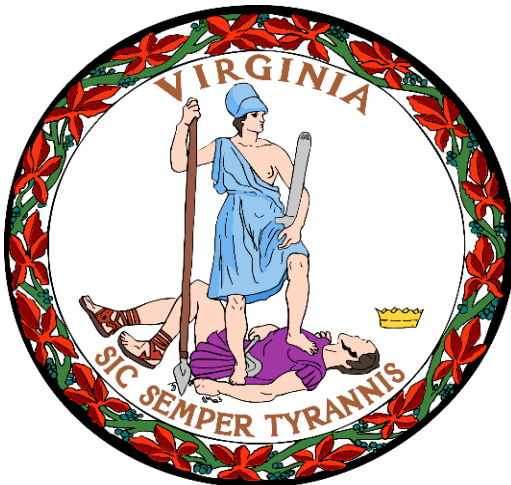


**Majority Leader**  
**Scott Surovell**  
**34<sup>th</sup> District**

**Legislation Summary**  
**2025 Session**



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## Rights & Elections

**SB775 – Labeling of AI Political Ads** – Legislation requires a disclaimer that says "THIS MEDIA DOES NOT REPRESENT A TRUE RECORDING OF THE CANDIDATE" on any artificial audio or video intended to influence a political campaign and creates Class 1 or 2 misdemeanors for violations.

**SB940 – Deadline to Challenge Candidate Filings** – Requires challenges to candidates' petitions or official filings before voting begins and excludes challenges to candidates' residence.

**SJ253 – Study Consolidating Virginia Federal and State Elections** – Creates a two-year subcommittee with legislators and citizens to study the possibility of consolidating our state and local elections into the even-numbered years.

## Health & Environment

**SB774 - Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan Review** – Ensures that the stakeholder workgroup that performs the review of the state benchmark health care policy for the Virginia Health Insurance Exchange (Obamacare) plan review consists of members who possess expertise in health benefit plan design, actuarial science, population health, or patient advocacy and requires the workgroup to consider coverage denial rates of benefits that are not covered under the current benchmark plan, the utilization of mandated benefits, and other data as determined by the workgroup.

**SB805 - Child Support; Updates Amounts in Schedule of Basic Support Obligations** – Updates the amount of child support a parent owes to the parent who has custody to account for inflation in multiple categories to account for the actual cost of living.

**SB835 - Creating a Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund** – The Virginia College Savings Plan was one of the earliest 529 plans in the country when Congress authorized 529 plans in 1994. VA529 has earned a surplus of \$1.5 billion due to management fees (largely from non-Virginia investors) and excess revenues from the state's annuity programs. This legislation creates a College Opportunity Endowment and Fund based on annual deposits of \$500 million per year in surplus funds from the Plan to fund full scholarships to Pell Grant (low-income) eligible Virginia students planning to attend one of the Virginia colleges and universities that do not have \$1 billion endowments and directs 20% of revenues to support community college students.

**SB850 - Private Operation of Water and Wastewater Utilities** – Facilitate the attraction of needed private capital for water infrastructure by creating a mechanism for the timely recovery of investments. The bill would allow a water or wastewater utility to petition the State Corporation Commission for the approval of an eligible infrastructure replacement and enhancement plan consistent with authority natural gas utilities already have.

**SB 893 - Enhancing Geothermal Benefits** – Incentivizes the buildout of geothermal systems in the Commonwealth by creating a carveout for geothermal on the Virginia Renewable Portfolio

under the Virginia Clean Economy Act to ensure sufficient market demand to incentivize the purchase of renewable energy certificates.

**SB 1008 - Ensuring Contractors Understand Living Shorelines Rules** – Requires that the examinations for Class A and Class B contractor licenses require contractors to demonstrate knowledge regarding Resource Protection Areas and living shoreline rules.

**SB 1324 - Obstructing Access to Healthcare Clinics** – Would create Class 2 misdemeanor for individuals obstructing or leafleting persons entering health care clinics, such as those who provide abortion care.

**SB 1413 - Clean Air in Public Schools** – Requires schools to follow manufacturer-recommended preventative maintenance packages to ensure indoor air quality in each public school building in their jurisdiction. The bill also creates recordkeeping and complaint processes to enhance transparency.

## Labor & Employment

**SB917 - Collective Bargaining by Public Employees** – Repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees, and requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.

## Economy & Energy

**SB 982 - Casino Gaming, Eligible Host Localities** – The bill authorizes the Board of Supervisors to authorize a referendum to allow Fairfax County voters to vote on casino gaming in Tysons Corner. If approved, experts estimate that the casino could generate at least \$1 billion per decade for Fairfax County, which equals about three percent of Fairfax County's current real estate taxes or about \$300 in property tax savings per year for each Fairfax County household. The bill also requires the project to include a 1.5-million-square-foot entertainment complex and convention center. The project will create 2,000 union construction jobs and 5,000 permanent union casino jobs, opening doors for non-college-educated and other workers to both live and work in Fairfax County.

**SB 1021 - Electric Utilities, Integrated Resource Plans** – Removes the exception that allowed Appalachian Power not to file an integrated resource plan and makes various changes related to the content and process for an integrated resource plan, such as extending the planning timeframe from 15 to 20 years and requiring utilities to consider the use of grid-enhancing technologies as alternatives to new transmission infrastructure.

**SB 1343 - Tax Administration; Award for Tax Underpayment Detection Assistance** – This bill authorizes the Tax Commissioner to award monetary compensation to individuals who provide information that assists the Department of Taxation in the successful collection of delinquent state taxes owed by other individual or business taxpayers.

**SB 1403 - Electric Utilities, Request for Proposals Required for Certain Facilities** –

Requires an electric utility seeking approval to construct or purchase a generating facility that emits carbon dioxide to demonstrate that it has conducted a request for proposals designed to fairly evaluate all available supply-side and demand-side options prior to seeking approval.

## Transportation

**SB 776 - State and Local Enforcement of Federal Traffic Violations on the George**

**Washington Parkway** – Allows state and local law-enforcement officers to conduct traffic enforcement on the George Washington Parkway and to place speed cameras on the road, if the National Park Service agrees.

**SB 1007 - Funding Bicycle, Pedestrian & Safety Improvements** – Directs the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to review a recent VDOT report that found there are \$9 to \$19 billion of unfunded bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Northern Virginia.

**SB 1012 - Motor Vehicle Collisions, Collection of Mobile Telephone Data** – Makes certain provisions to allow for the preservation of cellphone data after a car accident for anticipated future litigation. It also provides a process for the preservation of telematics data, which is data that monitors a vehicle's performance, location, and driver behavior.

## Taxation

**SB 1402 - Transient Occupancy Tax; Administration** – Seeks to clarify the responsibilities of accommodations providers and intermediaries such as Airbnb and VRBO in collecting and reporting tax. Property owners who rely exclusively on these intermediaries to facilitate rental sales will not be required to file separate tax returns with localities, provided they submit an annual attestation confirming all transactions are facilitated through intermediaries.

## Judicial Modernization & Reform

**SB 999 - Court of Appeals Efficiency** – Increases suspension bond requirements for appeals. The bill also gives an appellate court the discretion not to charge an indigent defendant with attorney fees, costs, and necessary expenses when their conviction is upheld on appeal. Finally, the bill allows the Court of Appeals to dispense with oral argument if the panel unanimously decides that the briefs are sufficient such that the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument.

**SB 1006 - DWI Pre-Conviction Interlock** – Permits a first or second-time offender charged with driving while intoxicated to obtain an ignition interlock prior to conviction. This increases highway safety by incentivizing offenders to install the interlock as soon as possible, and the time they have the interlock in use prior to the conviction will count towards completion of their sentence.

**SJ 259 - JLARC Study of Methodology used to Determine Judicial Allocations** – Some localities have too few judges who struggle to keep up with the caseload, while others have more than enough. This bill would take steps to ensure better allocation of judicial resources by directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study the methodology used to determine the number of judges needed in each state court.

**SB 1010 - Subpoenas Duces Tecum, Financial Records of Non-Party** – Allows the owner of a financial account to move to quash subpoenas seeking records from such accounts.

**SB 1466 - Sealing of Records** – This bill ties up legislative loose ends in the criminal record sealing and expungement code sections that we have been working on since 2020 to ensure individuals convicted of crimes but have exhibited long-term good behavior have better access to employment, housing, and other opportunities.

**SB 1465 - Review Panel for Cases Involving Mary Jane Burton** – Directs the Virginia State Crime Commission to designate a panel to review cases at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science where testing or analysis was performed by Mary Jane Burton, a lab serologist from 1973 to 1988 who was discovered to have possibly engaged in dishonest work and given false testimony. The cases to be reviewed are those resulting in convictions of persons who are currently incarcerated or who were executed or exonerated, and cases where Burton testified, regardless of the final disposition of the case.

## **Budget Amendments**

- **Commission on Electric Utility Regulation** – The Commission on Electric Utility Regulation had only held three meetings since 2014 before I carried legislation to reinvigorate it last year. This amendment provides \$308,950 for CEUR for research and consulting services and to hire previously authorized staff, including an office manager and deputy director.
- **Fairfax Circuit Court Judicial Learning Center** – Providing \$150,000 to the Fairfax County Circuit Court to support the creation of a Judicial Learning Center, an experiential learning environment focused on educating the public on the workings of the court and the essential role of the judicial system. The amount will help support the fabrication of the first two exhibits and the infrastructure of the mock courtroom.
- **Prohibit the Attorney General of Virginia from Appealing the RGGI decision** – Provides that no funding to the Attorney General's office may be used to pursue an appeal or other challenge of the court decision holding that the governor may not unilaterally withdraw Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).
- **GMU - NVTC & PRTC Parking Fee Study** – Authorizing a study on potential revenue from placing a fee on all parking spaces on privately owned/commercial property within the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Districts and potential revenue from the districts surrounding Metro stations and to help determine methods for establishing a permanent revenue source for WMATA by creating a tax overlay district around every Metro station.

- **Gunston Hall - Operating Support** – This amendment provides \$900,000 to hire 5 additional employees and to support operations and core agency functions of education and historic preservation at Gunston Hall.
- **Modernization of Vital Records** – Directs the Office of Vital Records (OVR) to produce a status report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, on the progress towards automation of OVR’s systems for filing, accepting, transferring, certifying, and storing divorce (VS-4) forms and other vital records.
- **Fund Villages Exchange Statewide** – \$2,500,000 to Fairfax County to support the Washington Area Villages Exchange in the creation of a pilot program to reduce the public health risk of social isolation among older Virginians by expanding the availability of Villages statewide. Villages are a proven means of combating isolation while enabling older adults to age in place and live safely and independently in their homes.
- **Study Bond Referendum to Fund Virginia State Parks Maintenance** – Evaluating the feasibility of a statewide bond referendum to fund the maintenance needs of Virginia State Parks. Our beautiful state parks have an estimated \$270 million backlog, and the voters should have the opportunity to decide whether they want to see that backlog finally addressed.
- **Biomethanization Workgroup** – Convenes a workgroup of Northern Virginia localities and stakeholders representing the biomethane industry to determine any statutory or regulatory obstacles to developing a biomethanization facility at the Fairfax County landfill to reduce waste generation, air emissions, and the need to transfer waste to landfills.
- **U.S. 1 Bus Rapid Transit Project in Fairfax County** – Providing \$125 million to complete the construction of roadway improvements and a bus rapid transit system in the U.S. 1 Corridor in Fairfax County. A \$112.5 million gap in funding was identified in 2024 for this project due to receiving less federal funds than anticipated.
- **Shared Solar Program Proceeding** – Many residents have been able to take advantage of the Shared Solar Program to install solar panels, get interconnected, and be compensated for electricity that they are providing to the grid. However, growing the program further requires that we establish a minimum bill that all interconnected consumers would pay to account for the costs of maintaining and servicing the grid. This budget amendment directs the State Corporation Commission to commence a proceeding to establish the minimum bill of the Shared Solar Program no later than July 1, 2025, so that we can continue to increase our installed solar capacity in the Commonwealth.
- **Property Tax Benefit Applies to Spouses of U.S. Capitol and DC Police** – Allowing the spouse of any officer who was actively involved in the police response to the insurrection that occurred on January 6, 2021, to qualify for a property tax exemption.
- **Study Defined Benefit Pension Impact on Employee Retention** – Directs the Virginia Retirement System to study whether the elimination of the traditional Virginia Retirement System defined benefit pensions have affected the Commonwealth and localities' ability to retain state and local government employees, including teachers.
- **Prohibition on Extending Credit or Loans to Third Parties** – Provides that no state agency may extend credit or loan money to any third party, including any government agency, local government, or non-governmental person or entity, without express statutory authority to extend credit or loan government funds.

- **Legislative Standing to Intervene in the Interests of the Commonwealth** – Language to ensure the legislature has the right to intervene and represent the interests of the Commonwealth in cases involving a challenge to the Virginia Constitution or to the constitutionality or legality of a law. It also allows the legislature to bring suit if the Governor refuses to implement or comply with a legislative enactment.