

2024 Successful Legislation Impacting Higher Education

Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
HB14	SB381	Unemployment compensation; employer's failure to respond to requests for information, etc.	Del Lee Ware	Provides that an employer's account shall not be relieved of charges relating to an erroneous payment if the Virginia Employment Commission determines that (i) the employer has failed to respond timely or adequately to a written request for information re
HB18	SB 7	Hate crimes and discrimination; ethnic animosity; penalties.	Del Helmer	Provides that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to safeguard all individuals within the Commonwealth from unlawful discrimination in employment and in places of public accommodation because of such individual's ethnic origin and prohibits such discrimination. The bill also adds victims who are intentionally selected because of their ethnic origin to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime involving assault, assault and battery, or trespass for the purpose of damaging another's property results in a higher criminal penalty for the offense.
HB 6002		Budget Bill	Del Torian	Pertains to Budget ending June 30, 2024
HB 6001		Budget Bill	Del Torian	Pertains to Budget ending June 30, 2026
HB48	SB46	Public institutions of higher education; admissions applications; legacy admissions and admissions based on donor status prohibited.	Del Helmer/Sen VanValkenberg/ Sen McPike	Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.
HB149	SB391	Employee protections; medicinal use of cannabis oil.	Del Helmer	Amends the provision that prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee for such employee's lawful use of medical cannabis oil, with certain exceptions, by specifying that such use must conform to the laws of the Commonwealth and by including the employees, other than law-enforcement officers, of the Commonwealth and other public bodies in such protections.

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HB163		Higher educational institutions, public; student identification cards, contact information.	Del Cole	Requires each public institution of higher education to maintain and annually update as necessary to ensure accuracy and currency a website page that includes telephone numbers for certain emergency services enumerated in the bill and to include (i) the URL of such website page on each new digital student identification card and any replacement digital student identification card issued by the institution beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year and (ii) the URL of or a QR Code that directs to such website page on each new physical student identification card and any replacement physical student identification card issued by the institution beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year.
HB242	SB242	Virginia Public Procurement Act; competitive negotiation; exceptions to contractual terms and conditions of the Request for Proposal.	Del Bulova	Removes the prohibition on a public body from requiring an offeror to state in a proposal any exception to any liability provisions contained in a Request for Proposal for information technology. The bill also requires an offeror to state any exception to any contractual terms or conditions in writing at the time of responding to such Request for Proposal, if so requested by the public body, which exception shall be considered during negotiations, but prohibits the public body from basing the scoring or evaluation on such exceptions when selecting offerors for negotiations.
HB342		Naloxone or other opioid antagonists; possession by state agencies, guidelines for private employer	Del Hope	Requires state agencies to possess naloxone or other opioid antagonists used for overdose reversal to a person who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opioid overdose and permits employees of any state agency to possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonists. Also, the bill directs the Department of Health to develop a plan for the procurement and distribution of naloxone or other opioid antagonists to each state agency and for the possession of naloxone or other opioid antagonists by each state agency.
HB356	SB510	Investment of Public Funds	Del Fowler	Allows any qualified public entity of the Commonwealth to invest in asset-backed securities that are guaranteed by the United States or any agency thereof.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
HB509	SB 21	Public institutions of higher education; policies; individuals with disabilities.	Del Cohen	Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with representatives of public institutions of higher education, disability advocacy organizations, students enrolled at public institutions of higher education, higher education disability accommodation professionals, and a subject matter expert, to (i) study the processes by which each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth determines the eligibility for accommodations of an admitted or enrolled student with a temporary or permanent disability, (ii) identify in such processes any potential barriers to establishing eligibility, and (iii) make recommendations on reducing any such barriers and on the development and establishment of a uniform accommodations eligibility determination in the Commonwealth.
HB617		Student-athletes; use of name, image, or likeness; high school students; Office of the Student-Athlete Name, Image, and Likeness Contract Ombudsman established.	Del Price	Establishes rights, duties, and prohibitions relating to the use of the name, image, or likeness of high school student-athletes that are equivalent to those established in law for college student-athletes. The bill also requires the Department of Education to publish in a publicly accessible format on its website information about laws that are applicable to any contract entered into by a student-athlete relating to compensation for the use of his name, image, or likeness.
HB700		Certain individuals in foster care, etc.; parameters of higher education grants	Del Tata	Expands to include each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth the requirement to provide grants to certain individuals who were in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social Services or were considered a special needs adoption; adds mandatory education and general fees and, in the case of baccalaureate public institutions of higher education, the cost of room and board to the amount of such grants; and makes eligible for such grants any individual who meets certain other eligibility criteria and was in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social Services or was considered a special needs adoption at any time after he turned 14.
HB712	SB399	Six-year financial plan	Del Torian	Modifies the requirements for the six-year financial plan submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly by (i) requiring that such plan be submitted on or before the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly instead of on or before the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly held in an even-numbered year as required by current law and (ii) providing that such plan ensure structural balance between projected revenues and expenditures for the six-year period.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
HB713		Institutions of higher education; campus safety and emergency preparedness training; first-year completion and biennial review.	Del Torian	Requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement policies requiring that a campus safety and emergency preparedness training program be provided to and completed by all first-year students by the last day of each student's first academic term and reviewed biennially by each returning student at such institution. The bill provides that such training program will focus on active shooter event preparedness and may be offered in any format and include any supplementary materials as the governing board of each such institution deems appropriate.
HB818		Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of meeting.	Del Cherry	Exempts certain public meetings from the definition of "meeting" under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to clarify that three or more members of a public body may appear and participate in such public meeting without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed. The bill also exempts members of a public body who attend a public meeting of a second public body without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed. Finally, the bill defines "public business" as activity that a public body has undertaken or proposed to undertake on behalf of the people it represents. The bill states that its provisions are declarative of existing law.
HB827		Public institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program established; report.	Del Cousins	Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to (i) survey each public institution of higher education to determine how each such institution is addressing on-campus food insecurity, including specific methods, programs, sources of funding, expenditures, communications strategies, and staffing; (ii) compile and make available to each such institution a guidance document containing best practices for leveraging all available resources and opportunities, including public benefits programs and donation programs, to ensure that students do not face food insecurity on campus
HB894	SB734	Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings.	Del Bennett-Parker	Amends the number of all-virtual public meetings that public bodies, with certain exceptions, may convene in a calendar year to no more than two times per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. The bill also provides that with respect to all-virtual public meetings, when audio-visual technology is available, a member of a public body shall, for purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
HB980		Institutions of higher education; students who report act of hazing or bullying experienced as result of report of act of hazing; referral for support.	Del Tran	Requires each public institution of higher education and nonprofit private institution of higher education to provide information about on-campus individuals or entities that are qualified to provide the appropriate ongoing mental and behavioral health support to any student who reports to the institution an act of hazing or an act of bullying experienced as the result of a report of an act of hazing.
HB1040	SB85	Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of "caregiver," remote participation in meetings	Del Bennett-Parker	Provides that for purposes of determining whether a quorum is physically assembled, an individual member of a public body who is a person with a disability or a caregiver, defined in the bill, and uses remote participation counts toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present. The bill also provides that the participation policy adopted by a public body, as required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, shall not prohibit or restrict any individual member of a public body who is participating in an all-virtual meeting or who is using remote participation from voting on matters before the public body.
HB1108	SB18	Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-build contracting	Del Carr	Requires state public bodies, covered institutions, and local public bodies to provide documentation of the processes used for the final selection of a construction contract to all the unsuccessful applicants upon request. The bill adds certain requirements for covered institutions, including posting all documents that are open to public inspection exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA. The bill requires approval by a majority vote of the covered institution's board of visitors or governing board if the covered institution chooses to proceed with construction management or design-build against the recommendation of the Department for (i) projects funded by funds other than those provided from the state general fund or (ii) projects of \$65 million or more funded in whole or in part by state general funds. For projects under \$65 million funded in whole or in part by state general funds, the bill provides that the covered institution shall obtain approval from the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, or their designees, and a representative of the Department.
HB1113		Virginia Public Procurement Act; job order contracting; limitations	Del Carr	Increases from \$6 million to \$10 million the maximum threshold above which the sum of all jobs performed in a one-year job order contract term shall not exceed. The bill also increases the maximum threshold amount for any individual job order from \$500,000 to \$1 million. Finally, the bill increases from two to three the number of additional one-year terms for which job order contracts may be renewable, and the bill only applies to contracts entered into on or after the bill's effective date.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
HB1116		Virginia Public Procurement Act; methods of procurement; certain construction projects	Del Carr	Allows a public body to establish purchase procedures, if adopted in writing, not requiring competitive sealed bids or competitive negotiation for single or term contracts for non-transportation-related construction projects if the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$300,000. Current law places the limit at \$200,000.
HB1342		Certain baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; on-campus student health centers.	Del Shin	Requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education to either (i) staff its on-campus student health center with at least one on-campus certified sexual assault forensic examiner for the purpose of administering a physical evidence recovery kit to any student who is in need of such a kit or (ii) enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local organization or entity that is capable of providing the services of a certified sexual assault forensic examiner for the purpose of administering a physical evidence recovery kit to any student who is in need of such a kit.
HB1361	SB260	Virginia Public Procurement Act; Virginia resident preference	Del Feggans	Provides preference as it relates to procurement for a bidder who is a resident of Virginia and then a bidder whose goods are produced in the United States. For the procurement of goods by manufacturers, when the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is not a resident of Virginia and the bid of any Virginia resident is within 10 percent of such bid, the bill gives the lowest responsive and responsible bidder that is a Virginia resident the option to match the price of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The provisions of this legislation expire on 1 July 2027.
HB1365		Public institutions of higher education; release of student transcripts	Del Carr	Requires each public institution of higher education to release an academic transcript directly to the employer or prospective employer of a student currently or formerly enrolled at such institution upon the request of the student. The bill also prohibits any public institution of higher education from conditioning the release of an academic transcript to a student currently or formerly enrolled at such institution on the payment of an outstanding debt if (i) such outstanding debt is less than \$500, (ii) such outstanding debt is less than \$1,000 and such currently or formerly enrolled student received a Federal Pell Grant at any time during his enrollment, or (iii) such currently or formerly enrolled student has enrolled in a repayment plan and has made at least three consecutive monthly payments on such outstanding debt.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
HB1404		Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity; Small Business Procurement Enhancement	Del Ward	Establishes the Small SWaM Business Procurement Enhancement Program with a statewide goal of 42 percent of certified small SWaM business utilization in all discretionary spending by executive branch agencies and covered institutions in procurement orders, prime contracts, and subcontracts, as well as a target goal of 50 percent subcontracting to small SWaM businesses in instances where the prime contractor is not a small SWaM business for all new capital outlay construction solicitations that are issued. The bill provides that executive branch agencies and covered institutions are required to increase their small SWaM business utilization rate by three percent per year until reaching the 42-percent target level or, if unable to do so, to implement achievable goals to increase their utilization rate. In addition, the bill provides for a small SWaM business set-aside for executive branch agency and covered institution purchases of goods, services, and construction, requiring that purchases up to \$100,000 be set aside for award to certified small SWaM businesses.
HB1452		Duties of agencies and their appointing authorities; diversity, equity, and inclusion	Del Askew	Requires each state agency to submit its annual report assessing the impact of its diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plans on the populations served by the agency and on the agency's workforce budget to the General Assembly, in addition to the Governor, by July 1 of each year.
HB1505		Intercollegiate athletics; student-athletes; compensation for name, image, or likeness	Del Austin	Makes several changes to existing provisions of law relating to compensation of a student-athlete at a public or private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. The bill requires that policies and procedures consistent with the legislation be developed and submitted to the Board of Visitors for its approval.
HJ84		Encouraging public institutions of higher education in Virginia to display the VA250 logo.	Del Austin	Encourages public institutions of higher education in Virginia to display the VA250 logo on all men's and women's athletic uniforms for the 2025-2026 academic year.
SB7	HB18	Hate crimes and discrimination; ethnic animosity, penalties	Sen Reeves	Provides that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to safeguard all individuals within the Commonwealth from unlawful discrimination in employment and in places of public accommodation because of such individual's ethnic origin and prohibits such discrimination. The bill also adds victims who are intentionally selected because of their ethnic origin to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime involving assault, assault and battery, or trespass for the purpose of damaging another's property results in a higher criminal penalty for the offense.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
SB18		Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management & design-build contracting, applicability.	Sen Mamie Locke	Requires state public bodies, covered institutions, and local public bodies to provide documentation of the processes used for the final selection of a construction contract to all the unsuccessful applicants upon request. The bill adds certain requirements for covered institutions, including posting all documents that are open to public inspection exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA. The bill requires approval by a majority vote of the covered institution's board of visitors or governing board if the covered institution chooses to proceed with construction management or design-build against the recommendation of the Department for (i) projects funded by funds other than those provided from the state general fund or (ii) projects of \$65 million or more funded in whole or in part from state general funds. For projects under \$65 million funded in whole or in part by state general funds, the bill provides that the covered institution shall obtain approval from the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, or their designees, and a representative of the Department.
SB21	HB 509	Public institutions of higher education; policies; individuals with disabilities.	Sen Salim	Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with representatives of public institutions of higher education, disability advocacy organizations, students enrolled at public institutions of higher education, higher education disability accommodation professionals, and a subject matter expert, to (i) study the processes by which each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth determines the eligibility for accommodations of an admitted or enrolled student with a temporary or permanent disability, (ii) identify in such processes any potential barriers to establishing eligibility, and (iii) make recommendations on reducing any such barriers and on the development and establishment of a uniform accommodations eligibility determination in the Commonwealth.
SB36	HB 818	Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of meetings.	Sen Locke	Exempts certain public meetings from the definition of "meeting" under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to clarify that three or more members of a public body may appear and participate in such public meeting without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed. The bill also exempts members of a public body who attend a public meeting of a second public body without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed. Finally, the bill defines "public business" as activity that a public body has undertaken or proposed to undertake on behalf of the people it represents. The bill states that its provisions are declarative of existing law.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
SB46	HB48	Public institutions of higher education; admissions applications; legacy admissions and admissions based on donor status prohibited.	Sen VanValkenburg	Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.
SB85	HB1040	Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of "caregiver;" remote participation in meetings by persons with disabilities and caregivers; remote voting.	Sen Favola	Provides that for purposes of determining whether a quorum is physically assembled, an individual member of a public body who is a person with a disability or a caregiver, defined in the bill, and uses remote participation counts toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present. The bill also provides that the participation policy adopted by a public body, as required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, shall not prohibit or restrict any individual member of a public body who is participating in an all-virtual meeting or who is using remote participation from voting on matters before the public body.
SB222		Commonwealth information security; requirements of state public bodies	Sen McGuire	Exempts cybersecurity information, defined in the bill, from the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act while in possession of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA). The bill requires VITA to keep such cybersecurity information confidential unless the Chief Information Officer or his designee authorizes publication or disclosure of reports or aggregate cybersecurity information.
SB242	HB242	Virginia Public Procurement Act; competitive negotiation; exceptions to contractual terms and conditions of the Request for Proposal.	Sen McPike	Removes the prohibition on a public body from requiring an offeror to state in a proposal any exception to any liability provisions contained in a Request for Proposal for information technology. The bill also requires an offeror to state any exception to any contractual terms or conditions in writing at the time of responding to such Request for Proposal, if so requested by the public body, which exception shall be considered during negotiations, but prohibits the public body from basing the scoring or evaluation on such exceptions when selecting offerors for negotiations.
SB260	HB1361	Virginia Public Procurement Act; preference for products made or manufactured in Virginia.	Sen DeSteph	Provides first preference for goods produced in Virginia and then provides for preference to goods produced in the United States before a tie bid is decided by lot in determining the award for any contract for goods, services, or construction under the Virginia Public Procurement Act.
SB340		Virginia Freedom of Information Act; exclusions from mandatory disclosure; purchase card statement.	Sen Salim	Clarifies that the name of a public employee, officer, or official as it appears on a purchase card statement or other payment record and the description of individual purchases are not exempt from disclosure by the State Comptroller.

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Bill #	Companion Bill	Title	Patron	Summary as Passed (excerpted from LIS)
SB381	HB14	Unemployment compensation; employer failure to respond to requests for information	Sen Ebbin	Provides that an employer's account shall not be relieved of charges relating to an erroneous payment if the Virginia Employment Commission determines that (i) the employer has failed to respond timely or adequately to a written request for information related to the claim and (ii) the employer has established a pattern of failing to respond timely or adequately to such requests, as described in the bill. The bill requires the Commission to provide written notice for each instance of untimely or inadequate employer response to such requests. The bill provides that upon the Commission's third determination, and for each subsequent determination, within the applicable review period that an employer failed to respond timely or adequately to such a request, the employer shall be considered to have waived all rights in connection with the claim, including participation and appeal rights.
SB382		Unemployment compensation; collection of overpayments; limitations.	Sen Ebbin	Provides that collection activities for an overpayment, provided that such overpayment was not caused by fraud on the part of the claimant, shall be suspended and that the Virginia Employment Commission shall determine as uncollectable and discharge the overpayment if it remains unpaid after the earliest of the following: (i) after the expiration of five years from the last day of the benefit year in which the overpayment was made, (ii) immediately upon the death of the claimant, (iii) upon the claimant's discharge in bankruptcy occurring subsequently to the determination of payment, or (iv) at any time where the Commission finds such overpayment to be uncollectible or the recovery of such overpayment to be administratively impracticable. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Commission on Unemployment Compensation.
SB391	HB149	Employee protections; medicinal use of cannabis oil.	Sen Pekarsky	Amends the provision that prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee for such employee's lawful use of medical cannabis oil, with certain exceptions, by specifying that such use must conform to the laws of the Commonwealth and by including the employees, other than law-enforcement officers, of the Commonwealth and other public bodies in such protections.
SB487		Artificial intelligence; use by public bodies prohibitions	Sen Aird	Directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS), in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to conduct an analysis of the use of artificial intelligence by public bodies in the Commonwealth and the creation of a Commission on Artificial Intelligence. JCOTS shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Communications, Technology and Innovation and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

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SB510	HB356	Investment of Public Funds	Sen Stanley	Allows any qualified public entity of the Commonwealth to invest in asset-backed securities which are guaranteed by the United States or any agency thereof.
SB734	HB894	FOIA; electronic meetings	Sen Marsden	Amends the number of all-virtual public meetings that public bodies, with certain exceptions, may convene in a calendar year to no more than two times per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.