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Virginia Association for Career & Technical Education Bill Report 2-20-26

The week of February 13-20 marked a pivotal transition point in the 2026 session of the Virginia General Assembly, as lawmakers worked through the immediate aftermath of the February 17 crossover deadline. Crossover is the point at which most policy bills must pass their chamber of origin to remain alive for the remainder of session, and its passage significantly narrowed the legislative field. With that deadline behind them, attention shifted toward House-Senate negotiations, remaining committee work on surviving bills, and the increasingly time-sensitive budget process ahead of adjournment in mid-March.

A dominant theme during the week was budget preparation. While neither chamber had yet adopted its introduced budget, both House Appropriations and Senate Finance & Appropriations intensified work on their respective versions. Subcommittees continued meeting to finalize amendments, hear remaining agency presentations, and address unresolved funding priorities, including K-12 education, employee compensation, health and human services, and public safety. At this stage, lawmakers were still shaping their initial budget positions, with final committee action and floor votes expected in the days immediately ahead. Each money committee will be reporting their version of the state budget Sunday, February 22.

Several key procedural deadlines framed legislative activity during this period. Following crossover on February 17, committees shifted focus to considering bills from the opposite chamber. Looking ahead, budget committee reporting deadlines were approaching, with expectations that House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations would report their respective budgets to the floor in late February. In addition, legislators were mindful of the March 4 deadline for the chambers to complete action on the budget. These timelines compressed negotiations and elevated the importance of informal, behind-the-scenes discussions.

The week also brought notable changes to committee assignments. On February 20, the Senate adopted changes to committee rosters, including Senate Finance and Appropriations. Such mid-session adjustments are uncommon and drew attention given the committee's central role in shaping the state budget and major fiscal legislation. Leadership did not publicly detail the rationale for the changes, but the move highlighted the internal intensity of policy and budget decisions.

Policy themes that remained front and center during the week included economic and workforce issues, education funding priorities, health care access, and regulatory oversight in areas such as gaming and consumer protection. With fewer bills remaining after crossover, floor debate and committee hearings became more focused, and leadership in both chambers emphasized advancing measures with a clear path to final passage. At the same time, legislators began signaling which initiatives were more likely to be resolved through the budget rather than through standalone legislation.

Political dynamics continued to influence the tone of the session as well. Ongoing court activity related to the April congressional redistricting referendum, recent special elections, and adjustments following executive-branch appointments all contributed to a heightened awareness of electoral and institutional balance. While these issues were largely external to day-to-day committee work, they provided an important backdrop as lawmakers weighed strategic decisions in the closing weeks of session.

As the General Assembly moved beyond crossover and toward the final stretch, the focus increasingly turned to budget completion, conference committee preparation, and final floor action. With statutory deadlines approaching and adjournment on the horizon, the pace of legislative activity accelerated, setting the stage for consequential decisions in the weeks to come.



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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.	In Subcommittee	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 Committee	Convirs-Fowler
HB206	College partnership laboratory schools; transparency.	In Subcommittee	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 Committee	McQuinn
HB299	SOL assessments and related assessment methods; development, administration, scoring, and release.	In Committee	Helmer
HB332	Teacher licensure; three-year renewable license to teach career and technical education, etc.	In Senate	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 Subcommittee	Watts
HB551	Nondegree workforce training programs; accreditation.	Continued	Anderson
HB595	Advanced studies diploma; requirements for graduation, approval for certain credit requirements.	In Senate	Simonds
HB643	School Performance and Support Framework; Board of Education to consider certain changes, report.	In Subcommittee	Rasoul
HB647	Teaching Experience; regulations Governing Allowable Credit.	In Subcommittee	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.	In Committee	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 Committee	Austin
HB849	Public school employees; suspension, notice and opportunity for a hearing.	In Subcommittee	Cousins
HB987	Virginia Retirement System; service credit for career and technical education teachers.	Failed	Garrett



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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 Senate	Carr
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 Committee	McLaughlin
HB1383	Technical prof. license; curriculum & instruction coursework, comprehensive community colleges.	In Committee	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 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 House	Pekarsky
SB134	Public education; early childhood care and education, child care access calculation, report.	In 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 Committee	Craig
SB203	Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.	In House	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