentee ballots; date requirement. Introduced by Charniele L. Herring

Provides that a voter's failure to provide the date, or any part of the date, on which he signed the statement on the back of the return envelope shall not render that ballot void or provide officers of election with a basis for rejection.

HB 670 Absentee ballots; name and signature requirements. Introduced by Charniele L. Herring

Provides that a voter's failure to provide his full middle name or his middle initial in the statement on the back of the return envelope shall not render that absentee ballot void or provide officers of election with a basis for rejection, unless the voter also failed to provide his full first name. The bill also provides that a signature that is reasonably similar to the voter's legal name is sufficient for purposes of casting an absentee ballot.

HB 838 Absentee ballot; procedures for return of envelope. Introduced by Mark L. Keam

Provides that an absentee ballot will not be voided solely because the envelope containing the ballot was imperfectly sealed so long as the outside envelope containing the ballot and its envelope has been sealed and there is evidence that a good faith effort has been made to seal the envelope.

HJ 69 Constitutional amendment (first resolution); Virginia Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission created.**Introduced by Betsy B. Carr**

Provides for a temporary commission to prepare redistricting plans in 2021 and each tenth year thereafter for the House of Delegates, state Senate, and congressional districts. The Commission shall consist of seven members, and appointments are made by majority vote of the Supreme Court of Virginia from a list of retired judges who have indicated their willingness to serve on the Commission. The resolution sets out the standards by which the Commission is to draw district lines and the procedure for doing so. The resolution requires the Commission to submit the plan to the General Assembly as a bill and to review and make recommendations on any amendments made by the General Assembly or Governor.

HJ 70 Constitutional amendment (first resolution); restoration of civil rights. Introduced by: Betsy B. Carr

Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by general law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of felonies who have completed service of their sentence, including any period or condition of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence. Currently the Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The proposed amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds the alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to general law.

SB 16 Absentee voting; persons age 65 or older on day of an election are entitled to vote absentee ballot.**Introduced by John C. Miller**

Provides that persons age 65 or older on the day of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested are entitled to vote absentee.

SB 191 Voter registration; duties of State Board of Elections. Introduced by John S. Edwards

Modifies the provision calling for the State Board to cross-check voter registration lists with other states by (i) limiting the cross-checking to lists of active (rather than active and inactive) voters, (ii) requiring corroboration that the voter is no longer a resident and a mailed notice before the general registrar cancels his registration based on lists developed by such cross-checking, (iii) requiring the State Board to send lists of such voters to the general registrars only between January 1 and March 1, and (iv) giving the general registrar 90 days following his receipt of the list from the State Board to process the list.

SB 247 Voter registration lists; interstate cross-checking programs. Introduced by A. Donald McEachin

Prohibits the cancellation of the registration of an active voter identified on the basis of interstate cross-check lists as registered in another state without corroboration that he has moved from Virginia. Voters identified as having moved will be given notice before the voter's registration is canceled. The bill also provides a timetable for the general registrars to process names of such voters.

OPPOSE**HB 31 Primary elections; voter registration by political party, additional info. Introduced by: L. Scott Lingamfelter**

Adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2015, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The state party chairman of each political party must notify the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year of the party rules governing who may participate in the party's primaries held from April 1 of that year and through March 31 of the following year.

HB 55 Voter registration; adds political party affiliation to info applicant must provide. Introduced by Mark L. Cole

Adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2015, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing or electronically to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status at any time before an election until the registration records are closed. The bill does not change Virginia's present primary laws, and all registered voters remain eligible to participate in the primary of a political party that chooses to nominate by primary.

Ending LGBTQIA Discrimination—SUPPORT**HB 417, HB 562 Virginia Human Rights Act; public employment, prohibited discrimination, sexual orientation.****Introduced by Marcus B. Simon; Ronald A. Villanueva**

Prohibits discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. The bill defines "sexual orientation" as a person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender identity or expression. The bill expressly provides that "sexual orientation" does not include any person's attraction towards persons with whom sexual conduct would be illegal due to the age of the parties. The bill also codifies existing prohibited discrimination in public employment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, or status as a veteran. The bill contains technical amendments.¹

HB 418, HB 815, HB 883 Fair Housing Law; unlawful discrimination based on sexual orientation. Introduced by Marcus B. Simon; Alfonso H. Lopez; Joseph R. Yost

Adds discrimination based on sexual orientation as an unlawful discriminatory housing practice. The bill defines "sexual orientation" as a person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender identity or expression. "Sexual orientation" does not include sexually deviant disorders (paraphilias) as defined in the DSM-IV.¹

HB 419 Tenants; entireties in real and personal property. Introduced by Marcus B. Simon

Broadens the class of individuals who may hold property as tenants by the entireties to include any married couple whose marriage is recognized under the laws of any state in the United States.

HB 939 Same-sex marriages; civil unions. Introduced by Scott A. Surovell

Repeals the statutory prohibitions on same-sex marriages and civil unions or other arrangements between persons of the same sex purporting to bestow the privileges and obligations of marriage. The prohibition on these relationships contained in Article I, Section 15-A of the Constitution of Virginia is unaffected by this bill.

HB 1135 Sexual orientation; change efforts prohibited. Introduced by Patrick A. Hope

Prohibits any health care provider from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with any person under 18 years of age. The bill defines "sexual orientation change efforts."

HJ 11, SJ 1, SJ 5 Constitutional amendment; marriage (first reference). Introduced by Scott A. Surovell; Adam P. Ebbin; Janet D. Howell

Proposes the repeal of the constitutional amendment dealing with marriage that was approved by referendum at the November 2006 election. That amendment to the Bill of Rights (i) defines marriage as "only a union between one man and one woman"; (ii) prohibits the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage"; and (iii) prohibits the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage."

SB 14 Crimes against nature; clarifies provisions of clause, penalty. Introduced by Thomas A. Garrett

Clarifies that engaging in consensual sodomy is not a crime if all persons participating are adults, are not in a public place, and are not committing, attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, aiding, or abetting any act in furtherance of prostitution. The bill states that an emergency exists and it is in force from its passage.

SB 248 Discrimination; prohibited in state employment. Introduced by A. Donald McEachin & Adam P. Ebbin

Nondiscrimination in state employment. Prohibits discrimination in state employment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a special disabled veteran or other veteran covered by the Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended. The bill also defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

SB 336 Adoption; person other than spouse of a parent may adopt child. Introduced by Janet D. Howell

Provides that a person other than the spouse of a parent may adopt a child if the child has only one parent, the adoption would not terminate the parental rights of the parent, and the parent joins in the petition to indicate consent.

OPPOSE**HB 444 Individual income filing status; married persons. Introduced by Robert G. Marshall**

Provides that only those persons who are in a union that is a marriage recognized under Virginia law may file a joint Virginia income tax return for married persons or a separate Virginia income tax return as a spouse

¹ Virginia NOW supports the amendment to include sexual orientation and gender identity/expression as separate protected classes.