

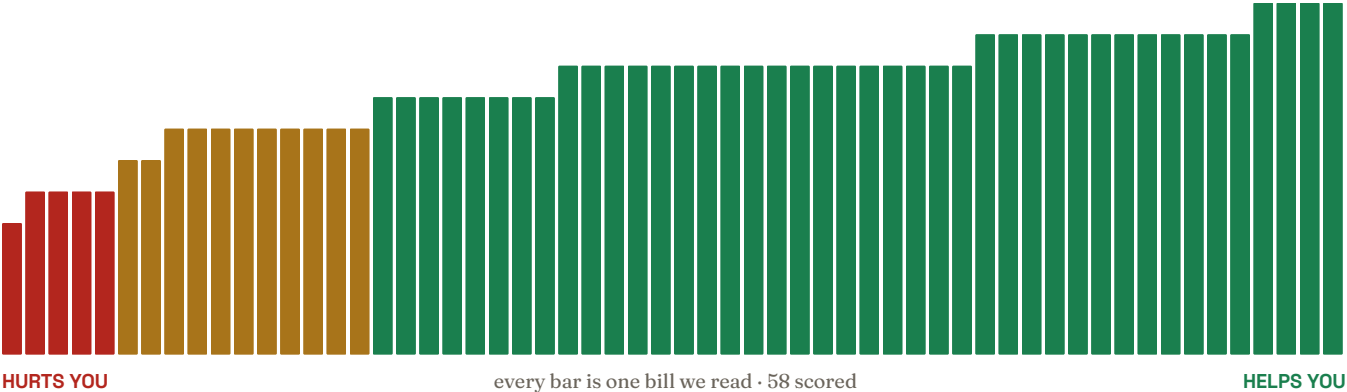


OBILLERATE • WATCHDOG

Virginia Bill Book

2026

The Virginia bills that matter most, each scored 1–10 on one question: does it help everyday people, or the interests behind it?



Our take on the left. The bill on the right. Room for your notes.

Every spread is one bill, twice.

On the **left** is our take: the Billometer score, what the bill means for you, and the factor-by-factor reasoning behind that score. On the **right** is the bill on the record: its official title, its status, where to read the real text, and space for your own notes.

THE BILLOMETER

One number, 1 to 10, answering a single question: does this help everyday people or hurt them? 1–4 hurts, 5–6 is mixed, 7–10 helps. It is our editorial judgement — which is exactly why every page shows the reasoning behind it. If you disagree with a score, you can see precisely where you disagree.

HOW THESE BILLS WERE CHOSEN

Ranked, not cherry-picked. This edition prints the 10 lowest-scoring and 10 highest-scoring of the 58 Virginia bills we have fully analysed. A bill only qualifies if it passed our verification step, has a recorded official status, and has its reasoning attached. Thin entries are left out rather than padded. Note that only 143 bills in the entire country score 3 or below, so in most places the bottom of the list is not evil — it is merely mixed, and we label it that way.

THESE ARE PROPOSALS, NOT LAW

Unless a status line says otherwise. Bills move constantly; every page shows the status we recorded on 2026-09-11 and links to the live version.

Bill data from LegiScan (CC BY 4.0), Congress.gov and OpenStates. Analysis and scoring are Obillerate's own. Scores are editorial opinion, not legal advice — always read the official text before acting. Found an error? www.obillerate.com/corrections

10 worst, 10 best

THE WORST — LOWEST SCORING

3/10	SB451	The Property Owners Bill — Property owners dodge lawsuits for dirt bike crashes
4/10	HB268	The Collection Window Bill — Virginia cuts fine collection window to ten years
4/10	HB293	The Blockchain Groups Bill — Virginia lets blockchain groups form limited liability companies
4/10	HB936	The County Cameras Bill — County parking cameras can now send tickets by mail
4/10	HB978	The Services & Repairs Bill — New tax on digital services and repairs proposed in Virginia
5/10	HB589	The Data Centers Bill — Data centers must report water use to state board
5/10	SB786	The Tech Companies Bill — Virginia wants to pay tech companies to build factories
6/10	HB146	The Test Innovative Bill — New program to test innovative health care ideas in Virginia
6/10	HB7	The Restrict Police Bill — New bill aims to restrict police from wearing masks
6/10	HB668	The Mental Health Bill — New rules for AI use in mental health services proposed

THE BEST — HIGHEST SCORING

10/10	SB7	The Taxes Going Bill — Keeps your state taxes from going up next year
10/10	SB593	The Network Ambulance Bill — Stops surprise bills for out of network ambulance rides
10/10	SB585	The Computer Programs Bill — Banning computer programs that help landlords secretly raise rent
10/10	SB676	The Huge Hike Bill — Stops a huge tax hike on working families
9/10	HB321	The Mental Health Bill — Virginia bill would help farmers with mental health support
9/10	HB551	The Better Jobs Bill — Virginia wants better job training for good jobs and funding
9/10	HB944	The Bosses Create Bill — Virginia bill makes big bosses create safety plans
9/10	HB1368	The Parents & Kids Bill — Parents and kids could sue social media for data wrongs
9/10	SB552	The Massive Data Bill — New rules would protect neighborhoods from massive data centers
9/10	SB662	The Massive Hike Bill — Bill stops a massive tax hike on working families

The Property Owners Bill

Property owners dodge lawsuits for dirt bike crashes

VA SB451 • Your Right to Sue

3/10 **OBLITERATE**
Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

When you pay to use a dirt bike track, you expect the owner to keep it safe. This bill gives property owners a shield against lawsuits. If you get hurt because the owner was a little careless, you cannot sue them. You can only take them to court if they were extremely reckless or hid a deadly trap. This leaves injured riders stuck paying their own hospital bills.

WHY IT SCORES 3/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (hurts) — Shields property owners from ordinary carelessness.
The bill says landowners are not responsible for injuries unless they commit gross...

Rights & Protections (hurts) — Takes away the right to sue for basic negligence.
Riders lose the right to take a property owner to court for everyday mistakes that cause...

Who Bears the Cost (hurts) — Shifts accident costs to the injured rider.
Because the rider cannot sue the landowner, the rider must pay their own medical bills...

Process Transparency (neutral) — No impact on government transparency.
This bill only changes rules for private lawsuits between citizens.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Duty of care and liability of landowner; injury or death of person operating off-road motorcycle.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-13

This bill blocks you from suing a property owner if you get hurt riding a dirt bike on their land, even if you paid them to ride.

Property owners and track operators

Official text (VA SB451) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB451>

LegiScan – SB451 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB451/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb451-085593

The Collection Window Bill

Virginia cuts fine collection window to ten years

VA HB268 • Money & Damages

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Citizens could see old traffic tickets disappear, easing debt burdens, while the state may lose money from longago fines; lawmakers should weigh fairness versus revenue.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (hurts) — reduces state ability to enforce old fines.

State loses ability to collect debts after ten years

Rights & Protections (helps) — gives people a clearer deadline.

Defendants have a tenyear limit to be sued for fines

Who Bears the Cost (hurts) — shifts lost revenue to taxpayers.

Uncollected fines stay with state, reducing funds for local services

Process Transparency (helps) — requires posting payment terms.

Courts must post deferred payment rules online

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-03 — passed

Yes 28R/63D · No 7R/0D

Fines and costs; period of limitations on collection, deferred payment agreement.

Engrossed · recorded 2026-02-02

The bill would limit how long the state can chase old fines to ten years and set payment plans for inmates after release.

Everyday People

Official text (VA HB268) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB268>

LegiScan – HB268 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB268/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb268-069611

The Blockchain Groups Bill

Virginia lets blockchain groups form limited liability companies

VA HB293 · Immunity & Accountability

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Citizens could see new tech businesses pop up, but they might find it harder to hold owners accountable when they lose money or are harmed.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (hurts) — LLDs can limit fiduciary duties.

Participants may have reduced duties and can restrict asset use

Rights & Protections (hurts) — Limits ability to sue.

LLD bylaws can cut participant rights to sue or withdraw

Who Bears the Cost (neutral) — Fees same as LLCs.

LLDs pay same registration fees as regular LLCs

Process Transparency (hurts) — Smart contracts may be opaque.

Governance relies on blockchain code not always visible

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-13 — passed

Yes 1R/58D · No 34R/3D

Corporations; limited liability decentralized autonomous orgs. (LLDs), delayed effective date.

Engrossed · recorded 2026-02-12

Virginia would let people create blockchainrun companies that protect owners from debts but may limit their rights to sue if things go wrong.

Blockchain firms

Official text (VA HB293) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB293>

LegisScan – HB293 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB293/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb293-069575

The County Cameras Bill

County parking cameras can now send tickets by mail

VA HB936 • Consumer Protection

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Everyday drivers could get more tickets with less chance to fight them, while counties and private vendors could earn extra fees; the bill also promises data safeguards and a public notice.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (hurts) — Presumption shifts proof burden to owners..

Owners must prove they were not driving to avoid liability.

Rights & Protections (hurts) — Limits ability to contest tickets..

Rebuttable presumption reduces owners' right to challenge.

Who Bears the Cost (hurts) — Ticket costs fall on vehicle owners..

Fees are not tied to private vendor profit.

Process Transparency (neutral) — Requires public awareness campaign..

Data use is limited and not sold, but details are not public.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-17 — passed

Yes 2R/46D · No 33R/4D

Parking violations; enforcement by certain counties, parking ordinances or regulations, sunset.

Engrossed · recorded 2026-02-16

Counties can use licenseplate cameras to issue parking tickets by mail, and owners must prove they weren't driving to avoid a fine.

ALPR vendors

Official text (VA HB936) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB936>

LegiScan — HB936 — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB936/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb936-078218

The Services & Repairs Bill

New tax on digital services and repairs proposed in Virginia

VA HB978 • Money & Damages

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, you might pay more for services like car repairs, digital subscriptions, and even laundry. It's important to speak up now to protect your wallet.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — Revenue allocation is specified but may not directly benefit consumers..
Revenues will be used for local schools and transportation.
- Rights & Protections** (hurts) — New taxes may limit access to services for some..
Increased costs could make services less affordable.
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — Consumers will pay higher prices for services..
The tax burden shifts to everyday people.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — The bill outlines tax distribution clearly..
It specifies how revenue will be allocated.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

Retail Sales and Use Tax; taxation on various services, includes digital personal property.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-13

This bill would add taxes on many services and digital products, making things more expensive for everyday people.

Everyday People

Official text (VA HB978) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB978>

LegisScan – HB978 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB978/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb978-077778

The Data Centers Bill

Data centers must report water use to state board

VA HB589 • Consumer Protection

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

The bill could help the state plan water supplies better, but it also puts extra reporting work on water utilities and may raise water rates for everyday users.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — adds reporting.
Water users must report usage, increasing oversight
- Rights & Protections (neutral)** — no change to personal rights.
does not affect individual's right to sue
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — extra paperwork may raise costs.
Reporting burden may be passed to consumers as higher water rates
- Process Transparency (helps)** — more data public.
Monthly water use data becomes available to the Board

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 2D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-11 — passed
Yes 0R/7D · No 3R/0D

Data centers; certain data from water users, water use consumption.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-13

Water suppliers to data centers would have to file monthly water use reports, adding paperwork and possibly higher costs for consumers.

Everyday People

Official text (VA HB589) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB589>

LegiScan – HB589 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB589/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb589-073057

The Tech Companies Bill

Virginia wants to pay tech companies to build factories

VA SB786 • Money & Damages

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

States often give big tax breaks to convince wealthy companies to build factories in their towns. This bill offers huge tax discounts to computer chip makers. But there is a catch. To get the money, the companies must create at least 100 jobs, pay fair wages, and spend 50 million dollars on local needs like housing and child care. It gives away state tax money to big business, but it forces them to help the community in...

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Strings attached to the money.
Companies must prove they created jobs, paid prevailing wages, and invested in the...
- Funding Tilt (hurts)** — Corporate tax giveaways.
The bill creates refundable tax credits, meaning the state will pay cash to...
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — Taxpayers foot the bill.
Everyday taxpayers lose out on the state revenue given away to these companies, though...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Semiconductor manufacturers
- Bearing the cost:** Semiconductor manufacturers

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

Income tax, state and corporate; microchip & semiconductor manufacturing & supply chain tax credits.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-23

This bill gives huge tax breaks to computer chip makers, but only if they create jobs, pay fair wages, and invest in the local community.

Semiconductor manufacturers

Official text (VA SB786) – <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB786>

LegisScan – SB786 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB786/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb786-092046

The Test Innovative Bill

New program to test innovative health care ideas in Virginia

VA HB146 • Healthcare & Insurance

6/10 **TOLERATE**
Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill could help bring new health care ideas to life, but we need to make sure it protects everyone. Now is the time to speak up about how it might affect us.

WHY IT SCORES 6/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — Requires reporting on the program's effectiveness..
Annual reports to health committees about participants and recommendations.
- Rights & Protections** (neutral) — Consumer protections included in the program..
Participants must show how they will protect consumers during testing.
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — Costs may shift to consumers if tests fail..
Participants must provide liability coverage, but risks still exist.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — Application process outlined but could be clearer..
Applications require detailed plans but may lack public oversight.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-10 — passed
Yes 2R/6D · No 0R/0D

THE BILL ITSELF

Health Care Learning Lab and Regulatory Improvement Program; established, report, sunset.

VA HB146

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-05

WHAT IT DOES

This bill would let some people test new health care ideas without full licenses, which could change how we get health care.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (VA HB146) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB146>

LegiScan — HB146 — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB146/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb146-065841

YOUR NOTES

The Restrict Police Bill

New bill aims to restrict police from wearing masks

VA HB7 • Your Right to Sue

6/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, it could help hold police accountable for their actions. It is important to pay attention now, as it could change how police operate.

WHY IT SCORES 6/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Increases accountability for police actions..
Creates civil liability for officers who violate mask rules.
- Rights & Protections (neutral)** — Limits police anonymity but may impact safety..
Restricts police from hiding their identity while on duty.
- Who Bears the Cost (neutral)** — Unknown costs for enforcement..
No clear financial impact on taxpayers mentioned.
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Promotes clear rules for police conduct..
Requires agencies to create written policies on mask use.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 26D)

Law-enforcement officers; restrictions on wearing of facial coverings, exceptions, civil liability.

Introduced · recorded 2025-11-20

This bill would stop police from wearing masks while on duty, except in certain cases, and let people sue them if they break the rules.

Everyday People

Official text (VA HB7) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB7>

LegiScan — HB7 — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB7/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb7-053480

The Mental Health Bill

New rules for AI use in mental health services proposed

VA HB668 • Healthcare & Insurance

6/10 **TOLERATE**
Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, it could help keep therapy safe by ensuring a real person is always in charge. It's important to speak up now while it is still being discussed.

WHY IT SCORES 6/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Encourages responsible use of AI in therapy.
Providers must maintain responsibility for AI interactions
- Rights & Protections (neutral)** — Protects patient confidentiality.
Records must comply with health privacy requirements
- Who Bears the Cost (neutral)** — Costs of penalties are unclear.
Penalties collected go to the general fund
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Requires disclosure of AI use to patients.
Patients must be informed and consent to AI use

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 8D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-02-04 — passed
Yes 0R/6D • No 3R/1D

Mental health service providers; use of artificial intelligence system, civil penalty.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-13

This bill would let mental health providers use AI for support, but not for therapy without a human present.

Everyday People

Official text (VA HB668) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB668>

LegiScan – HB668 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB668/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb668-073897

The Taxes Going Bill

Keeps your state taxes from going up next year

VA SB7 • Work & Wages

10_{/10} **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Right now, the rules that save you money on your state taxes are set to expire soon. If they do, the amount of income you can earn tax-free will drop drastically. That means you would pay taxes on a lot more of your hard-earned money. This bill steps in to make those tax breaks permanent. It is a huge win for working families because it keeps your money in your pocket instead of letting the state quietly raise your taxes.

WHY IT SCORES 10/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Taxpayers keep their money.
The bill prevents a scheduled tax increase, meaning the state gives up future revenue to...
- Funding Tilt (helps)** — Helps working families.
By making the 20 percent earned income tax credit permanent, the bill directly supports...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Everyday taxpayers
Bearing the cost: State government

THE BILL ITSELF

Income tax, state; standard deduction and earned income tax credit.

VA SB7

Introduced · recorded 2025-11-17

WHAT IT DOES

This bill stops a massive tax hike by permanently keeping the higher amount of income you are allowed to earn before paying state taxes.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Everyday People

READ IT YOURSELF

[LegiScan — SB7](https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB7/2026) — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB7/2026>

[Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted](https://www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb7-052892) — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb7-052892

YOUR NOTES

The Network Ambulance Bill

Stops surprise bills for out of network ambulance rides

VA SB593 · Healthcare & Insurance

10_{/10} **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

When you call for help in an emergency, you do not get to pick which ambulance shows up. If that ambulance is not in your insurance network, you can get stuck paying a huge surprise bill. This bill would protect you by making that practice illegal. It forces the insurance company and the ambulance service to figure out the payment themselves, so you are not caught in the middle.

WHY IT SCORES 10/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Rights & Protections (helps) — Strong protection against surprise billing..

The bill explicitly prohibits balance billing for emergency medical transportation...

Who Bears the Cost (helps) — Protects patients from unfair costs..

Shifts the burden of paying out-of-network rates from the patient back to the insurance...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Patients

Bearing the cost: Out-of-network ambulance providers

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Bipartisan sponsorship (1R / 3D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-24 — passed

Yes 3R/6D · No 0R/0D

THE BILL ITSELF

Health insurance; balance billing protection, emergency medical services vehicle transportation.

VA SB593

Engrossed · recorded 2026-01-29

WHAT IT DOES

This bill makes it illegal for out-of-network ambulance services to send you a massive surprise bill after an emergency.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Everyday People

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (VA SB593) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB593>

LegiScan — SB593 — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB593/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb593-085727

YOUR NOTES

The Computer Programs Bill

Banning computer programs that help landlords secretly raise rent

VA SB585 • Housing & Property

10/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Right now, many big landlords use special computer programs to figure out exactly how much they can squeeze out of renters. These programs help landlords secretly team up to keep rent prices artificially high across whole neighborhoods. This proposed bill would make that illegal in Virginia. It forces landlords to tell you if they use these programs to set your rent. Better yet, it gives you the right to take them to court...

WHY IT SCORES 10/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Holds landlords accountable for price-fixing..
Prohibits landlords from using algorithmic pricing devices to coordinate rent prices with...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Creates a new right to sue for tenants..
Allows any injured individual to bring a civil action to recover actual or statutory...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Shifts power back to renters..
Forces landlords who violate the rules to pay damages and attorney fees to the renters...
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Requires disclosure of hidden pricing tools..
Requires disclosure of the use of personalized algorithmic pricing to renters.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Renters
Bearing the cost: Landlords

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 5D)

Virginia Fair Housing Law, et al.; personalized algorithmic pricing disclosures, prohibitions.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-14

This bill stops landlords from using computer programs to secretly team up and raise your rent, and it lets you sue them if they do.

Everyday People

Official text (VA SB585) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB585>

LegiScan – SB585 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB585/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb585-085764

The Huge Hike Bill

Stops a huge tax hike on working families

VA SB676 • Work & Wages

10_{/10} **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Right now, the higher standard tax deduction and the larger tax credit for workers are set to expire in a few years. If they go away, regular people and low-income workers will suddenly owe a lot more in state taxes. This bill steps in to make those tax breaks permanent. It is a huge win for working families because it keeps more money in their pockets instead of letting a hidden tax hike happen automatically.

WHY IT SCORES 10/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (neutral) — Not applicable to this bill..

This is a tax policy bill, not an accountability measure.

Rights & Protections (helps) — Protects taxpayers from an automatic tax increase..

The bill removes the expiration dates on tax cuts, protecting citizens from a sudden jump...

Who Bears the Cost (helps) — Keeps money in the pockets of everyday people..

By making the higher deductions permanent, the state absorbs the cost of lost revenue...

Process Transparency (neutral) — Standard legislative process..

The bill is moving through the normal committee process.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Everyday taxpayers

Bearing the cost: State government

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

Income tax, state; removes sunset for standard deduction and earned income tax credit.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-14

This bill stops a massive tax increase by making the higher standard tax deduction and the larger tax credit for lower-income workers permanent.

Everyday People

Official text (VA SB676) – <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB676>

LegisScan – SB676 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB676/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb676-086582

The Mental Health Bill

Virginia bill would help farmers with mental health support

VA HB321 • Work & Wages

9/10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would help Virginia's farm workers get important mental health support, especially when facing tough times like natural disasters or money problems. It would make sure they know where to find help and can get it easily. While some might worry about the cost of new state programs, many believe that helping our farmers stay healthy is good for everyone. This bill has not moved forward this session, so if you care...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — State agency would be responsible for running the program and reporting its progress..
The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services would establish and administer the...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Would offer mental health support and suicide prevention services to farm workers..
The program would increase public awareness of mental health resources and provide access...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — The state would pay for this program to help farm workers..
The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services would establish and administer the...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — Standard legislative process..
The bill was introduced and assigned to a committee, following typical legislative steps.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Virginia's agricultural workforce
Bearing the cost: Virginia state budget

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-01-23 — passed
Yes 1R/4D • No 0R/0D

THE BILL ITSELF

Agricultural Workforce Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program; established, report.

VA HB321

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-11

WHAT IT DOES

This bill would create a state program to help Virginia's farm workers get mental health support and learn about suicide prevention.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Workers

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (VA HB321) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB321>

LegiScan — HB321 — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB321/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb321-070825

YOUR NOTES

The Better Jobs Bill

Virginia wants better job training for good jobs and funding

VA HB551 • Work & Wages

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill is a good idea because it would help people get better jobs and make sure their training is worth it. Right now, it can be hard to know if a job training program is good or if you're just wasting your money. This bill would set clear rules so that programs have to teach real skills, have good teachers, and protect students. It also means that more people could get help paying for these programs with state or federal...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Programs would need to meet clear standards and report how well their students do in finding jobs..
The Department would establish minimum standards for recognition, including curriculum...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Students would be protected by rules about clear costs, refund policies, and honest advertising..
The bill requires recognized programs to provide adequate consumer protections, including...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — State and federal funds could help pay for these training programs, making them more affordable for people..
Department-recognized programs would be eligible for state workforce grants and could be...
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Programs would have to openly share costs and refund rules with students..
Consumer protections require programs to publish tuition and fees, along with a refund...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Non-degree workforce training programs, students, underserved populations
Bearing the cost: No direct 'against' party, but the state would incur administrative costs.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 8D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-02-05 — passed
Yes 1R/5D • No 1R/2D

Nondegree workforce training programs; accreditation.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-13

This bill would create new rules for job training programs so more people can get good jobs and use state or federal money to pay for them.

Everyday People

Official text (VA HB551) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB551>

LegisScan – HB551 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB551/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb551-072192

The Bosses Create Bill

Virginia bill makes big bosses create safety plans

VA HB944 • Work & Wages

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would make workplaces safer for many people in Virginia. Big companies would have to make plans to stop violence and keep workers safe. It would also protect workers who speak up about violence, meaning they could not be fired or punished for telling the truth. Some people might worry that this bill would cost companies too much money or create too much paperwork. But it helps make sure everyone can go to work...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Holds employers accountable for workplace safety..
The bill requires employers of 100 or more employees to develop and maintain a workplace...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Protects employees who report violence..
The bill prohibits retaliation against employees who report workplace violence and grants...
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — Employers bear the cost of compliance..
Employers with 100 or more employees would incur costs to develop, implement, and...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — No direct impact on transparency..
The bill does not directly address government process transparency, but requires...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Employees
- Bearing the cost:** Employers with 100 or more employees

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 7D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-17 — passed
Yes 0R/62D · No 35R/0D

THE BILL ITSELF

Workplace violence; policy required for certain employers, civil penalty, delayed effective date.

VA HB944 Engrossed · recorded 2026-02-16

WHAT IT DOES

This bill would make big companies create plans to stop violence at work and protect people who report it, so everyone feels safer.

WHO IT’S WRITTEN FOR

Workers

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (VA HB944) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB944>

LegiScan — HB944 — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB944/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb944-077687

YOUR NOTES

The Parents & Kids Bill

Parents and kids could sue social media for data wrongs

VA HB1368 • Privacy & Data

9/10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill is a big deal because it would give regular people, like parents and their children, a new way to stand up to big social media companies. Right now, only the state's top lawyer, the Attorney General, can sue these companies for breaking data rules. This bill would let you take them to court yourself if they mess up your data on social media. You could get money for what you lost, and the company would have to pay...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Increases accountability for social media platforms..
Gives parents and minors the power to hold social media platforms accountable for...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Creates a new right for individuals to sue..
Creates a new individual right to take legal action and seek damages when social media...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Shifts costs to social media platforms..
Shifts the financial burden of data violations onto social media platforms, as they would...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — Does not directly impact process transparency..
The bill does not directly impact the transparency of legislative or regulatory processes.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Parents or minors.
- Bearing the cost:** Social media platforms.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-02-04 — passed
Yes 3R/7D • No 0R/0D

Consumer Data Protection Act; individual action for damages or penalty, social media platforms.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-20

This bill would let parents and kids sue social media companies if their private data rules are broken, helping them get money back.

Everyday People

Official text (VA HB1368) – <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB1368>

LegiScan — HB1368 — <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB1368/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-hb1368-087300

The Massive Data Bill

New rules would protect neighborhoods from massive data centers

VA SB552 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Data centers are popping up everywhere. They bring loud noise, heavy water use, and traffic to quiet neighborhoods. Right now, local towns often approve them without strict environmental checks. This bill changes the game. It forces tech companies to pass a strict state review and hold two public hearings before breaking ground. If they break the rules later, the state can fine them or shut them down. It is a big win for...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (helps) — Creates strict civil penalties and gives the Attorney General power to sue data centers that break the rules..

The Department may require corrective actions and assess civil penalties against or...

Rights & Protections (helps) — Protects residents' right to clean air, clean water, and quiet neighborhoods..

Requires standards for noise impacts, light pollution, water usage, air emissions, and...

Who Bears the Cost (helps) — Shifts the burden of proof and environmental costs onto the data center builders..

Requires the applicant to perform and submit a site assessment to examine the sound...

Process Transparency (helps) — Mandates two public hearings and public site assessments before any zoning approval..

A locality shall conduct an initial public hearing and a second public hearing upon...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Local residents and the environment

Bearing the cost: Data center developers

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Siting of large data centers; site assessment, standards, civil penalties.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-14

This bill forces large data centers to prove they will not harm local water, air, or neighborhoods before they are allowed to build.

Everyday People

Official text (VA SB552) – <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB552>

LegisScan – SB552 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB552/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb552-085852

The Massive Hike Bill

Bill stops a massive tax hike on working families

VA SB662 • Money & Damages

9/10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Right now, a rule that keeps your state taxes lower is set to expire in 2027. If that happens, the amount of money you can earn tax-free drops by a lot, and a special tax break for low-income workers goes away. This bill pushes that deadline back to 2029. It saves regular families and workers from a sudden tax hike.

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Tax relief for citizens.
The bill prevents a scheduled tax increase, meaning the state continues to collect less...
- Funding Tilt (helps)** — Benefits low-income workers.
Extending the refundable earned income tax credit directly puts money into the pockets of...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Virginia taxpayers and low-income workers
Bearing the cost: Virginia state government

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / ID)

Taxation & revenues; extends sunsets for standard deduction and refundable earned income tax.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-14

This bill stops your state taxes from going up by keeping the standard deduction and a special tax credit for workers at their current levels for two extra years.

Everyday People

Official text (VA SB662) — <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB662>

LegiScan – SB662 – <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB662/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/va-sb662-086525



ABOUT THIS BOOK

Virginia Bill Book 2026

Published by Obillerate, an independent nonpartisan watchdog that reads and scores every bill in Congress and all 50 states on a single question: does it help everyday people, or the interests behind it? Every score in this book shows its reasoning, and every page links to the official text so you can check us.

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