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Virginia Association for Career & Technical Education Bill Report 2-13-26

The week of February 9–13 marked a transition in the 2026 General Assembly from early committee storytelling toward more consequential floor action, negotiations, and public awareness of major policy debates. With the mid-February crossover looming, lawmakers pushed key measures and leadership priorities across committees and chamber floors. A central political theme continues to be affordability and cost burdens facing Virginians, a top priority championed by Governor Abigail Spanberger and Democratic leaders as part of their broader economic agenda. Lawmakers touted progress on elements like medicine pricing relief and consumer protections.

In addition to affordability, several high-profile policy conflicts gained traction this week. The Virginia Senate voted to adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, a symbolic but politically charged measure with implications for how the state participates in presidential elections alongside other compact members. Meanwhile, the Commonwealth saw increased political attention around congressional redistricting: the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that a mid-decade redistricting referendum will proceed to an April statewide vote even as legal challenges continue. That decision could reshape the U.S. House map out of Virginia and is already drawing national scrutiny about the partisan balance of power.

Political dynamics were also reflected in recent special elections and representation changes. On February 10, Democrat Elizabeth Bennett-Parker won a Virginia Senate District 39 special election, helping Democrats maintain their legislative bench strength after several members were appointed to administration posts. Such shifts matter as both chambers prepare for crucial votes on budgets and major policy packages leading up to crossover and budget deadlines later this month.

On the legislative calendar, the February 17 crossover deadline is now just days away - the point by which most bills must pass their chamber of origin to remain viable for final action later in session. Committees are likewise under pressure to clear measures ahead of deadlines for moving bills out of chamber committee of origin and preparing for floor consideration. Per the established legislative calendar, hearings and committee votes will intensify as legislators balance constituent priorities with the need to focus on initiatives that can realistically pass both chambers.

Beyond crossover, legislators are navigating other procedural milestones and policy arenas that will define the remainder of session. Alongside affordability and election reform discussions, lawmakers are debating issues such as gun violence prevention funding, prescription drug pricing transparency, and broader healthcare cost-relief measures. These topics illustrate an underlying theme of the current session: reconciling transformative policy ambitions with fiscal realities and timeline constraints as session heads toward its March 14 adjournment.

You can access the Legislative Calendar [here](#).



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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	In Committee	Simonds
HB171	Student instruction; internet safety, policy to include key modern digital safety topics.	In Committee	Askew
HB178	Public schools; student support services, student personal information and data security, report.	In House	Anthony
HB180	Work-Based Learning Coordinator Pilot Program; established, report, sunset.	In Committee	Anthony
HB189	Certain student assessment requirements; calculation of final course grade, effective clause.	Passed House	Convirs-Fowler
HB206	College partnership laboratory schools; transparency.	In Committee	Keys-Gamarra
HB279	Teachers; timeline and process for increasing salaries to at least national average.	In Committee	Clark
HB298	Public elementary or secondary school students; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices.	In House	McQuinn
HB299	SOL assessments and related assessment methods; development, administration, scoring, and release.	In House	Helmer
HB332	Teacher licensure; three-year renewable license to teach career and technical education, etc.	In Committee	Rasoul
HB412	Local governing bodies; school division budgets, funding levels.	In Committee	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.	Passed House	Watts
HB551	Nondegree workforce training programs; accreditation.	Continued	Anderson
HB595	Advanced studies diploma; requirements for graduation, approval for certain credit requirements.	In Committee	Simonds
HB643	School Performance and Support Framework; Board of Education to consider certain changes, report.	Passed House	Rasoul
HB647	Teaching Experience; regulations Governing Allowable Credit.	In Committee	Kent
HB698	Virginia Workforce Development and Career Connection and Training Foundation and Fund; established,	In Committee	McAuliff
HB753	Public school funding; composite index of local ability-to-pay.	In Committee	Runion
HB785	Teacher licensure; three-year license to teach career and technical education, etc.	Incorporated	Austin
HB786	School boards.; authority to prohibit sale of energy drinks to students in public high schools.	In House	Austin
HB849	Public school employees; suspension, notice and opportunity for a hearing.	Passed House	Cousins
HB987	Virginia Retirement System; service credit for career and technical education teachers.	In Committee	Garrett
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.	In Committee	Carr



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HB1158	Career and technical education courses, pathways, and credentials; biennial review, report.	In Subcommittee	Walker
HB1283	High school graduation requirements; consistency for cohorts of ninth grade students.	In House	McLaughlin
HB1383	Technical prof. license; curriculum & instruction coursework, comprehensive community colleges.	In House	Oates
HJ7	High school graduates; Dept. of Workforce Dev. & Advancement to study optional service year program.	In Committee	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 Committee	Stanley
SB108	School boards; student cell phone and smart device possession and use policies, prohibition.	In Committee	Pekarsky
SB117	Public school teachers; reemployment of teacher who has not received continuing contract status.	In Committee	Pekarsky
SB134	Public education; early childhood care and education, funding formula calculations, report.	Passed Senate	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 Committee	Craig
SB203	Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.	In Committee	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 Committee	Head