



DAVID BAILEY
ASSOCIATES

Experience • Integrity • Relationships

1108 East Main Street | Suite 1200 | Richmond, VA 23219
804.643.5554 | www.dbava.com

Virginia Association for Career & Technical Education Bill Report 2-28-26

The week of February 23-27 was dominated by one overarching priority in the Virginia General Assembly: final action on each chamber's version of the state budget. After weeks of subcommittee hearings and amendment drafting, both the House and Senate advanced their respective budget bills to the floor, marking a critical turning point in the 2026 session. Debate centered on competing priorities for K-12 funding, state employee compensation, health investments, transportation spending, and targeted tax policy changes. While policy bills continued moving through committees following crossover, the budget clearly commanded the majority of member attention and floor time.

A significant point of conflict between the two chambers emerged over tax policy in the budget, specifically the House proposal to roll back or eliminate certain state tax incentives for data centers. The House version of the budget includes language removing sales and use tax exemptions that have been used to attract data center investment in Northern Virginia and other parts of the Commonwealth. Supporters of eliminating the incentives argue they cost the state substantial revenue and should be reevaluated given the scale of the industry. Senate leaders, however, have emphasized Virginia's position as a global hub for data center development and raise concerns about economic competitiveness with other states. This disagreement is expected to be a central issue for budget conferees in the coming negotiations.

Procedurally, the week marked final chamber passage of each introduced budget, clearing the way for appointment of conferees from House Appropriations and Senate Finance & Appropriations to reconcile differences. With adjournment scheduled for March 14, conferees now face a compressed timeline to negotiate major fiscal and policy differences that include tax policy, spending, reserves usage, and one-time versus recurring expenses.

In addition to the budget, committees continued processing post-crossover legislation, focusing on bills that survived the February 17 deadline. Education policy, public safety measures, health care regulation, workforce initiatives, and gaming oversight remained active areas of debate. However, it can be expected that certain policy priorities may be resolved within the budget rather than through standalone legislation.

As February ended, the 2026 session entered its most consequential stretch. With budget conferees now tasked with resolving substantive philosophical differences, particularly around tax incentives and long-term revenue strategy, the coming weeks will determine not only final spending but also the broader fiscal direction of the Commonwealth for the next two years.



DAVID BAILEY
ASSOCIATES

Experience • Integrity • Relationships

1108 East Main Street | Suite 1200 | Richmond, VA 23219
804.643.5554 | www.dbava.com

Bill	Catch line	Legislation Status	Chief Patron
HB53	Student bullying; adjusts definition, characteristics of victim.	Incorporated	Cole, J.G.
HB132	Graduation with an advanced studies diploma; requirements, complet. of Int'l Baccalaureate diploma.	Incorporated	Simon
HB138	Public high schools; career coach required	Failed	Simonds
HB171	Student instruction; internet safety, policy to include key modern digital safety topics.	In Senate	Askew
HB178	Public schools; student support services, memoranda of understanding, report, effective clause.	In Committee	Anthony
HB180	Work-Based Learning Coordinator Pilot Program; established, report, sunset.	Failed	Anthony
HB189	Certain student assessment requirements; calculation of final course grade, effective clause.	In Subcommittee	Convirs-Fowler
HB206	College partnership laboratory schools; transparency.	In Senate	Keys-Gamarra
HB279	Teachers; timeline and process for increasing salaries to at least national average.	Failed	Clark
HB298	Public elementary or secondary school students; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices.	In Subcommittee	McQuinn
HB299	SOL assessments and related assessment methods; development, administration, scoring, and release.	In Subcommittee	Helmer
HB332	Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.	Passed	Rasoul
HB412	Local governing bodies; school division budgets, funding levels.	Failed	Cole, N.T.
HB428	High school graduation requirements; alternative pathway to standard diploma established, report.	Continued	LeVere Bolling
HB478	Diploma seal for excellence in fine arts; established, industry-recognized workforce credential.	In Senate	Watts
HB551	Nondegree workforce training programs; accreditation.	Continued	Anderson
HB595	Graduation with an advanced studies diploma; requirements, complet. of Int'l Baccalaureate diploma.	Passed	Simonds
HB643	School Performance and Support Framework; Board of Education to consider certain changes, report.	In Senate	Rasoul
HB647	Teaching Experience; regulations Governing Allowable Credit.	In Senate	Kent
HB698	Virginia Workforce Development and Career Connection and Training Foundation and Fund; established,	Failed	McAuliff
HB753	Public school funding; composite index of local ability-to-pay.	Failed	Runion
HB785	Teacher licensure; three-year license to teach career and technical education, etc.	Incorporated	Austin
HB786	School bds.; authority to prohibit sale of caffeinated beverages to students in public high schools.	In Subcommittee	Austin
HB849	Public school employees; suspension, notice and opportunity for a hearing.	In Senate	Cousins
HB987	Virginia Retirement System; service credit for career and technical education teachers.	Failed	Garrett



DAVID BAILEY
ASSOCIATES

1108 East Main Street | Suite 1200 | Richmond, VA 23219
804.643.5554 | www.dbava.com

Experience • Integrity • Relationships

HB1023	Part-time or adjunct instructor in public schools; locally awarded subject matter expert credential.	Continued	Walker
HB1039	College and Career Ready Virginia Program; advisory committee and work group composition.	Pending Governor's Communication	Carr
HB1158	Career and technical education courses, pathways, and credentials; biennial review, report.	Failed	Walker
HB1283	High school graduation requirements; consistency for cohorts of ninth grade students.	In Senate	McLaughlin
HB1383	Technical prof. license; curriculum & instruction coursework, comprehensive community colleges.	In Subcommittee	Oates
HJ7	High school graduates; Dept. of Workforce Dev. & Advancement to study optional service year program.	Failed	Helmer
SB90	Equity in public school funding and staffing; at-risk Program established, standards of quality.	Continued	Favola
SB102	School boards; high school courses or dual enrollment programs for certain certifications.	Continued	Stanley
SB105	STEM+C Competition Team Grant Program; eligibility for grants.	In Subcommittee	Stanley
SB108	School boards; student cell phone and smart device possession and use policies, prohibition.	In Subcommittee	Pekarsky
SB117	Public school teachers; reemployment of teacher who has not received continuing contract status.	Pending Governor's Communication	Pekarsky
SB134	Public education; early childhood care and education, child care access calculation, report.	Passed House	Locke
SB147	Alternative graduation pathways to earn Standard Diploma; development, approval, and implementation,	Continued	Pekarsky
SB151	Elementary school students; water safety instruction required, guidelines.	In House	Craig
SB203	Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.	Passed	Suetterlein
SB217	National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund; eligibility.	Continued	Boysko
SB228	Localities; liability insurance, certain waiver of sovereign immunity.	Continued	Surovell
SB511	Career & technical education prog., associate degree programs, etc.; return on investment analysis.	Failed	Cifers
SB724	High school grad. requirements & diploma pathways; consistency for cohorts of ninth grade students.	In House	Head