

2024 Virginia General Assembly Report

General Update

Legislative Composition

Republicans held all three seats in the Executive Branch (Governor Glenn Youngkin; Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears; Attorney General Jason Miyares). All House and Senate members were up for re-election in November 2023. Democrats regained the majority in the House of Delegates (51-49) and Democrats maintained control of the Senate (21-19).

Delegate Don Scott (D – District 88) served as the Speaker of the House and Senator Scott Surovell (D – District 36) served as the Senate Majority Leader. Lt. Governor Earle-Sears (R) presided over the Senate. The Lt. Governor serves as the tie breaking vote on all legislation except the budget bill.

The General Assembly meets for 60 days in even-numbered years and 30 to 45 days in odd-numbered years. The Legislature reconvenes on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of the regular session for the purpose of considering the Governor's recommendations and vetoed legislation.

Bills that become law during the regular session are effective July 1st unless otherwise specified in the legislation.

Ranked Choice Voting

SB 428 (VanValkenburg) – Ranked choice voting in any local or constitutional office and clarifying transparency on RCV results. Allows local governments to conduct elections for treasurer, sheriff, attorney for the commonwealth, clerk of circuit court or commissioner of revenue by ranked choice voting.

SB 428, which failed in the 2023 session, was successfully reintroduced this session and passed both the Senate (21-19) and the House (54-44). **Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill.** The Governor's veto can be found [here](#).

Affordable Housing/Accessory Dwelling Units

SB 304 (Salim) and **HB 900 (Srinivasan)** – Mandate that accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as a permitted use be allowed in areas that localities have zoned for single-family homes.

SB 304 passed the Senate (22-18), but was sent to a study by a House committee and carried over to 2025, along with HB 900.

SB 304/HB 900 represented a positive step forward toward meeting our housing demands by building more homes. **We remain committed to this issue and will be preparing for the 2025 session to get this bill passed into law.**

Workforce Development

HB 995 (Tran) - Temporary licensure for foreign-trained physicians. This bill allows foreign trained doctors to be issued temporary licenses in VA to practice in needed, underserved areas after meeting educational and experience requirements and conditioned on working in an educational facility. This bill will help fill significant gaps in medical coverage, especially for rural Virginians.

HB 995 passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed into law by the Governor.

HB 1479 (Price) and **SB 682 (Suetterlein)** - Universal licensure for certain health professions. Similar to HB 995, these bills would recognize medical licenses (non-physicians/dentists) from other states to reduce obstacles for medical professionals moving to the Commonwealth.

HB 1479/SB 682 were continued to 2025 by their respective Rules committees.

HB 1291 (Willett) – Creates a Virginia Health Workforce Innovation Fund for regional collaboration in healthcare workforce development. We would like to thank Delegate Willett for sponsoring this important legislation. Unfortunately, this bill died in a House committee.

Campaign Finance Reform

HB 40 (Simon) and **SB 377 (Boysko)** – Prohibits the personal use of campaign funds.

SB 377 passed the full Senate (35-4), but died in the House Appropriations committee, along with HB 40.

We are disappointed that Virginia continues to remain an anomaly by not banning legislators from the personal use of campaign funds. VaOurWay has been advocating for reform on this issue for the last three years and we are disappointed that legislators are continuing to show their preference from benefiting from public office versus enacting trust-building measures. **We will be working on this issue again next session.**

Consumer Protection

HB 1370 (Delaney) - Prohibition on reporting medical debt to consumer reporting agencies. This bill prohibits certain medical providers, including emergency medical services agencies, from reporting medical debt owed to them to consumer reporting agencies. It also prohibits debt collectors from collecting on debt reported in violation of this new law.

HB 1370 passed the House (58-40) and the Senate (34-5), and was signed into law by the Governor.

Energy

SB 697 (VanValkenburg) – Restrictions on blanket solar development bans by localities.

This bill was needed to prevent localities from passing ordinances that ban solar developments. It would force localities to consider solar construction on a case-by-case basis rather than refusing to consider any development through bans. You can read more [HERE](#) in an email we sent during the legislative session.

SB 697 passed the Senate (21-18), but was continued to 2025 by a House committee. **We will continue to advocate for this in next year's session.**

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy throughout the legislative session. Your engagement, whether through sharing your stories, contacting legislators, or staying informed, has been essential in advancing these important efforts. Together, we're making meaningful progress toward a stronger, more equitable Virginia for all.

[**VaOurWay**](#) is a non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to advancing pragmatic, pro-family, pro-business policy solutions. We work across party lines to address shared priorities with a results-oriented, business-informed approach.

Your support empowers us to continue.

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