

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Delegate • Virginia House District 45

Dear {{ FirstName | default: 'Friend' }},

The past week has been one of the busiest of session. At the beginning of the week, we debated and voted on almost 300 bills over the course of just 48 hours. The middle of the week brought a brief pause where I had the chance to meet with some constituents before rounding out the week with the consideration of the House budget and committee meetings to consider bills coming over from the Senate.

Below I've included updates on some bills that have been considered in the House. Next week, I will provide a summary of some of the House budget provisions and how these compare to the Senate.

Legislative Updates

Four of the bills I introduced have passed the House with broad bipartisan support and are now headed to the Senate. Additionally, while the electronic meetings bill I introduced has died in the House, the amended Senate version is still currently alive.

Reducing Food Insecurity

Passed the House 99-0.

[HB2445](#) revives the Food Crop Donation Tax Credit to support farmers, reduce food waste, and get more local food to our food banks.



Criminal Justice Reform and Supporting Small Businesses

Passed the House 99-0.

Virginia Code does not allow restaurants or alcohol wholesalers to hire anyone who has ever had a felony conviction to work with alcohol. [HB 1730](#) would allow ABC licensees to hire individuals with felony convictions after two years and the completion of probation.

Consumer Protection for Deceptive Event Ticketing Practices

Passed the House 100-0.

[HB 1857](#) is a consumer protection bill to prohibit deceptive websites that mimic official box office ticketing websites. These websites lead consumers to think they are buying tickets at face value when they are really paying a substantial premium.

Supporting the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission

Passed the House 99-1.

[HB2371](#) removes the requirement that the volunteer members of the Commission secure a \$10,000 surety bond in order to serve. This requirement is a barrier to service on an advisory body without compensation.

Electronic Meeting Flexibility for Advisory Boards

Passed the Senate 25-14.

I am grateful to Senator Dave Marsden for carrying the Senate companion [SB1351](#) to my bill [HB2050](#), which would increase flexibility for local advisory bodies made up of volunteers (like our Commission for Women, Environmental Policy Commission, Commission on Aging, and more), to hold virtual meetings outside of an emergency, above the current limit of 25%. After my bill died in a House subcommittee, we amended the Senate bill to cap the allowable limit at 50%. This is still permissive and allows the board and their locality; however, the state law represents the ceiling that is allowed.

Below are some updates on other bills that have been considered in the House:

Bill	Description	Status
HB1378	Repeals Clean Car Standards	Passed House 52-48
HB1430	Repeals parts of the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA).	Passed House 52-46
HB1444	Reinstates a photo ID requirement for voting.	Passed House 52-48
HB1693	Repeals the establishment of drop-off locations for absentee ballots.	Passed House 51-47
HB2432	Requires the forced outing of transgender students by their teachers.	Passed House 50-48
HB1669	Allows for minors to be paid below the state minimum wage.	Died - Re-referred to Committee from the floor
HB1436	Removes the age requirement on income tax subtraction for military veterans. (Current law limits this to those age 55 and older.)	Passed House 98-0-1A
HB1426	Requires medical professionals to receive human trafficking awareness training.	Passed House 100-0
HB1446	Requires minimum staffing standards for nursing facilities.	Passed House 95-2
HB1403	Requires public colleges and universities to allow foster care students to stay on campus during school breaks at no cost.	Passed House 100-0
HB1433	Authorizes Virginia to become a part of the counseling compact to allow mental health counselors licensed in other compact states to practice in Virginia.	Passed House 100-0
HB1438	Establishes a tax credit for recycling oyster shells.	Passed House 74-24
HB1968	Directs state agencies to approve signs for historical sites relating to the "Green Book," published by Victor Hugo Green, which provided a list of hotels, guest houses, service stations, drug stores, taverns, barber shops, and restaurants known to be safe for traveling Black Americans during the Jim Crow era.	Passed House 100-0

HB1895	Prohibits employers from requiring employees or prospective employees from signing an NDA that states they may not disclose a sexual assault.	Passed House 98-1
HB2187	Requires school counselors to spend 80% of their time counseling students.	Passed House 94-5
HB1511	Allows for licensed midwives to obtain and administer drugs within the scope of their practice.	Passed House 98-0
HB2099	Expands tax credit to update, build, or redevelop structures into livable homes.	Passed House 97-2
HB2224	Prohibits fees from being charged to parent(s) of newborns for required newborn screening tests.	Passed House 95-3
HB1470	Provides that a person who is eligible for the real property tax exemption for certain disabled veterans and surviving spouses is entitled to a refund, retroactive to his date of eligibility, of taxes paid during the period of exemption.	Passed House 99-0
HB1525	Removes the prohibition on individuals who have been convicted of barrier crimes from serving as peer recovery specialists.	Passed House 99-0
HB2046	Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to: conduct a comprehensive statewide housing needs assessment at least every five years; develop a statewide housing plan and update it at least every five years; provide annual updates regarding meeting the goals of such plan; and to collect and publish certain zoning information collected from Virginia localities.	Passed House 99-0
HB1592	Requires school personnel to notify parents of an alleged bullying incident within 24 hours.	Passed House 100-0
HB2208	Establishes antisemitic animosity as a hate crime.	Passed House 98-1
HB1762	Establishes the Teacher Reengagement Program for the purpose of addressing instructional personnel shortages and COVID-19 pandemic-related student learning loss.	Passed House 99-0
HB2096	Requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation to create an invasive plant species list and update it quadrennially. Prohibits any agency from planting, selling, or propagating any plant on the list except if necessary for scientific, educational, or bona fide agricultural purposes.	Passed House 99-0
HB2025	Requires notification on SNAP benefits and a free or reduced price meals application to be sent home with each public school student at the beginning of the year (or as soon as practicable after enrollment).	Passed House 78-22
HB2021	Requires parents to receive notification about free and reduced meal applications at back to school nights.	Passed House 66-33

HB1924	Prohibits employers from paying sub-minimum wages to individuals with disabilities.	Passed House 100-0
HB1555	Requires public institutions of higher education to provide trauma-informed human trafficking awareness and prevention training programs to all first-year students.	Passed House 99-0
HB1951	Designates the Chincoteague Pony as the official pony of the Commonwealth.	Passed House 93-7
HB2414	Allows a disabled veteran or surviving spouse to apply for a real property tax exemption and receive a decision prior to purchasing a qualifying property.	Passed House 99-0
HB2487	Limits the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities.	Passed House 99-0
HB2375	Requires the Board of Education to extend for at least one additional year the provisional license of a teacher upon receiving (i) a recommendation for such extension and (ii) satisfactory performance evaluations for such teacher for each year of the provisional license.	Passed House 99-0
HB2387	Establishes a tax credit of up to \$300 for purchasing a firearm storage safety device.	Passed House 98-1
HB2380	Directs the Department of Social Services to provide information, resources, and education to food banks regarding providing assistance to individuals completing a SNAP application, including the process for organizations to enter into a contract with the Department to provide this service.	Passed House 74-26
HB2424	Allows courts to appoint certified interpreters for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.	Passed House 100-0
HB2441	Requires large landlords that terminate 20 or more month-to-month leases within 30 days in the same building to give at least 60 days' notice to tenants.	Passed House 68-31
HB2051	Prohibits law enforcement officers from lying to children and coercing a confession.	Died - Left in Courts
HB1874	Prohibits the Board of Social Services and Department of Health from requiring persons applying to participate or renewing their participation in SNAP or WIC to appear in person.	Died on House Floor 45-54
HB2115	Requires the Virginia Employment Commission to waive the obligation for individuals to repay any overpayment by the VEC if (i) the overpayment was made without fault on the part of the individual receiving benefits and (ii) requiring repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.	Died in subcommittee 3-4
HB2210	Requires state-funded health care for all children 18 and younger.	Died in subcommittee 3-2

HB1760	Establishes a training corps to train and retain public school teachers with scholarships.	Died in subcommittee 5-3
HB1788	Requires firearms manufactured or sold after 2025 to be microstamped.	Died in subcommittee 6-4
HB2097	Allows health care providers to give emergency contraception to sexual assault survivors if they request it and allows for it to be paid for by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund.	Died in subcommittee 4-1
HB2286	Establishes campaign contribution limits.	Died in subcommittee 5-3
HB1853	Prohibits the minimum bill for a shared solar program from exceeding two times the basic customer charge and requires the SCC regulations for shared solar to allow all jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional customer classes to participate in the program, among other provisions.	Died in subcommittee 4-3
HB2273	Establishes a three-day waiting period for firearm sales with certain exceptions.	Died in subcommittee 6-4
HB2240	Bans assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.	Died in subcommittee 6-4
HB2283	Prohibits the disconnection of utilities for non-payment: during a state of emergency; when the forecasted temperature low is at or below freezing or when the forecasted temperature high is at or above 95 degrees Fahrenheit; or on Fridays, weekends, state holidays, and the day immediately preceding a state holiday.	Died in subcommittee 5-3
HB1852	Requires the development of strategies to assist interested school divisions with incorporating renewable energy generation facilities in the construction or renovation of school buildings.	Died in subcommittee 6-2
HB2035	Establishes a paid family and medical leave program, administered by the Virginia Employment Commission. The bill provides self-employed individuals the option of participating in the program.	Died in subcommittee 4-3
HB1588	Creates the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund to assist with the non-utility costs associated with the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.	Died in committee 12-9
HB1653	Makes the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income taxpayers fully refundable.	Died in subcommittee 5-3
HB2245	Reinstates a free tax-filing program for individual taxpayers.	Died in subcommittee 4-4
HB2118	Allows for ranked choice voting at the local level.	Died in subcommittee 5-3
HB2174	Protects LGBTQ+ marriage by clarifying that a marriage between two parties is lawful regardless of the sex or gender of such parties.	Died - Left in Rules

HB1552	Prohibits the personal use of campaign funds, with exceptions for childcare.	Died - Left in Privileges and Elections Committee
HB2382	Prohibits the selling or disclosure of sexual or reproductive health information without the consent of the consumer.	Died in subcommittee 3-1
HB2350	Requires that firearms be stored in a locked container in a residence where a minor is present.	Died in subcommittee 6-4

Visitors

Jewish Community Relations Center

We welcomed constituents with the Jewish Community Relations Center and discussed how we can work together to address antisemitic violence and vandalism.



League of Women Voters Roundtable

It was great to spend my Wednesday morning speaking with the League of Women Voters of Virginia about voting rights, gun safety, and increasing civic participation.



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

We had the pleasure of meeting with the VCCA and discussed the importance of addressing climate change for individual and community health.





Alexandria City Officials

It was great to see School Board Member Michelle Rief and Sheriff Sean Casey in the Capitol. Dr. Rief and I discussed legislation to support public education as part of the Virginia School Board Association's advocacy day. Thanks to Sheriff Casey for coming to Richmond to testify in support of legislation at a 7:30am subcommittee meeting!

Contact Me

If you'd like to share your feedback on legislation during this session or need anything, please email me at DeLEBennett-Parker@house.virginia.gov or call our office at 804-698-1045.

Warmly,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Delegate

Virginia's 45th District

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