



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 2-6-2026

As the 2026 session moves firmly into February, the General Assembly's pace has accelerated with committee hearings, budget negotiations, and rising political stakes. Lawmakers are increasingly focused on shaping substantive legislation ahead of the mid-February crossover deadline (February 17), when each chamber must act on most of its own bills before they can proceed in the opposite chamber. Committees in both the House and Senate convened regularly this week to consider education, public safety, tax, transportation, and health-related measures as legislators balance constituent priorities with broader statewide concerns.

A prominent political theme this week has been the ongoing effort to resolve procedural and constitutional questions around the mid-decade congressional redistricting amendment and related litigation. The Virginia Attorney General has filed to intervene in a court battle over the process by which the Legislature reapproved and recalibrated a constitutional amendment intended to authorize mid-cycle redistricting, underscoring how legal and political strategy continues to intersect with legislative business. This backdrop reflects the larger political dynamics in Richmond as Democrats maintain trifecta control of the legislative and executive branches, even as internal and inter-party debates play out in public.

Legislative committees continued robust activity on policy themes that have carried through the session but are now becoming more pronounced in hearings and floor debate. Education and student well-being remain high priorities, with House and Senate education panels actively considering bills that address school funding, mental health resources, graduation pathways, and workforce development. Environment and public health-focused proposals are also gaining traction, including discussions around testing for environmental contaminants like PFAS and broader Chesapeake Bay watershed commitments that link environmental outcomes with public health and community resilience.

Transportation and infrastructure funding continues to be on the agenda across multiple committees, including measures targeting traffic safety enhancements and long-term funding partnerships, particularly in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. Delegates and senators have discussed dedicating capital funds toward stabilizing transit service.

Budget discussions started to become more concrete this week as well. Subcommittees within the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations committees have been meeting to vet agency budget requests, including funding for schools, social services, and public safety. While the final budget will not be agreed upon until much later in the session, these early briefings set the stage for negotiations that will shape fiscal priorities for the 2026-2028 biennium. With crossover approaching and conference committee work looming, lawmakers are working to winnow proposals and align on funding that matches legislative priorities with revenue realities.



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.	In Subcommittee	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 Committee	Anthony
HB180	Work-Based Learning Coordinator Pilot Program; established, report, sunset.	In Committee	Anthony
HB189	Certain student assessment requirements; calculation of final course grade.	In Committee	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 Subcommittee	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 Committee	Rasoul
HB412	Local governing bodies; school division budgets, funding levels.	In Subcommittee	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 Committee	Watts
HB551	Nondegree workforce training programs; accreditation.	In Committee	Anderson
HB595	Advanced studies diploma; requirements for graduation, approval for certain credit requirements.	In House	Simonds
HB643	School Performance and Support Framework; certain changes required.	In House	Rasoul
HB647	Teaching Experience; regulations Governing Allowable Credit.	In House	Kent
HB698	Virginia Workforce Development and Career Connection and Training Foundation and Fund; established,	In Subcommittee	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 Committee	Austin
HB849	Public school employees; suspension, notice and opportunity for a hearing.	In Committee	Cousins
HB1023	Part-time or adjunct instructor in public schools; locally awarded subject matter expert credential.	In Subcommittee	Walker
HB1039	College and Career Ready Virginia Program; advisory committee and work group composition.	Passed House	Carr



DAVID BAILEY
ASSOCIATES

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

Experience • Integrity • Relationships

HB1283	High school graduation requirements; consistency for cohorts of ninth grade students.	In Subcommittee	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.	In Committee	Helmer
SB90	Equity in public school funding and staffing; at-risk Program established, standards of quality.	In Committee	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.	In Committee	Locke
SB147	Alternative graduation pathways to earn Standard Diploma; development, approval, and implementation,	In Committee	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 Senate	Suetterlein
SB217	National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund; eligibility.	In Committee	Boysko
SB228	Localities; liability insurance, certain waiver of sovereign immunity.	In Senate	Surovell
SB511	Career & technical education prog., associate degree programs, etc.; return on investment analysis.	In Subcommittee	Cifers
SB724	High school graduation requirements; consistency for cohorts of ninth grade students.	In Senate	Head