



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.

House Bill Sheet: Family Health & Community Safety

Access to Healthcare, Community, & Mental Health Services—SUPPORT.

HB 1524 Ultrasound prior to abortion.

Introduced By: Del. Jeion Ward (D-Hampton)

Removes the requirement that a woman undergo a fetal transabdominal ultrasound prior to an abortion. Amends § 18.2-76, of the Code of Virginia

HB 1541 Birth control; definition.

Introduced By: Del. Vivian Watts (D-Annandale)

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. Amends § 54.1-2900, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1552 Child welfare agencies; regulation, national criminal history record check requirement.

Introduced By: Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax Station)

Establishes a national criminal history record check requirement for licensure as a child welfare agency, for approval as a family day home by a family day system, for approval as a foster or adoptive parent; for employment or to volunteer at a child welfare agency or family day home; and for all adults residing in a home in which a family day home is operated. The bill requires all family day homes that provide care for one or more children for compensation to be licensed by the Department of Social Services. Currently, only family day homes providing care for six or more children must be licensed. The bill also provides that, for the purposes of determining the number of children receiving care, the provider's own children and any children residing in the home shall be counted. Amends § 19.2-389, § 19.2-392.02, § 63.2-100, § 63.2-1506, § 63.2-1515, § 63.2-1702, § 63.2-1708, § 63.2-1720, § 63.2-1726, § 63.2-1809, § 63.2-1809.1, § 63.2-603, § 63.2-901.1, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1445 & HB 1605 Marijuana; possession or distribution for medical purposes.

Introduced By: Del. Dave Albo (R-Springfield); Del. Ken Plum (D-Reston)

Allows a person to possess marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol pursuant to a recommendation of a prescriber acting in the course of his professional practice and allows a medical doctor or pharmacist to distribute such substances in the course of his professional practice without being subject to prosecution and eliminates the requirement that marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinol be recommended and dispensed solely for the treatment of cancer or glaucoma. The bill also clarifies that the penalties for forging or altering a recommendation for medical marijuana or for making or uttering a false or forged recommendation are the same as the penalties for committing the same acts with regard to prescriptions. Amends § 18.2-250.1, § 18.2-251.1, § 18.2-258.1, of the Code of Virginia.

Interpersonal Violence and Stalking—SUPPORT

HB 1343 Campus police departments; sexual assault reporting.

Introduced By: Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax Station)

Requires that mutual aid agreements between campus police force and law-enforcement agencies contain provisions requiring either the campus police force or an agency with which it has established a mutual aid agreement to notify the local attorney for the Commonwealth of any investigation involving felony criminal sexual assault occurring on property owned or controlled by the institution of higher education within 48 hours of beginning such investigation. Amends § 23-234, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1430 Unemployment compensation; benefit charges.

Introduced By: Del. Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

Excludes benefits paid to a claimant who leaves employment as a result of circumstances directly resulting from domestic violence or sexual assault from the benefit charges used in calculating his employer's state unemployment tax rate. Under this measure, these benefits will be charged against the pool rather than against the claimant's employer. The exclusion applies if the Virginia Employment Commission has determined that the claimant's leaving employment as a result of such circumstances constitutes leaving work for good cause. Circumstances directly resulting from domestic violence or sexual assault exist when the claimant (i) reasonably fears future domestic violence or sexual assault en route to or from his workplace, (ii) wishes to relocate to avoid future domestic violence or sexual assault against himself or his children, or (iii) reasonably believes that leaving work is necessary for his safety or that of his children. Amends § 60.2-528, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1453 Stalking; penalty.

Introduced By: Del. Jackson Miller (R-Manassas)

Provides that a person who on more than one occasion engages in conduct directed at another person with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass, or when he knows or reasonably should know that the conduct coerces, intimidates, or harasses, the other person or the other person's family or household member is guilty of stalking, a Class 1 misdemeanor. Amends § 18.2-308.1:4, § 18.2-60.3, of the Code of Virginia.

Interpersonal Violence and Stalking—OPPOSE

HB 1389 Higher educational institution; prohibition on regulating concealed handguns.

Introduced By: Del. Mark Berg (R-Winchester)

Prohibits any public institution of higher education from adopting or enforcing any rule, regulation, or policy prohibiting or limiting the carrying of a concealed handgun on property owned or operated by the institution by any person entitled to carry a concealed handgun. The bill also provides that any rule, regulation, or policy adopted prior to July 1, 2015, prohibiting or limiting the carrying of a concealed handgun is invalid. Amends § 23-9.2:3, of the Code of Virginia.



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.

House Bill Sheet: Voting Rights

Election Ethics and Voting Rights—SUPPORT

HB 1282 Judges; limitation on election and appointment.

Introduced By: Del. Lionell Spruill (D-Chesapeake)

Restricts the General Assembly from electing a person to a judgeship if the person is an immediate family member (spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister) of a (i) member of the General Assembly or (ii) former member of the General Assembly for at least 24 months after such member has ceased to be a member of the General Assembly.

HB 1327 Elections; assistance for certain voters.

Introduced By: Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax Station)

Allows any qualified voter who is 75 years of age or older or a person with a disability to request to go to the front of the line and to vote at the next available voting booth or voting system. The bill requires the chief officer of election or other designated election official to grant any such request made between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. This provision applies also to central absentee voting precincts and locations in the county or city approved by the electoral board for the purpose of casting absentee ballots. A qualified voter who is 65 years of age or older or a person with a disability is still permitted to vote outside the polling place pursuant to 24.2-649.

HB 1375 Voter identification; expiration date not considered.

Introduced By: Del. Joe Lindsey (R-Norfolk)

Provides that the expiration date on a form of identification offered for voting identification purposes shall not be considered when determining the validity of that form of identification.

HB 1394 Elections; absentee voting; no-excuse, in-person.

Introduced By: Del. Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

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. Amends § 24.2-700, § 24.2-701, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1429 Voter identification; accepted forms of identification.

Introduced By: Del. Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

Adds to the list of accepted forms of identification for purposes of voting valid student photo identification cards issued by any private school located in the Commonwealth or by any public or private school or institution of higher education located in any other state or territory of the United States. Students of public high schools in Virginia are currently permitted to use their student photo identification cards for purposes of voting because current law allows the use of photo identification issued by the Commonwealth or one of its political subdivisions. Current law also allows students from public or private institutions of higher education located in the Commonwealth to use their student photo identification cards for purposes of voting. Amends § 24.2-643, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1538 Voter identification; reasonable match of identification and pollbook name.

Introduced By: Del. Vivian Watts (D-Annandale)

Provides that a voter meets one qualification for voting if the voter's name as found on 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 bill does not eliminate the other qualifications for being permitted to vote. Amends § 24.2-643, of the Code of Virginia.

HJ 522 Constitutional amendment; qualifications to vote, restoration of civil rights.

Introduced By: Del. Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies who have completed service of their sentences subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law. The present Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds an alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to law for nonviolent felons

Election Ethics and Voting Rights—OPPOSE

HB 1318 Applications for absentee ballots; photo identification required.

Introduced By: Del. Jeff Campbell (R-Marion)

Requires that any voter submitting his application for an absentee ballot by mail or by electronic or telephonic transmission to a facsimile device shall submit with his application a copy of one of the forms of identification acceptable under current law. Currently, only a voter who completes his application for an absentee ballot in person is required to show a form of identification.

HB 1518 Primary elections; voter registration by political party.

Introduced By: Del. Steve Landes (R-Weyers Cave)

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, 2016, 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 rules adopted by the duly constituted authorities of the state political party governing who may participate in the party's primaries held from April 1 of that year through March 31 of the following year. Amends § 24.2-530, § 24.2-535, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1574 Voter registration; proof of citizenship.

Introduced By: Del. Brenda Pogge (R-Williamsburg)

Requires that a person registering to vote provide proof of United States citizenship in a form specified by the State Board of Elections. Amends § 24.2-418, of the Code of Virginia.



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.

House Bill Sheet: Civil & Human Rights

Gender Equity—SUPPORT

HB 1499 Breast-feeding in public places; mother's right.

Introduced By: Del. Dave Albo (R-Springfield)

Provides that a mother may breast-feed in any place where the mother is lawfully present. Current law allows breast-feeding on any property owned, leased, or controlled by the Commonwealth.

HJ 495 United States Constitution; Equal Rights Amendment.

Introduced By: Del. Scott Surovell (D-Fairfax)

Ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution that was proposed by Congress in 1972. The 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.

Ending LGBTQIA Discrimination—SUPPORT

HB1385 Sexual orientation change efforts; prohibited.

Introduced By: Del. Patrick Hope (D-Arlington)

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" as including the provision of treatment, interventions, counseling, or services intended to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expressions, but not including treatment, interventions, counseling, or services provided to persons seeking to transition from one gender to another or that provide acceptance, social support, and identity exploration and development.

HB 1454 Fair Housing Law; unlawful discrimination, sexual orientation; or gender identity.

Introduced By: Del. Marcus Simon (D-Falls Church)

Adds discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity as an unlawful discriminatory housing practice. The bill defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity." Amends § 36-96.1, § 36-96.4, § 55-248.47, of the Code of Virginia.

HJ 492 Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage.

Introduced By: Del. Rob Krupicka (D-Alexandria)

Proposes to replace the language of the constitutional amendment dealing with marriage that was approved by referendum at the November 2006 election with new language that provides that "the freedom to choose to marry another person resides with the individual and cannot be infringed upon by this Commonwealth, except on the basis of age, kinship, or marital status, as prescribed by law." The amendment also requires the Commonwealth to recognize any marriage between two persons performed in any other state or jurisdiction that would be lawful in the Commonwealth and specifies that a minister or civil celebrant authorized to perform marriages in the Commonwealth does not infringe upon the rights guaranteed by the Constitution if that individual refuses to perform the marriage of any persons.

Ending LGBTQIA Discrimination—OPPOSE

HB 1414 Government-issued licenses, etc.; obtaining or renewing, conscience clause.

Introduced By: Del. Bob Marshall (R-Manassas); Del. Mark Berg (R-Winchester)

Provides that a person shall not be required to perform, assist, consent to, or participate in any action or refrain from performing, assisting, consenting to, or participating in any action as a condition of obtaining or renewing a government-issued license, registration, or certificate where such condition would violate the religious or moral convictions of such person with respect to same-sex marriage or homosexual behavior.

Ending Race & Class Discrimination—SUPPORT

HB 1376 Arrest and summons quotas; prohibition.

Introduced By: Del. Delores McQuinn (D-Richmond)

Provides that the Department of State Police, a local police department, or a sheriff shall not establish a formal or informal quota that requires an officer or deputy to make a specific number of arrests or issue a specific number of summonses within a designated time period. The bill provides further that the number of arrests made or summonses issued by an officer or deputy cannot be used as the sole criterion for evaluating officer's or deputy's job performance.

HB 1471 Affordable housing

Introduced By: Del. David Bulova (D-Fairfax)

Adds the City of Fairfax to the list of localities with authority to provide for an affordable dwelling unit program under 15.2-2304. Amends § 15.2-2304, of the Code of Virginia.

HB 1478 In-state tuition; students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Introduced By: Del. Kaye Kory (D-Falls Church)

Declares that absent congressional intent to the contrary, any person granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has the capacity to intend to remain in Virginia indefinitely and, therefore, is eligible for VA domicile and for in-state tuition charges at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.

HB 1512 Minimum wage; increases to \$15.15 per hour.

Introduced By: Del. Marcus Simon (D-Falls Church)

Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$15.15 per hour effective July 1, 2015, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. The \$15.15 rate shall be adjusted annually thereafter to reflect increases in the consumer price index. The measure also eliminates provisions that address determinations of the wages of tipped employees. Amends § 40.1-28.10, § 40.1-28.9, of the Code of VA.

HB 1654 Minimum wage; increases from its current federally mandated level to \$8.00 per hour.

Introduced By: Del. Ken Plum (D-Reston)

Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.00 per hour effective July 1, 2015, to \$9.00 per hour effective July 1, 2016, and to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2017, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Amends § 40.1-28.10, § 40.1-28.9, of the Code of VA.

Ending Race & Class Discrimination—OPPOSE

HJ 490 Constitutional amendment (first resolution); right to work.

Introduced By: Del. Dickie Bell (R-Staunton)

Provides that any agreement or combination between any employer and any labor union or labor organization whereby persons not members of such union or organization are denied the right to work for the employer, or whereby such membership is made a condition of employment or continuation of employment by such employer, or whereby any such

President: Diana Egozcue, president@vanow.org

VP of Legislative Affairs: Marj Signer, legislativevp@vanow.org

union or organization acquires an employment monopoly in any enterprise, is against public policy and constitutes an illegal combination or conspiracy and is void.