

Virginia Association for Career & Technical Education Bill Report January 23, 2026

As the 2026 Virginia General Assembly advances through the heart of its 60-day session, several major themes are shaping the work in both chambers. With Democrats holding unified control of the House, Senate, and the Governor's Office under Governor Abigail Spanberger, the legislature is actively pursuing an economic agenda that encompasses issues pertaining to healthcare, childcare, housing policy, and energy initiatives that reflect broader state and national economic pressures. State leaders have emphasized lowering costs while also pursuing investments in infrastructure modernization.

Governor Spanberger's administration has been especially active this year, making several high-profile appointments and policy pushes that are influencing the Assembly's work. In the opening weeks of her term, Spanberger appointed 27 new members to boards governing state universities, including the University of Virginia, George Mason University, and Virginia Military Institute, following the resignation of several members at her request. Spanberger also delivered a policy address to the General Assembly emphasizing priorities like expanding paid family leave, raising the minimum wage, and addressing housing concerns, setting the tone for the legislative session.

Budget negotiations and deadlines remain central to the session's calendar. Virginia lawmakers are working within well-established procedural milestones: committees such as the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee are scheduled to complete action on their respective budget drafts in early February, with crossover deadlines and final budget action approaching shortly thereafter. The General Assembly's key fiscal deadlines include committee completion on the budget by February 22 and the scheduled sine die adjournment on March 14, followed by a reconvened session on April 22 to consider gubernatorial amendments and vetoes. Action on the budget is especially consequential this year given the biennial budget cycle for the 2026–2028 biennium and the need to reconcile House and Senate priorities with the governor's proposals.

Policy committees across the General Assembly have also been busy. Appropriations and other key panels have held hearings and begun reporting measures forward. For example, the House Appropriations Committee's agenda reflects consideration of major funding components and constitutional amendments tied to broader legislative priorities. Meanwhile, other committees are advancing bills tied to the legislature's focus on affordability, transportation, workforce development, and public safety.



DAVID BAILEY
ASSOCIATES

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In addition to the work on the budget and policy bills, lawmakers are preparing for crossover — the critical point by February 17 after which a chamber cannot act on its own originating legislation if it has not passed the opposite chamber. This timeline is prompting leadership to move key measures quickly through committee and floor action to ensure they remain viable. As the session progresses toward these deadlines, observers expect continued momentum on high-profile legislation, negotiations on appropriations, and potential clashes over amendments and policy substance in the context of the Democratic trifecta's agenda.

Bill	Catch line	Legislation Status	Chief Patron
HB53	Student bullying; adjusts definition, characteristics of victim.	In Committee	Cole, J.G.
HB132	Graduation with an advanced studies diploma; requirements, complet. of Int'l Baccalaureate diploma.	In Committee	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 House	Askew
HB178	Public schools; student support services, student personal information and data security, report.	In Subcommittee	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 House	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 Committee	McQuinn
HB299	SOL assessments and related assessment methods; development, administration, scoring, and release.	In Committee	Helmer
HB332	Teacher licensure; three-year 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.	In Committee	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 Committee	Simonds
HB643	School Performance and Support Framework; certain changes required.	In Committee	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.	In Committee	Austin



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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 Committee	Cousins
HB1023	Part-time or adjunct instructors in public schools; locally awarded subject matter expert credentials; career and technical education subjects or courses.	In Committee	Walker
HB1039	College and Career Ready Virginia Program; advisory committee and work group composition.	In Subcommittee	Carr
HB1283	High school graduation requirements; approved methods; consistency for cohorts of ninth grade students.	In Committee	McLaughlin
HB1383	Teacher licensure; technical professional license; curriculum and instruction coursework; comprehensive community colleges.	In Committee	Oates
HJ7	High school graduates; Dept. of Workforce Dev. & Advancement to study optional service year program.	In Subcommittee	Helmer
SB90	Equity in public school funding and staffing; at-risk Program established, standards of quality.	In Subcommittee	Favola
SB102	School boards; high school courses or dual enrollment programs for certain certifications.	In Committee	Stanley
SB105	STEM+C Competition Team Grant Program; eligibility for grants.	In Senate	Stanley
SB108	School boards; student cell phone and smart device possession and use policies, prohibition.	In Senate	Pekarsky
SB117	Public school teachers; reemployment of teacher who has not received continuing contract status.	In Senate	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 Subcommittee	Pekarsky
SB151	Elementary school students; water safety instruction required, guidelines.	In Senate	Craig
SB203	Teacher licensure; career and technical education or dual enrollment; three-year licenses.	In Subcommittee	Suetterlein
SB217	National Board Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund; eligibility.	In Committee	Boysko
SB228	Localities; liability insurance, certain waiver of sovereign immunity.	In Committee	Surovell
SB724	High school graduation requirements and methods; application to entering ninth-grade cohorts; retroactive changes prohibited; public guidance.	In Committee	Head