

## 2025 Year End Legislative Session

The final day of the regular session brought an adjournment, continuation, and a fresh start. Although the 2025 legislative session officially concluded on Saturday, the General Assembly's work is far from over as federal policy changes are expected to have significant effects on Virginia's workforce and economy. On Saturday morning, the House Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions convened for the first time. Meanwhile, both the House of Delegates and the state Senate extended a special session, keeping the option open to recall legislators to the Capitol with 48 hours' notice to address legislation and budget amendments.

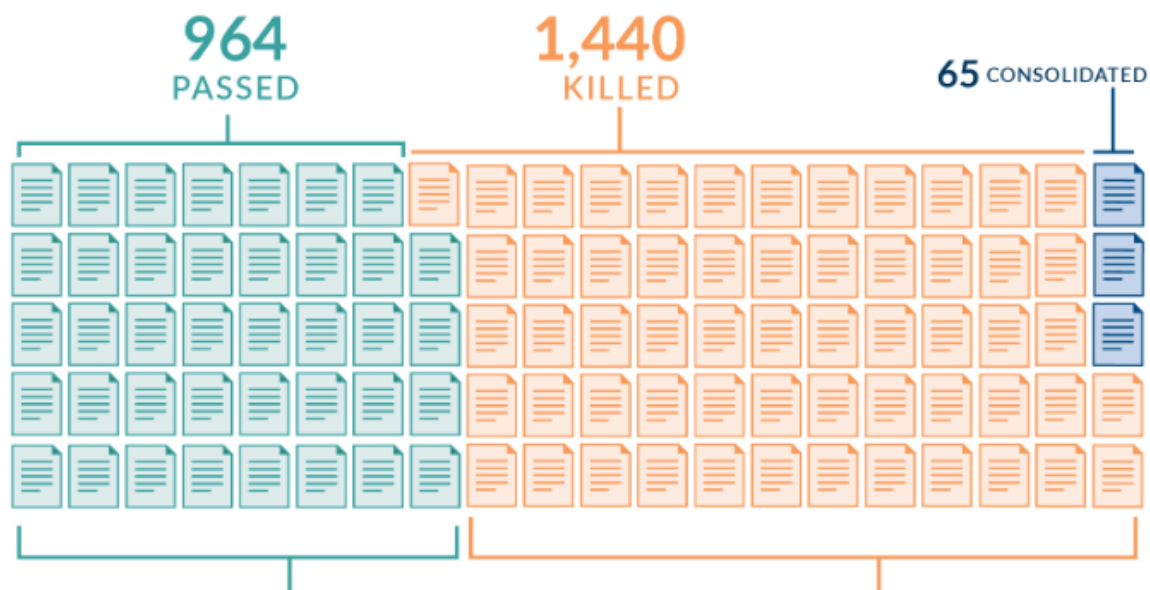
In a unique application of General Assembly rules, lawmakers also continued the special session, which had never been formally adjourned. Special sessions can remain open indefinitely, giving the legislature flexibility to meet without requiring the Governor to call a session.

By passing a new resolution, the legislature redefined the focus of the special session, allowing for expedited consideration of:

- Budget or revenue bills;
- Appointments and elections of judges or other officials requiring General Assembly approval;
- Legislation or joint resolutions addressing the impact of federal workforce reductions, program changes, actions by the Department of Government Efficiency, or other federal budget-related decisions affecting the Commonwealth.

## Fate of 2025 Legislation

See what happened to the nearly 2,500 bills that the General Assembly worked on this session.



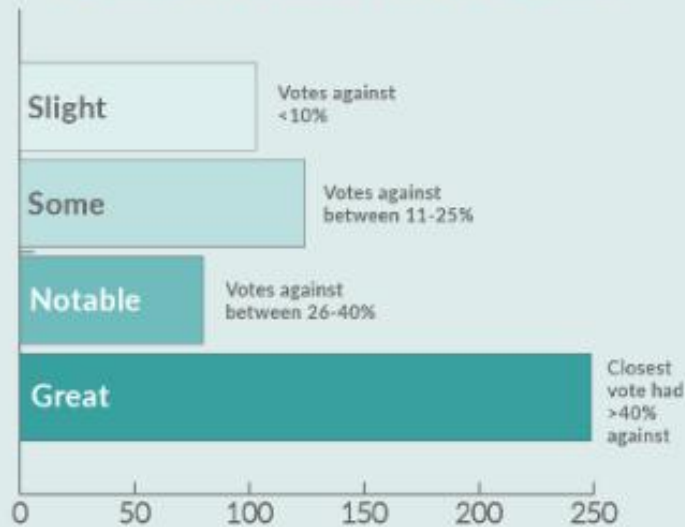
## PASSED

### Margin of Passed Bills<sup>1</sup>



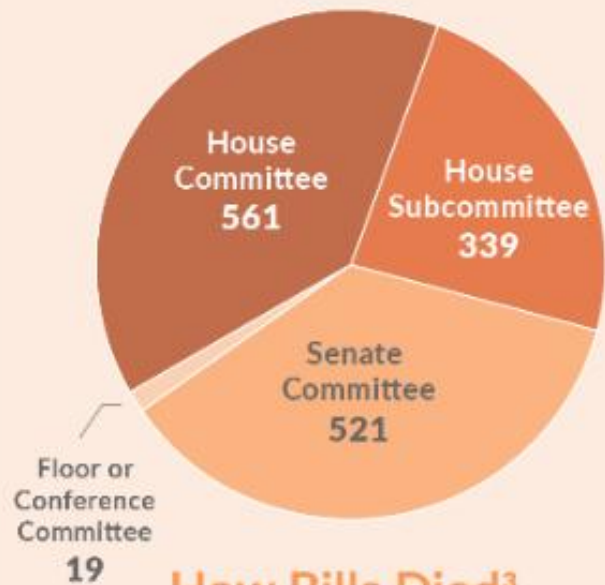
### Bills Passed with Opposition

Highest Level of Opposition at Any Point

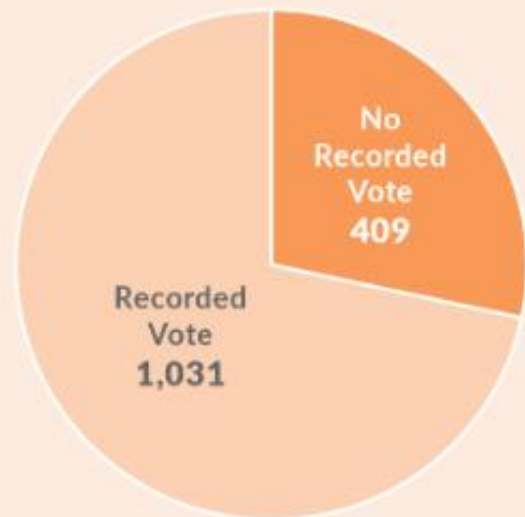


## KILLED

### Where Bills Died<sup>2</sup>



### How Bills Died<sup>3</sup>



## UVCA

### **[HB 1555](#) - Health Care Regulatory Sandbox Program established.**

Chief Patron: Williams

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 21, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-376 through 32.1-383, relating to Health Care Regulatory Sandbox Program established.

#### **SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Health Care Regulatory Sandbox Program established.** Requires the Department of Health to establish the Health Care Regulatory Sandbox Program to enable a person to obtain limited access to the market in the Commonwealth to temporarily test an innovative health care product or service on a limited basis without otherwise being licensed or authorized to act under the laws of the Commonwealth. Under the Program, an applicant requests the waiver of certain laws, regulations, or other requirements for a 24-month testing period, with an option to request an additional six-month testing period. The bill provides application requirements, consumer protections, procedures for exiting the Program or requesting an extension, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements. The bill requires the Department to provide an annual report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health that provides information regarding each Program participant and recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the Program. The bill directs the Board of Health to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill and has an expiration date of July 1, 2030.

### **[HB 1593](#) - Minor's records; access to records stored or accessible from a secure website.**

Chief Patron: Kent

Status: Pending Governor's Communication

An Act to amend and reenact § 20-124.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to access to minor's records; records stored or accessible from a secure website.

#### **SUMMARY AS PASSED:**

**Access to minor's records; records stored or accessible from secure website.** Specifies that for the purposes of allowing a parent to access the academic or health records of such parent's minor child such access includes any such records that are stored or accessible from a secure website. This bill is identical to SB 846.

### **[HB 1609](#) - Essential health benefits benchmark plan; Commission to consider coverage for infertility treatment.**

Chief Patron: Helmer

Status: Passed

A BILL to direct the Health Insurance Reform Commission to consider coverage for infertility treatment in its 2025 essential health benefits benchmark plan review.

#### **SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:**

**Health insurance; coverage option for fertility services; essential health benefits benchmark plan.** Requires the Health Insurance Reform Commission to consider such coverage in its 2025 review of the essential health benefits benchmark plan. The bill directs the Commission to include such coverage in its recommendation to the General Assembly for a new essential health benefits benchmark plan unless the Commission identifies a compelling reason to exclude such coverage.

### **[HB 1620](#) - Department of Labor and Industry; work group to evaluate workplace violence.**

Chief Patron: Clark

Status: Failed

A BILL to direct the Department of Labor and Industry to convene a work group for the purpose of evaluating workplace violence in the Commonwealth.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Department of Labor and Industry; work group to evaluate workplace violence.** Directs the Department of Labor and Industry to convene a work group for the purpose of evaluating the prevalence of workplace violence in the Commonwealth, including its effects on the workplace and measures to address workplace violence. The bill requires the work group to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Labor and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor no later than December 1, 2026.

**[HB 1629](#) - Health care records; providers shall provide one free copy of records stored in EHR upon request.**

Chief Patron: Thomas

Status: Passed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 8.01-413 and 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health care records; fees; certain requests by a patient or his attorney.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:**

**Health care records; fees; certain requests by a patient or his attorney.** Requires that a health care provider provide one free copy of a patient's medical records per calendar year if requested by a patient or his attorney for the purposes of supporting a claim or appeal under certain provisions of the Social Security Act or any federal or state financial needs-based benefit program. The bill provides that any additional request for medical records in the same calendar year are subject to a reasonable fee.

**[HB 1636](#) - Civil immunity; health care professionals; professional programs related to career fatigue and wellness.**

Chief Patron: Hope

Status: Passed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 8.01-581.16 of the Code of Virginia, relating to civil immunity; health care professionals; professional programs related to career fatigue and wellness.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Civil immunity; health care professionals; professional programs related to career fatigue and wellness.** Expands civil immunity for persons who participate in professional programs related to career fatigue and wellness for health care professionals to include those who participate in programs for (i) any health care professionals licensed, registered, or certified by the Department of Health Professions or (ii) students enrolled in programs that are prerequisites to licensure, registration, or certification by the Department of Health Professions. Under current law, civil immunity extends only to persons participating in programs for (a) professionals licensed, registered, or certified by the Boards of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, or Pharmacy or (b) students enrolled in a school of dentistry, dental hygiene, medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, or pharmacy.

**[HB 1646](#) - Practice of chiropractic; amends definition.**

Chief Patron: Hayes

Status: Passed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2900 and 54.1-2963 of the Code of Virginia, relating to vitamins, minerals, and food supplements; practice of chiropractic; definition.

## SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

**Vitamins, minerals, and food supplements; practice of chiropractic; definition.** Amends the definition of "practice of chiropractic" to include recommending or directing patients on the use of vitamins, minerals, or food supplements. The bill also allows a chiropractor to recommend or direct patients on the use of vitamins, minerals, or food supplements, provided that the rationale for such recommendation is (i) documented in a patient's record and (ii) based on a reasonable expectation that the use of such vitamins, minerals, or food supplements will result in a favorable patient outcome, including preventive practices, and that a greater benefit will be achieved than that which can be expected without such use. Under the bill, such chiropractor is not permitted to sell, dispense, or recommend vitamins, minerals, or food supplements for use if such use will negatively impact any of the patient's existing medical conditions.

### **[HB 1649](#) - Board of Medicine; continuing education; unconscious bias and cultural competency.**

Chief Patron: Hayes

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

An Act to direct the Board of Medicine to require certain licensees to complete training on unconscious bias and cultural competency as part of their continuing education and continuing competency requirements for licensure.

## SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

**Board of Medicine; continuing education; unconscious bias and cultural competency.** Directs the Board of Medicine to require unconscious bias and cultural competency training as part of the continuing education requirements for renewal of licensure. The bill specifies requirements for the training and requires the Board of Medicine to report on the training to the Department of Health and the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative. This bill is identical to SB 740.

### **[HB 1675](#) - Board of Medicine; continuing education; unconscious bias and cultural competency.**

Chief Patron: Hayes

Status: Passed

A BILL to direct the Board of Medicine to require certain licensees to complete training on unconscious bias and cultural competency as part of their continuing education and continuing competency requirements for licensure.

## SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

**Board of Medicine; continuing education; unconscious bias and cultural competency.** Directs the Board of Medicine to require unconscious bias and cultural competency training as part of the continuing education requirements for renewal of licensure. The bill specifies requirements for the training and requires the Board of Medicine to report on the training to the Department of Health. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.

### **[HB 1732](#) - Health records; disclosure of laboratory test results.**

Chief Patron: Price

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-127.1:06, relating to health records; disclosure of laboratory test results.

## SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

**Health records; disclosure of laboratory test results.** Requires health care entities to wait 72 hours before disclosing test results that could indicate malignancy or genetic markers as part of a patient's health records. The bill permits health care entities to disclose health records to an electronic health information exchange to comply with the 21st Century Cures Act.

### **[HB 1749](#) - Workers' compensation; duty to furnish medical attention; timeframe for decision.**

Chief Patron: Ennis

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-603 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; duty to furnish medical attention; timeframe for decision.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Workers' compensation; duty to furnish medical attention; timeframe for decision.** Requires an employer, as defined in existing law, to issue a decision regarding the provision of medical attention to an employee within 45 calendar days after such employee's request for care pursuant to existing law, with certain exceptions described in the bill.

**HB 1755 - Sales and use tax on services and digital personal property.**

Chief Patron: Watts

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-602, 58.1-603, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 58.1-603.1, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 58.1-603.2, 58.1-604.01, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 58.1-605.1, 58.1-606.1, 58.1-609.5, 58.1-609.11, 58.1-611.1, 58.1-612, 58.1-623, 58.1-638, 58.1-647, and 58.1-648, relating to sales and use tax on services and digital personal property.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Sales and use tax on services and digital personal property.** Levies the retail sales and use tax on the following services: admissions; charges for recreation, fitness, or sports facilities; nonmedical personal services or counseling; dry cleaning and laundry services; companion animal care; residential home repair or maintenance, landscaping, or cleaning services when paid for directly by a resident or homeowner; vehicle and engine repair; repairs or alterations to tangible personal property; storage of tangible personal property; delivery or shipping services; travel, event, and aesthetic planning services; and digital services. Digital services are defined in the bill as the following: software application services, computer-related services, website hosting and design, data storage, and digital subscription services. The services taxed under the bill includes any transaction for digital services where the purchaser or consumer of the service is a business but does not include any service otherwise exempt under law.

The bill also imposes the retail sales and use tax on digital personal property, defined in the bill as a digital product delivered electronically that the purchaser owns or has the ability to continually access without having to pay an additional subscription or usage fee to the seller after paying the initial purchase price.

Revenues generated by the taxes levied on services and digital personal property shall be allocated in the same manner as other sales and use taxes; however, revenues from the state portion of the sales and use tax that would be allocated to the general fund shall instead be allocated to school divisions as follows: (i) 60 percent shall be distributed to localities on the basis of school-age population and (ii) 40 percent shall be distributed to localities on the basis of the high-need student population in the locality. The bill clarifies that a high-need student population includes students who are (a) automatically certified for free school meals because of participation in social services programs, (b) participants in a program of special education, or (c) English language learners.

The bill provides certain exemptions to the sales and use tax on services, including health care services that must be performed by a person licensed or certified by the Department of Health Professions, veterinary services, professional services, Internet access services, and services provided by a person who does not receive more than \$2,500 per year in gross receipts for performance of such services. The bill exempts services purchased by a nonprofit organization and services purchased by a homeowners' association or by a landlord for the benefit of his tenant. The bill also repeals the service exemptions currently provided for the sale of custom programs and modification of prewritten programs.

Finally, the bill exempts food purchased for human consumption and essential personal hygiene products from all state, local, and regional sales taxes on and after July 1, 2025. Under current law, food purchased for human consumption and essential personal hygiene products are subject only to the one percent local option sales tax.

**HB 1861 - Department of Health Professions; health regulatory boards; regulations; licensure by endorsement.**

Chief Patron: Price

Status: Passed

A BILL to direct each health regulatory board regulated by the Department of Health Professions to establish a licensure by endorsement pathway for qualified applicants of the professions regulated by such board.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Department of Health Professions; health regulatory boards; regulations; licensure by endorsement.** Directs each health regulatory board regulated by the Department of Health Professions to enact regulations to provide a licensure by endorsement pathway for qualified applicants as practitioners of the particular profession or professions regulated by such board. The bill specifies that the Board of Medicine shall be the first health regulatory board to enact regulations to provide a licensure by endorsement pathway.

**HB 1928 - Minimum wage.**

Chief Patron: Ward

Status: Passed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 40.1-28.10 of the Code of Virginia, relating to minimum wage.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Minimum wage.** Increases the minimum wage incrementally to \$15.00 per hour by January 1, 2027. The bill codifies the adjusted state hourly minimum wage of \$12.41 per hour that is effective January 1, 2025 and increases the minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour effective January 1, 2026 and to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2027. The bill requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to establish an adjusted state hourly minimum wage by October 1, 2027.

**HB 2085 - Health insurance; carrier business practices, method of payment for claims.**

Chief Patron: Shin

Status: Pending Governor's Communication

An Act to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.15 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; carrier business practices; method of payment for claims.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:**

**Health insurance; carrier business practices; method of payment for transactions.** Requires a health insurance carrier to notify the provider in a provider contract if the carrier, or entity completing a transaction on behalf of the carrier, uses a payment method that imposes a transaction or processing fee or similar charge on the provider and to offer the provider an alternative payment method that does not impose such a fee or similar charge. If the provider elects to accept the alternative payment method and has provided all required information to the carrier to enroll in such alternative method, the bill specifies that the carrier is required to pay the claim using such alternative payment method. This bill is identical to SB 925.

**HB 2098 - Labor & employment provisions; application of law, protection of employees, definition of employer.**

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Status: Passed



A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 40.1-2, 40.1-2.1, and 40.1-27.4 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 40.1-22.2 and 40.1-29.01, relating to labor and employment provisions; application of law; protection of employees; definition of employer.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:**

**Labor and employment provisions; application of law; payment of wages; definition of employer.** Clarifies that the exemption for the Commonwealth or any of its agencies, institutions, or political subdivisions, or any public body under Title 40.1 does not apply when expressly provided otherwise. The bill provides a definition of "public body" for Title 40.1. Additionally, the bill provides that for the purposes of various requirements related to the protection of employees, including the payment of wages, "employer" includes the Commonwealth and its agencies, institutions, and political subdivisions, school boards, or any public body.

**HB 2099 - Health insurance; required provisions regarding prior authorization for health care services.**

Chief Patron: Maldonado

Status: Pending Governor's Communication

An Act to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.15:2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 38.2-3407.15:8, relating to health insurance; carrier contracts; required provisions regarding prior authorization for health care services; work group; report.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:**

**Health insurance; carrier contracts; required provisions regarding prior authorization for health care services; work group; report.** Requires certain health insurance contracts under which an insurance carrier has the right or obligation to require prior authorization for a health care service, as defined in the bill, to include provisions governing the prior authorization process. Such required provisions include (i) time limits for a carrier to respond to prior authorization requests, (ii) a prohibition on revoking, limiting, making conditional, modifying, or restricting a previously approved prior authorization except under certain circumstances, and (iii) a requirement that a carrier shall provide the reasons for denial of a request. The bill requires a carrier to make publicly available on its website a list of health care services and codes for which prior authorization is required. The foregoing provisions have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027. The bill requires the State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance to establish a work group to develop and deliver a report related to the bill's provisions by November 1, 2025. This bill is identical to SB 1215.

**HB 2259 - Personal injury action against health care provider; certain defenses prohibited.**

Chief Patron: Delaney

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 8.01-42.6, relating to personal injury action against health care provider; certain defenses prohibited.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Personal injury action against health care provider; certain defenses prohibited.** Prohibits a defendant health care provider from asserting a defense of medical malpractice in a civil action for personal injury arising out of such health care provider's act of criminal sexual assault.

**HB 2372 - Health Care, Joint Commission on; duty to study proposed health insurance mandates.**

Chief Patron: Sickles

Status: Passed



A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 30-58.1, 30-168.3, and 30-343 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Joint Commission on Health Care; duty to study proposed health insurance mandates.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Joint Commission on Health Care; duty to study proposed health insurance mandates.** Shifts the duty to assess, analyze, and evaluate the social and economic costs and benefits of any proposed mandated health insurance benefit or mandated provider that is currently assigned to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to the Joint Commission on Health Care.

**[HB 2399](#) - Minors; parental access to health records.**

Chief Patron: Scott, P.A.

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia, relating to parental access to minor's health records.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Parental access to minor's health records.** Requires health care entities that provide access to health records of minors through a secure website to make such health records available to the minor's parent or guardian through the same secure website.

**[HB 2515](#) - Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices, mandatory fees or surcharges disclosure.**

Chief Patron: McClure

Status: Passed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 59.1-200, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, 59.1-586, and 59.1-587 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 58, consisting of sections numbered 59.1-607 through 59.1-610, relating to Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; mandatory fees or surcharges disclosure.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE:**

**Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; mandatory fees or surcharges disclosure.** Prohibits a supplier, in connection with a consumer transaction, from advertising or displaying a price for goods or services without clearly and conspicuously displaying the total price, which shall include all mandatory fees or surcharges, as defined in the bill. The bill specifies the requirements for compliance with its provisions for certain suppliers and excludes from its provisions (i) certain fees charged by motor vehicle dealers, as defined in relevant law; (ii) fees charged by electric utilities, natural gas utilities, and telecommunications service providers, as those terms are defined in relevant law; and (iii) certain costs associated with real estate settlement services. The bill requires a food delivery platform to (a) at the point when a consumer views and selects a vendor or items for purchase, include a clear and conspicuous disclosure of any additional fee or percentage charged, as defined in the bill, and (b) after a consumer selects items for purchase, but prior to checkout, display a subtotal page that itemizes the price of such selected items and any additional fee or percentage included in the total cost.

**[HB 2525](#) - Health insurance; electronic prior authorization, report.**

Chief Patron: Fowler

Status: Passed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.15:2 of the Code of Virginia and the second enactment of Chapters 474 and 475 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, relating to health insurance; electronic prior authorization; work group; report.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Health insurance; electronic prior authorization; work group; report.** Requires that the online process a carrier is required by existing law to establish and maintain beginning July 1, 2025, link directly to real-time patient out-of-pocket costs for the prescription drug. The bill also modifies the requirements and reporting timeline of the work group on electronic prior authorization established by the State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance pursuant to existing law.

**HB 2605 - Medical Conscience Protection Act; established.**

Chief Patron: Ware

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 21, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-376 through 32.1-380, relating to the Medical Conscience Protection Act established.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Medical Conscience Protection Act established.** Establishes the right of a health care professional not to participate in any medical procedure or service that violates such health care professional's conscience, as those terms and conditions are defined in the bill. The bill provides protections for health care professionals who disclose violations of the bill or report violations of laws or ethical guidelines for the safe provision of any medical procedure or service. The bill also provides a private right of action for any party harmed by violations of the bill.

**HB 2615 - Minor's records; access to records contained in or made available through secure website.**

Chief Patron: Ennis

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 20-124.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to access to minor's records; records contained in or made available through secure website.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Access to minor's records; records contained in or made available through secure website.** Specifies that for the purposes of allowing a parent to access the academic or health records of such parent's minor child such access includes access to a secure website where such records are contained or made available.

**SB 774 - Essential health benefits benchmark plan review; members of stakeholder work group.**

Chief Patron: Surovell

Status: Awaiting Signature

An Act to amend and reenact § 30-343.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to essential health benefits benchmark plan review; stakeholder work group.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Essential health benefits benchmark plan review; stakeholder work group.** Requires that the stakeholder work group convened by the Bureau of Insurance of the State Corporation Commission for the essential health benefits benchmark plan review consist of members who possess demonstrated and acknowledged expertise in health benefit plan design, actuarial science, population health, patient advocacy, or advocating for or assisting enrollees in individual or small group health coverage. The bill requires the work group to consider factors including (i) coverage denial rates of benefits that are not covered under the current benchmark plan; (ii) the utilization of mandated benefits; (iii) the projected impact of a proposed mandate on the prevalence of medical need, the urgency of such medical need, and any disproportionate disease burden borne by different subpopulations; (iv) the projected cost of each proposed mandate; and (v) other data as determined by the work group. This bill is a recommendation of the Health Insurance Reform Commission.

**SB 803 - Workers' compensation; injuries caused by repetitive and sustained physical stressors.**

Chief Patron: McDougale

Status: Incorporated

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-400 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; injuries caused by repetitive and sustained physical stressors.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Workers' compensation; injuries caused by repetitive and sustained physical stressors.** Provides that, for the purposes of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act, "occupational disease" includes injuries or diseases from conditions resulting from repetitive and sustained physical stressors, including repetitive and sustained motions, exertions, posture stresses, contact stresses, vibrations, or noises. The bill provides that such injuries or diseases are covered under the Act and that such coverage does not require that such repetitive or sustained physical stress occurred over a particular time period, provided that (i) the time period over which such physical stress occurred can be reasonably identified and documented and (ii) exposure to such repetitive and sustained physical stressors in the course of employment is the primary cause, as defined in the bill, of the injury or disease. The bill's provisions apply only to injuries or diseases arising on or after July 1, 2026.

**SB 892 - Medical malpractice; certification of expert witness, written opinion.**

Chief Patron: Sturtevant

Status: Passed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 8.01-20.1, 8.01-50.1, and 16.1-83.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to medical malpractice; certification of expert witness; written opinion.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:**

**Medical malpractice; certification of expert witness; written opinion.** Provides that at the time of service of process of every complaint, counter claim, third party claim, or warrant in debt in a medical malpractice action or every complaint, counter claim, or third party claim in an action for wrongful death against a health care provider, the plaintiff shall be deemed to have obtained a written opinion signed by an expert witness stating that the defendant in the action deviated from the applicable standard of care and the deviation was a proximate cause of the injuries claimed. The bill provides that a plaintiff may have separate certifications for standard of care and causation. The bill also requires a plaintiff to certify to the defendant upon whom service of process has been requested to certify within 21 days of the defendant's answer being filed that such plaintiff obtained the necessary expert opinion at the time service was requested or affirming that such plaintiff did not need to obtain a certifying expert witness opinion in accordance with relevant law.

**SB 904 - Medical malpractice; limitation on recovery; certain actions.**

Chief Patron: Stanley

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 8.01-581.15 of the Code of Virginia, relating to medical malpractice; limitation on recovery; certain actions.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Medical malpractice; limitation on recovery; certain actions.** Eliminates the cap on the recovery in actions against health care providers for medical malpractice where the act or acts of malpractice occurred on or after July 1, 2025, and occurred against a patient age 10 or younger.

**SB 925 - Health insurance; carrier business practices, method of payment for claims.**

Chief Patron: Head

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

An Act to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.15 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; carrier business practices; method of payment for claims.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:**

**Health insurance; carrier business practices; method of payment for transactions.** Requires a health insurance carrier to notify the provider in a provider contract if the carrier, or entity completing a transaction on behalf of the carrier, uses a payment method that imposes a transaction or processing fee or similar charge on the provider and to offer the provider an alternative payment method that does not impose such a fee or similar charge. If the provider elects to accept the alternative payment method and has provided all required information to the carrier to enroll in such alternative method, the bill specifies that the carrier is required to pay the claim using such alternative payment method. This bill is identical to HB 2085.

**SB 1015 - Practice of chiropractic; amends definition.**

Chief Patron: VanValkenburg

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2900 and 54.1-2963 of the Code of Virginia, relating to vitamins, minerals, and food supplements; practice of chiropractic; definition.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Vitamins, minerals, and food supplements; practice of chiropractic; definition.** Amends the definition of "practice of chiropractic" to include recommending or directing patients on the use of vitamins, minerals, or food supplements. The bill also allows a chiropractor to recommend or direct patients on the use of vitamins, minerals, or food supplements, provided that the rationale for such recommendation is (i) documented in a patient's record and (ii) based on a reasonable expectation that the use of such vitamins, minerals, or food supplements will result in a favorable patient outcome, including preventive practices, and that a greater benefit will be achieved than that which can be expected without such use. Under the bill, such chiropractor is not permitted to sell, dispense, or recommend vitamins, minerals, or food supplements for use if such use will negatively impact any of the patient's existing medical conditions.

**SB 1168 - Health insurance; coverage for acupuncture treatments.**

Chief Patron: Salim

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 38.2-4319 and 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 38.2 a section numbered 38.2-3419.2, relating to practice of acupuncture; definition; health insurance; coverage for acupuncture treatments.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Practice of acupuncture; definition; health insurance; coverage for acupuncture treatments.** Amends the definition of the "practice of acupuncture" as it relates to the practice of medicine and other healing arts to specify that it means the stimulation of selected points on the body to prevent or modify the perception of pain or to normalize physiological functions for the treatment of certain ailments or conditions of the body and includes acupuncture needle insertion, dry needling, electroacupuncture, cupping, gua sha, and moxibustion. Under current law, the "practice of acupuncture" means the stimulation of certain points on or near the surface of the body by the insertion of needles to prevent or modify the perception of pain or to normalize physiological functions for the treatment of certain ailments or conditions of the body and includes the techniques of electroacupuncture, cupping, and moxibustion. The bill requires health insurers, corporations providing health care coverage subscription contracts, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for acupuncture treatments. The bill applies to policies, contracts, and plans delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027.

**SB 1215 - Health insurance; required provisions regarding prior authorization for health care services.**

Chief Patron: Pekarsky

Status: Awaiting Governor's Action

An Act to amend and reenact § 38.2-3407.15:2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 38.2-3407.15:8, relating to health insurance; carrier contracts; required provisions regarding prior authorization for health care services; work group; report.

**SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:**

**Health insurance; carrier contracts; required provisions regarding prior authorization for health care services; work group; report.** Requires certain health insurance contracts under which an insurance carrier has the right or obligation to require prior authorization for a health care service, as defined in the bill, to include provisions governing the prior authorization process. Such required provisions include (i) time limits for a carrier to respond to prior authorization requests, (ii) a prohibition on revoking, limiting, making conditional, modifying, or restricting a previously approved prior authorization except under certain circumstances, and (iii) a requirement that a carrier shall provide the reasons for denial of a request. The bill requires a carrier to make publicly available on its website a list of health care services and codes for which prior authorization is required. The foregoing provisions have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027. The bill requires the State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance to establish a work group to develop and deliver a report related to the bill's provisions by November 1, 2025. This bill is identical to HB 2099.

**[SB 1276](#) - Labor and employment; portable benefit accounts, income tax, deduction.**

Chief Patron: DeSteph

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-322.03 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 40.1 an article numbered 1.2, consisting of a section numbered 40.1-28.13, relating to labor and employment; portable benefit accounts; income tax; deduction.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Labor and employment; portable benefit accounts; income tax; deduction.** Authorizes a Virginia resident who has worked as an independent contractor to establish a portable benefit account. Under the bill, a portable benefit account offered through and administered by a bank, credit union, or other depository institution and distributions from the account may be used for the payment of various health-related costs. The bill also creates a temporary deduction for the amount of contributions made to a portable benefit account by an independent contractor for the 2025 and 2026 taxable years.

**[SB 1290](#) - Health insurance; reimbursement for services rendered by certain practitioners.**

Chief Patron: Deeds

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 38.2-3408 and 38.2-4221 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; reimbursement for services rendered by certain practitioners other than physicians.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Health insurance; reimbursement for services rendered by certain practitioners other than physicians.** Requires health insurers and health service plan providers whose accident and sickness insurance policies or subscription contracts cover services that may be legally performed by a physician assistant to provide equal coverage for such services when rendered by a licensed athletic trainer when such services are performed in an office setting. Additionally, the bill requires the reimbursement or payment for a service provided by certain licensed practitioners listed in the bill to be in the same amount as the reimbursement or payment paid under such policy or subscription contract to a licensed physician performing such service in the area served.

**[SB 1339](#) - Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act; telephone solicitations by text message.**

Chief Patron: Marsden

Status: Pending Governor's Communication

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 59.1-510 through 59.1-514.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act; telephone solicitations via text message.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act; telephone solicitations by text message.** Permits an individual receiving a telephone solicitation via text message to request not to receive telephone solicitations from a telephone solicitor by replying to such text message with the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" or "STOP." The bill requires a telephone solicitor in receipt of such request to honor such request for at least 10 years from the time such request is made.

**SB 1363 - Health Professions, Board of; transfer of powers and duties.**

Chief Patron: Pillion

Status: Awaiting Signature

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-109, 54.1-113, 54.1-2400, 54.1-2409, 54.1-2410, 54.1-2411, 54.1-2412, 54.1-2500, 54.1-2503, 54.1-2505, 54.1-2506, 54.1-2729.2, 54.1-2729.3, 54.1-2731, 54.1-3401, and 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal §§ 54.1-2409.2 and 54.1-2507 through 54.1-2510 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elimination of Board of Health Professions; transfer of powers and duties.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Elimination of Board of Health Professions; transfer of powers and duties.** Eliminates the Board of Health Professions and transfers certain powers and duties from the Board to the Department of Health Professions.

**SB 1438 - Health regulatory boards; regulations, licensure by endorsement.**

Chief Patron: Durant

Status: Pending Governor's Communication

An Act to direct each health regulatory board regulated by the Department of Health Professions to establish a licensure by endorsement pathway for qualified applicants of the professions regulated by such board.

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**

**Department of Health Professions; health regulatory boards; regulations; licensure by endorsement.** Directs each health regulatory board regulated by the Department of Health Professions to enact regulations to provide a licensure by endorsement pathway for qualified applicants as practitioners of the particular profession or professions regulated by such board. The bill specifies that the Board of Medicine shall be the first health regulatory board to enact regulations to provide a licensure by endorsement pathway. This bill is identical to HB 1861.

**Counts:** HB: 24 HJ: 0 SB: 13 SJ: 0