



INDIVISIBLE

ARLINGTON VA

2019 General Assembly Legislative Priorities

Bills for Governor's Veto:

Criminal Justice

[HB 2615](#) Capital murder; punishment.

Capital murder; punishment. Provides that any person convicted of capital murder who was 18 years of age or older at the time of offense shall be sentenced to no less than a mandatory minimum term of confinement for life. [Background Washington Post article](#)

Environment

[HB 2269](#) and [HB 2611](#) (Poindexter) - Prohibit Virginia involvement in regional greenhouse gas, climate, and emissions programs.

These polluter-friendly bills would effectively bar Virginia from participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Transportation and Climate Initiative, two regional, multi-state efforts to gradually curb carbon pollution from power plants and the transportation sector.

[SB 1091](#) (Reeves) - Solar photovoltaic systems; bonding requirement, property tax exemption. Inspection requirements through the state in order to qualify for tax exemptions for solar photovoltaic systems.

Immigration

[SB 1156](#) (Black) - Sanctuary policies prohibited. Provides that no locality shall adopt any ordinance, procedure, or policy that restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

[HB 2270](#) (Poindexter) - Release of certain incarcerated aliens from jail; notice to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Requires that the sheriff, jail superintendent, or other official in charge of a local correctional facility or a regional jail in which an alien is incarcerated shall notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the release or discharge of the alien at least seven days prior to the date he is to be released or discharged from custody.

Voting Rights

[SB 1038](#) (Peake) - Social Security number matching. Creates a “provisional registration” for those whose applications don’t exactly match the Social Security Administration’s database (known to have millions of errors) and forces them to vote provisionally. It also directs registration purges that may be out of line with National Voting Rights Act guidelines. Virginia’s constitution does not list database matching as a qualifying requirement for voting. This bill is opposed by the state Department of Elections.

[HB 2764](#) (Wilt) - Voter registration assistance. Requires persons who collect voter registration forms or assist with their completion to include their name and phone number on the form. This would have a dampening effect on voter registration drives and would not be at all helpful to registrars seeking to contact applicants with mistakes on their forms. A similar bill was vetoed by the governor in 2018.

Bills for Governor’s Approval:

Study Solitary Confinement

[HB 1642](#) (Hope), [SB 1777](#) (Saslaw) - Require the Virginia Department of Corrections to collect information on the use of solitary confinement and annually report to the governor & legislature.

Increase the Minimum Wage

[SB 1079](#) (Spruill) - Include more people in the definition of ‘employee’ that are affected by the minimum wage, eliminating Jim Crow-era exceptions.

Domestic Abuse and Animal Cruelty

[SB1604](#) (DeSteph, incorporates [SB1276](#) [Ebbin/Stanley]) - Makes any violation relating to cruelty to an animal a Class 6 felony when such violation is carried out with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member.

Environment

[SB 1355](#) (Wagner) Coal combustion residuals impoundment; closure.

Will require Dominion to excavate all coal ash stored at Bremo, Chesapeake, Chesterfield and Possum Point. Due to the previous moratorium on coal ash site closure permitting, which will expire in July, steps must be taken by the General Assembly this year. As part of this agreement, at least 25 percent of the ash will be recycled for beneficial use, with the remainder disposed of in modern lined landfills.

[SB 1779](#) (Ebbin), [HB 2792](#) (Tran) - Electric utilities; municipal net energy metering.
[SB 1769](#) (Sturtevant), [HB 2547](#) (Hugo) - Electric utilities; net energy metering.

These bills capture some of the objectives of the defeated Solar Freedom Bill

Voting Rights & Election Procedures

[SB 1026](#) (Spruill), [HB 2790](#) (Rush) - No-Excuse Absentee Voting (NEAV). Provides for 7 days of in-person no-excuse absentee voting starting on the 2nd Saturday before an election, effective with the November 2020 general election. Makes no change to mail-in absentee voting or to in-person absentee voting before the NEAV period.

[SB 1042](#) (Marsden) - Notification of voter registration denial. Adds a deadline for greater due process, giving registrars 14 days to provide notification of denial and applicants 10 days to appeal after being notified of a denial.