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Virginia Association for Career & Technical Education Bill Report 3-7-26

The week of March 2-6 marked the beginning of the final stretch of the 2026 session of the Virginia General Assembly, with the dominant focus squarely on the state budget. With budget conferees now formally appointed from the money committees, negotiations intensified behind closed doors as leaders worked to reconcile differences between the two spending plans. Floor sessions in each chamber were comparatively shorter, while much of the substantive work shifted to conference rooms where conferees are attempting to produce a unified conference report ahead of adjournment.

The most significant policy divide remains the House proposal to eliminate or scale back the Virginia's data center sales and use tax exemptions, a move the Senate has approached more cautiously. That disagreement continues to shape broader conversations about long-term budget strategy, economic competitiveness, and the balance between incentives and general fund stability. Conferees are also working through differences in school funding formulas, employee compensation, health services spending, and reserve spending. The stakes are high, as the conference report must be adopted without amendment by both chambers once filed.

Speculation has increasingly centered on what Governor Spanberger will sign, amend, or veto once the budget and remaining bills reach her desk. Under the state constitution, the Governor has seven days to act on legislation once presented during session, and 30 days after adjournment to act on remaining bills. Observers are closely watching whether certain regulatory measures or spending decisions will draw amendments or line-item vetoes. Discussions around the administration's policy attitude is clearly influencing legislative strategy as negotiations conclude.

Several key procedural deadlines frame the coming days. The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on March 14, meaning budget conferees must finalize and file their report with enough time for both chambers to vote before that date. Remaining bill deadlines are also approaching rapidly: both chambers must complete action on each other's legislation and resolve conference committee reports before adjournment. If the House and Senate fail to agree on a budget by the constitutional deadline, they would be required to return for a special session solely to complete the budget, an outcome that leaders in both parties would be eager to avoid given the political implications.

As the week closed, the tone in Richmond reflected urgency and some optimism. With most policy bills resolved and only a limited number of high profile measures still in play, the 2026 session now hinges on budget negotiations and final executive action. The coming days will determine not only spending priorities for the next fiscal cycle but also the broader political narrative heading into the post-session amendment and veto period.



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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.	Pending Governor's Communication	Askew
HB178	Public schools; student support services, memoranda of understanding, report, effective clause.	In Senate	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.	Continued	Convirs-Fowler
HB206	College partnership laboratory schools; transparency.	Pending Governor's Communication	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 Senate	McQuinn
HB299	SOL assessments and related assessment methods; development, administration, scoring, and release.	In Senate	Helmer
HB332	Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.	Pending Governor's Communication	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.	Pending Governor's Communication	Watts
HB551	Nondegree workforce training programs; accreditation.	Continued	Anderson
HB595	Graduation with an advanced studies diploma; requirements, complet. of Int'l Baccalaureate diploma.	Pending Governor's Communication	Simonds
HB643	School Performance and Support Framework; Board of Education to consider certain changes, report.	Pending Governor's Communication	Rasoul
HB647	Teaching Experience; regulations Governing Allowable Credit.	Pending Governor's Communication	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.	Failed	Austin
HB849	Public school employees; suspension, notice and opportunity for a hearing.	Pending Governor's Communication	Cousins
HB987	Virginia Retirement System; service credit for career and technical education teachers.	Failed	Garrett
HB1023	Part-time or adjunct instructor in public schools; locally awarded subject matter expert credential.	Continued	Walker



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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 grad. requirements & diploma pathways; consistency for cohorts of ninth grade students.	Passed	McLaughlin
HB1383	Technical prof. license; curriculum & instruction coursework, comprehensive community colleges.	Continued	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 House	Stanley
SB108	School boards; student cell phone and smart device possession and use policies, prohibition.	In House	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.	In Conference	Locke
SB147	Alternative graduation pathways to earn Standard Diploma; development, approval, and implementation,	Continued	Pekarsky
SB151	Health Ed. SOL & Curriculum Framework; Board of Education to include water safety instruction.	Passed	Craig
SB203	Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.	Pending Governor's Communication	Suetterlein
SB217	National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund; eligibility.	Continued	Boysko
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.	Pending Governor's Communication	Head