

Annual Meeting

March 2024

2024 Legislative Committee Report

Lynette Clements and Rick Michael

Committee Co-Chairs

Chesterfield County Electoral Board



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Legislative Committee

It shall be the duty of the Committee to bring to the attention of the Executive Committee needed or proposed legislation affecting any aspect of elections in Virginia, to represent VEBA before the General Assembly, and, through communications with members of the General assembly or otherwise, to promote legislation approved by the Board of Directors of VEBA.

A Special Thanks to our Past Co-Chairs!

Barbara Tabb
JoAnne Speiden



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN VIRGINIA

SENATE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

★ Introduce a Bill . . .

Nice to meet you!

But only a member of the House of Delegates or Senate can introduce a bill.

★ Send to Committee . . .

Knock! Knock!

COMMITTEE

The bill is assigned a number, and then the bill is referred (sent) to the proper committee.

★ Governor's Action . . .

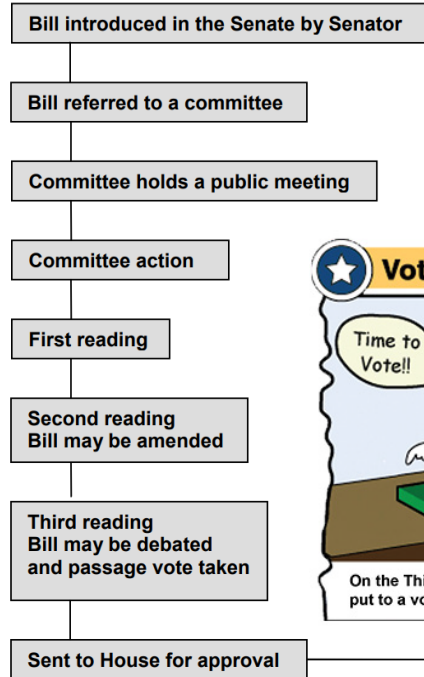
Governor or Bust!

If the bill passes both chambers, it goes to the Governor for approval. The Governor has four choices . . .

★ . . . No Action.

I'm a law!

The Governor does not sign the bill but does not veto it. The bill still becomes a law!

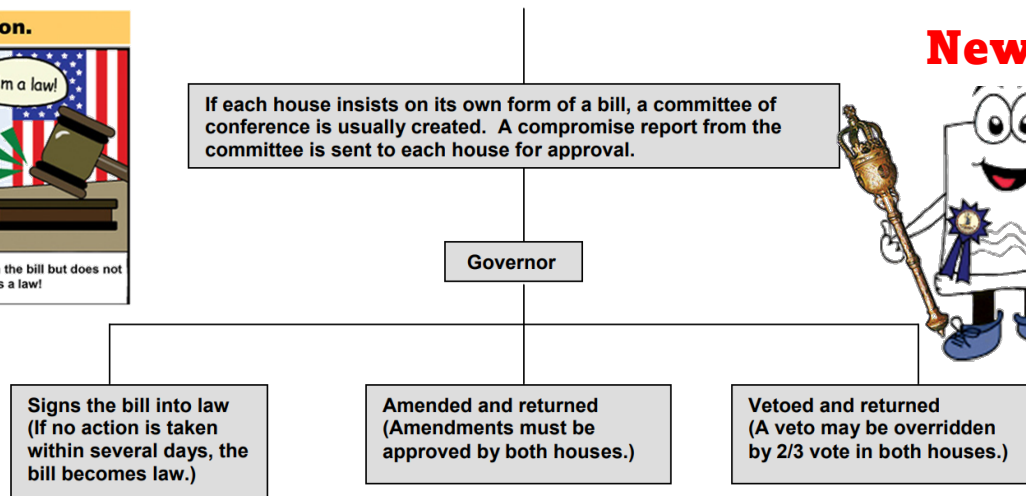
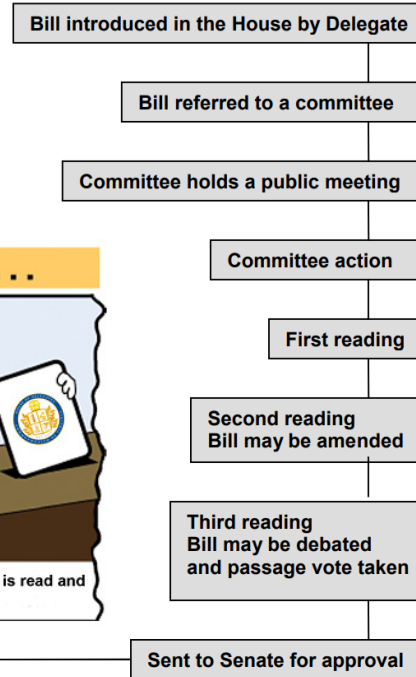


★ Vote on the Bill . . .

Time to Vote!!

YEA NAY

On the Third Reading the bill's title is read and put to a vote.



★ Committee Studies Bill . . .

Exhibit A

Hmmm . . .

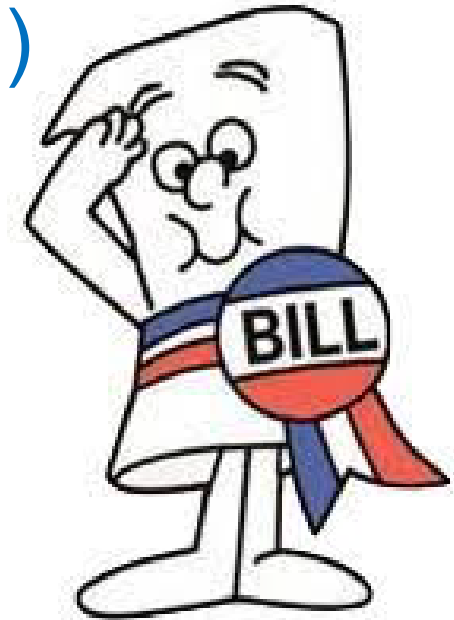
The committee studies the bill to see if it would make a good law. This is when the public may speak.

★ Refer to Senate . . .

If a bill passes in the House of Delegates, it goes through a similar process in the Senate.

Key Dates to Watch

- March 9 – *Sine die* (last day of session)
- April 8 – Governor's action deadline
- April 17 – Reconvened session to consider Governor's amendments and/or vetoes



SB606 - Voter registration; list maintenance, data sharing.

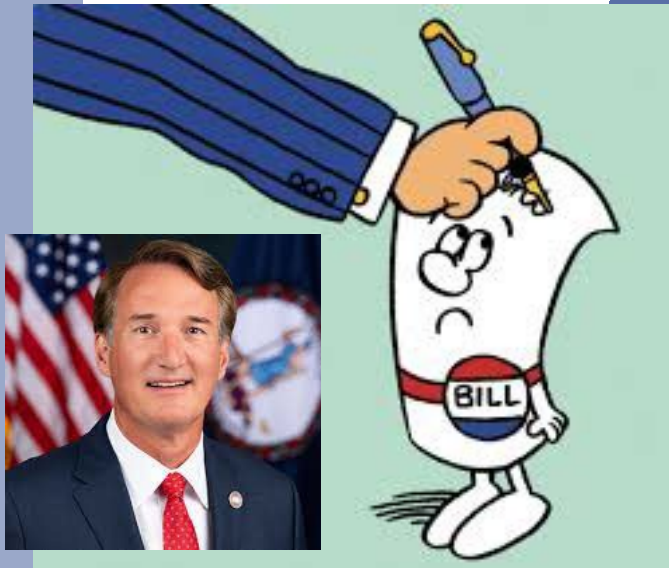


Requiring membership in the **Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)**. Requires the Commissioner of Elections to apply for, enter into, and maintain membership for the Commonwealth in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Introduced by: **Schuyler T. VanValkenburg**

HB1172 (HB1408) - Absentee voting; voter satellite offices, minimum number required.

Passed and Signed
By Senate and House



On the Governor's Desk

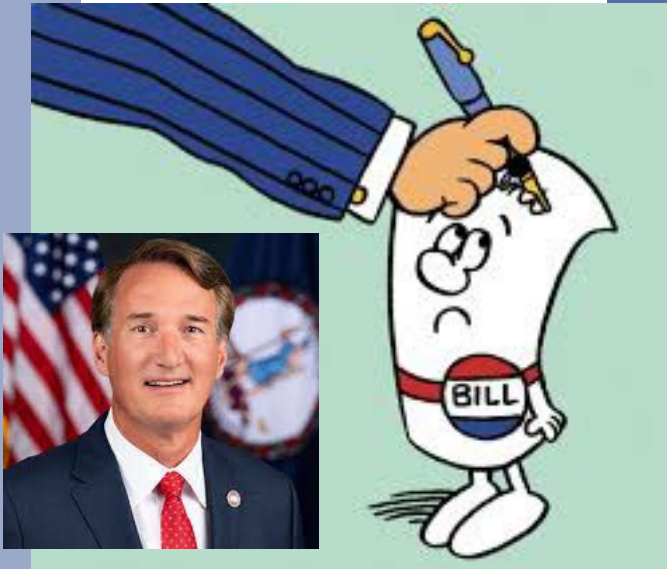
Directs state to develop guidelines to direct local governments on standards for satellite voting. Under current law, the governing body of any county or city, regardless of its population, is authorized to establish as many voter satellite offices as it deems necessary.

*Introduced by: **Mark Sickles***

*Incorporated bill: **Kannan Srinivasin***

SB 605 (same as HB441) Polling place; assistance for certain voters, clarifies definition of "person with a disability."

Passed and Signed
By Senate and House



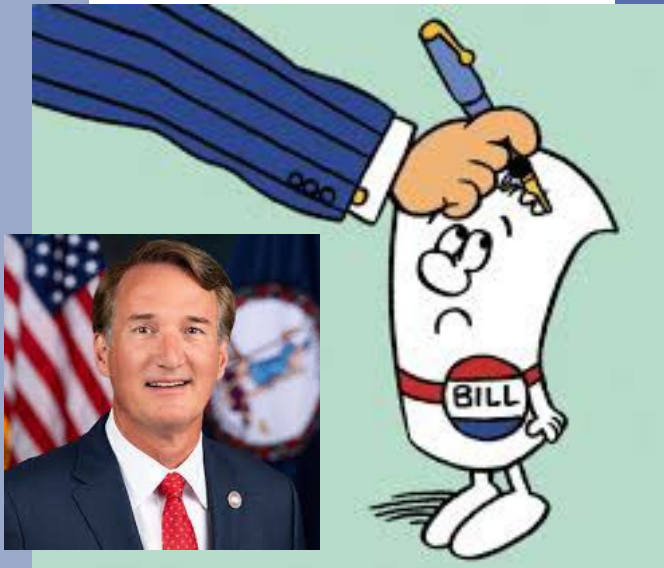
On the Governor's Desk

Amends the definition of "person with a disability" for purposes of the Elections title to mean any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of his major life activities or who has a record of such impairment. The bill provides that any qualified voter who is a person with a disability shall be eligible for assistance outside of the polling place and makes technical amendments for consistency.

*Introduced by: **Suhas Subramanyam***

SB 364 Elections; protection of electors and election officials, penalty, civil action.

Passed and Signed
By Senate and House



On the Governor's Desk

Adds to the list of protected voters any current or former elector for President and Vice President, The bill expands current law to make it a Class 5 felony to hinder or prevent an election official or employee of an election official from administering elections. The bill also makes it a Class 6 felony for any person who intimidates, coerces, or harasses a current or former elector, election official, or employee of an election official. The bill creates a civil action for any person who was a victim of any conduct that constitutes a felony or a misdemeanor.

*Introduced by: **Adam Ebbin***

HB 1171 Absentee voting; processing absentee ballots returned before election day, processing upon receipt.

Requires the general registrars to complete the initial processing of absentee ballots that are returned before election day within ~~two~~ ~~three~~ four business days of receipt. Under current law, registrars are directed to mark the date of receipt in the voter's record and examine the ballot envelope to verify completion of the required voter affirmation when an absentee ballot is returned but are not subject to a deadline for doing so.

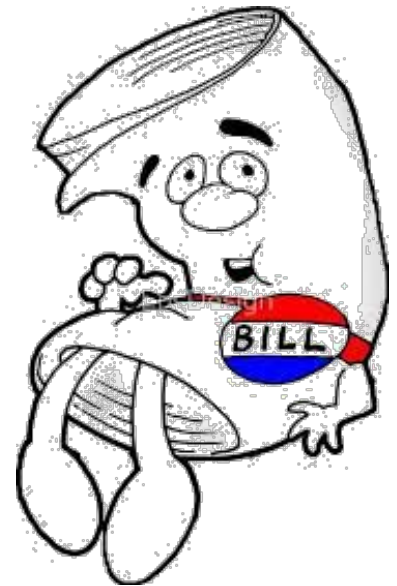
*Introduced by: **H. Otto Wachsmann, Jr.***



HB 1490 Absentee voting in person; voter satellite offices, days and hours of operation.

Authorizes the governing body of any county or city establishing voter satellite offices for absentee voting in person to prescribe, by ordinance, the dates and hours of operation for such offices. The bill prohibits any reduction in the dates or hours of operation of such offices to be enacted within 60 days of any general election.

*Introduced by: **Atoosa R. Reaser***



Passed by House
Tabled by Senate

HB 623 Rights of voters; covered practices, civil cause of action, standing, jurisdiction, and venue

Passed and Signed
By Senate and House

AMENDED



On the Governor's Desk



Provides that, any organization whose membership includes voters who are members of a protected class or any organization whose mission, in whole or in part, is to ensure voting access shall be entitled to institute a civil cause of action for alleged violations of law related to the rights of voters. The bill provides that the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond shall have jurisdiction over such actions subject to expedited pretrial and trial proceedings and receive an automatic calendar preference. The bill also adds to the definition of "covered practice" any change that reduces the number of voter satellite offices in a locality or reduces the number of days or the hours of operation of a voter satellite office in a locality.

*Introduced by: **Marcia S. "Cia" Price***



HB 623 as amended by Senate



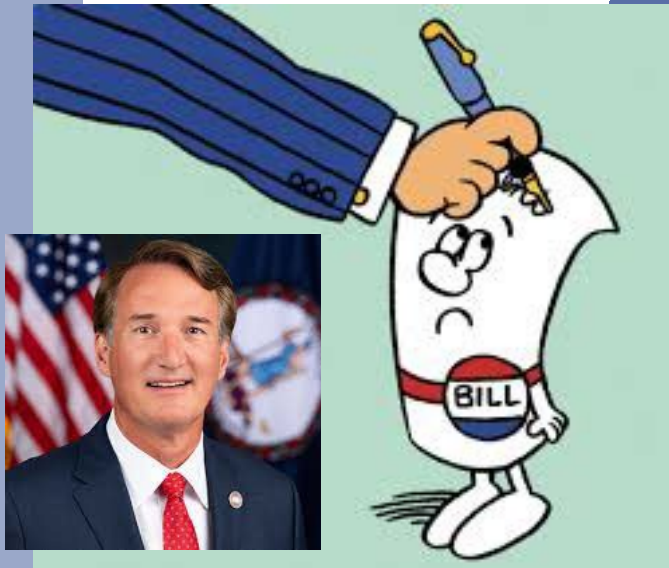
§ 24.2-701.2. Absentee voting in person; voter satellite offices.

C. *The governing body of any county or city may establish, by ordinance, a plan each year for the number and location of voter satellite offices and the dates and hours of operations of such satellite offices for all elections to be held in the county or city that year. Such plans may differentiate the dates and hours of operation for voter satellite offices depending on the type of election and may include parameters for permissible deviations from the plan. If a governing body that has established voter satellite offices does not establish an annual plan pursuant to this subsection, the dates and hours of operation of the voter satellite offices shall be the same as the dates and hours of operation for the office of the general registrar for such locality. Any qualified voter who is in line to cast his absentee ballot when the voter satellite office closes shall be permitted to cast his absentee ballot that day.*

HB 998 (incorporated from HB1238) Conduct of elections; electoral board to meet and ascertain results



Passed and Signed
By Senate and House



On the Governor's Desk

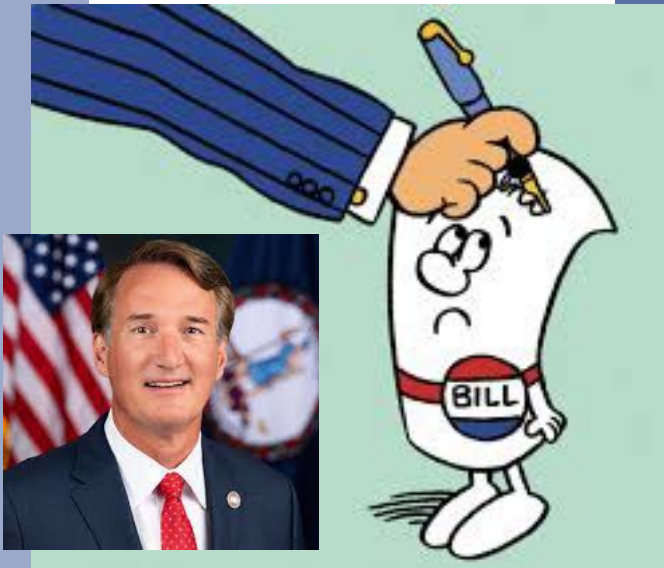
Extends the deadline for local electoral boards to meet after an election for the purpose of certifying the election results and submitting the abstract of results to the State Board of Elections from seven days after the date of the election to **10 days** after such date.

*Introduced by: **Bonita Anthony***

*Incorporated bill by: **Mark Sickles***

SB 428 Elections; ranked choice voting, locally elected offices.

Passed and Signed
By Senate and House



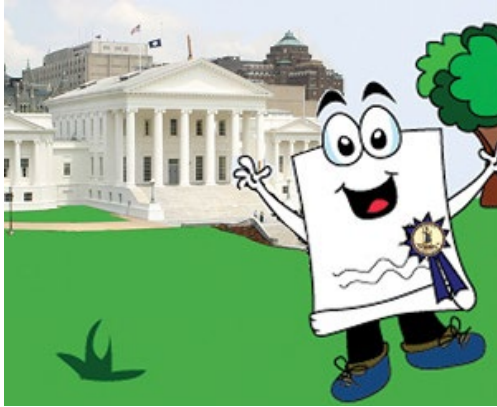
On the Governor's Desk

Allows elections for any local or constitutional office to be conducted by ranked choice voting. Under current law, only elections of members of a county board of supervisors or a city council are allowed to be conducted by ranked choice voting.

*Introduced by: **Schuyler T. VanValkenburg***

Next for the Legislative Committee

- Reconvene after veto session
- Monitor override session
- Strengthen VEBA legislative voice
- Return to the committee structure stated in by-laws
- Request re-appointment as co-chairs



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Thank You!

Lynette & Rick

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