



Vocal Virginia

Legislation as of 1/18/26

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Last Action	Latest Version	Lists
VA 2026 HB 11	Joseph P. McNamara	Emergency custody orders; transportation to treatment center, etc. Emergency custody orders; transportation to treatment center or to residence of the person subject to emergency custody order. Provides that transportation provided pursuant to an emergency custody order shall include, upon completion of emergency medical evaluation or treatment, transportation to an approved treatment center or to the residence of the person subject to the emergency custody order. Statutes affected: Introduced: 37.2-808	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned sub: Behavioral Health	Introduced	Clients MSV Watchlist RAM VLSSE Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 43	Marcus B. Simon	Suicide; abolishes common-law crime. Common-law crime of suicide. Abolishes the common-law crime of suicide. Suicide is currently a common-law crime in Virginia, although there is no statutorily prescribed punishment. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027, and also requires the Bureau of Insurance of the State Corporation Commission to review the effect and implication of abolishing the common-law crime of suicide on insurance throughout the Commonwealth and submit its findings and any recommendations by November 1, 2026, to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice.	House • Dec 23, 2025: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	Introduced	Clients RAM Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 48	David A. Reid	Suicide prevention; VDH to convene work group to develop plan to reduce among at-risk populations. Department of Health; suicide prevention; at-risk populations; work group; report. Directs the Department of Health to convene a work group to develop a statewide strategic plan to reduce suicides among at-risk populations in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the work group to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Joint Commission on Health Care, the Chair of the House Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2026.	House • Dec 29, 2025: Referred to Committee on Rules	Introduced	Clients MSV Watchlist RAM Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 59	R. Lee Ware	Reapportionment; reallocation of populations, civil commitment facilities. Reapportionment; reallocation of populations; civil commitment facilities. Requires persons civilly committed to a residential behavioral health facility administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to be counted and reallocated for redistricting and reapportionment purposes. Statutes affected: Introduced: 24.2-314	House • Jan 13, 2026: Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB59)	Introduced	Clients MSV Watchlist Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 209	Marcia S. "Cia" Price	Peer recovery specialists; VDH & DOC to develop guidelines for hiring. Department of Health; Department of Corrections; peer recovery specialists. Directs the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Corrections to develop agency guidelines for hiring peer recovery specialists with previous criminal convictions for compensated employment. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned sub: Health Professions	Introduced	Clients MSV Watchlist Vocal Virginia

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Last Action	Latest Version	Lists
VA 2026 HB 225	Patrick A. Hope	Marcus Alert Evaluation Task Force; created. Marcus Alert Evaluation Task Force creation. Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to convene a Marcus Alert Evaluation Task Force to assist in determining the effectiveness of the Marcus Alert system. This bill is a recommendation of the Behavioral Health Commission.Statutes affected: Introduced: 37.2-311.1	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned sub: Behavioral Health	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 240	Debra D. Gardner	Admission to bail; fixing terms of bail, mental health considerations. Admission to bail; fixing terms of bail; mental health considerations. Requires the judicial officer, prior to conducting any hearing on the issue of bail, release, or detention, to obtain the person's criminal history and any emergency custody or temporary detention order or involuntary admission issued for such person. The bill also requires the judicial officer to consider any emergency custody or temporary detention order or involuntary admission issued for the person when determining admission to bail. Lastly, the bill requires the judicial officer to take into account the following factors in fixing the terms of bail if such person is admitted to bail: (i) whether the person is likely to obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice, or threaten, injure, or intimidate, or attempt to threaten, injure, or intimidate a family or household member as defined in relevant law; (ii) the history of the accused or juvenile, including medical, mental health, including any emergency custody or temporary detention order or involuntary admission issued pursuant to relevant law, or substance abuse treatment; (iii) any evidence the person provided indicating that such person (a) is currently pregnant, (b) has recently given birth, or (c) is currently nursing a child; and (iv) whether such person will be an unreasonable danger to himself, family or household members as defined in relevant law, or the public.Statutes affected: Introduced: 19.2-120, 19.2-121	House • Jan 8, 2026: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 245	Vivian E. Watts	Jurisdiction of district courts in felony cases; specialty dockets, Behavioral Health Docket Act. Jurisdiction of district courts in felony cases; specialty dockets; Behavioral Health Docket Act. Authorizes a general district court and a juvenile and domestic relations district court to retain jurisdiction over a felony offense for the purpose of allowing the accused to complete a specialty docket or behavioral health docket established pursuant to relevant law. Current law only explicitly provides such courts with the ability to certify felony charges to the circuit court or dismiss such charges after a preliminary hearing to determine if probable cause exists for such charges.Statutes affected: Introduced: 16.1-123.1, 16.1-241, 19.2-183, 19.2-186	House • Jan 8, 2026: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 246	Vivian E. Watts	Mental illness, neurocognitive disorder, etc.; affirmative defense or reduced penalty. Affirmative defense or reduced penalty for mental illness, neurocognitive disorder, or intellectual or developmental disability. Provides an affirmative defense to prosecution of a person for assault or assault and battery against certain specified persons for which the enhanced Class 6 felony and six-month mandatory minimum apply if such person proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that at the time of the assault or assault and battery (i) the person's behaviors were a result of (a) mental illness or (b) a neurocognitive disorder, including dementia, or an intellectual disability or a developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, or (ii) the person met the criteria for issuance of an emergency custody order. The bill requires such person or his counsel to give notice in writing to the attorney for the Commonwealth at least 60 days prior to his trial in circuit court, or at least 14 days if the trial date is set within 21 days of his last court appearance, of his intention to present such evidence. Additionally, if such notice is not given, and the person proffers such evidence at his trial as a defense, then the court may in its discretion either allow the Commonwealth a continuance or, under appropriate circumstances, bar such person from presenting such evidence; any such continuance shall not be counted for speedy t...	House • Jan 8, 2026: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 248	Vivian E. Watts	Interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements; development of behavioral health co-response teams. Interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements; behavioral health co-response teams. Provides that interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements may allow for the development of co-response teams staffed by one or more law-enforcement agencies that respond to behavioral health-related calls in multiple jurisdictions. This bill is a recommendation of the Behavioral Health Commission.Statutes affected: Introduced: 15.2-1726	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned HMPPS sub: Subcommittee #2	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 249	Vivian E. Watts	Marcus alert system; external database information removal. Marcus alert system; external database information removal. Clarifies that an individual's information may continue to appear on a voluntary Marcus alert system external database that cannot be modified by a locality after such individual reaches 18 years of age. This bill is a recommendation of the Behavioral Health Commission.Statutes affected: Introduced: 9.1-193	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned HMPPS sub: Subcommittee #2	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Last Action	Latest Version	Lists
VA 2026 HB 257	Shelly A. Simonds	Comprehensive plan; social determinants of health. Comprehensive plan; social determinants of health. Encourages localities to utilize relevant and available data and research related to social determinants of health to consider how the locality's adopted comprehensive plan will impact the locality's overall public health and access to health care services.Statutes affected: Introduced: 15.2-2223	House • Jan 9, 2026: Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 267	Anne Ferrell Tata	Workers with disabilities; earned income disregard, cost-of-living adjustment. Department of Medical Assistance Services; earned income disregard; cost-of-living adjustment. Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to seek the necessary federal approvals to increase, as necessary based upon Social Security Administration cost-of-living adjustments, the earned income disregard for workers with disabilities.	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned sub: Social Services	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 309	Patrick A. Hope	Hospitals; temporary detention for testing, observation, or treatment. Temporary detention in hospital for testing, observation, or treatment. Provides that while seeking the issuance of an order for temporary detention in a hospital for testing, observation, or treatment, or an extension of such order, the person who would be subject to such order and is currently subject to an order issued pursuant to current law shall remain in the custody of the facility where he is located, and any security personnel shall ensure that such person does not leave the facility while such person is unable to provide informed consent. The bill states that the person shall be permitted to leave the facility if such order is not issued. The bill also provides that any licensed health professional or licensed hospital, including a hospital licensed by the Department of Health pursuant to relevant law, shall have no liability arising out a claim to the extent the claim is based on a lack of consent to the detention of a person when such professional or hospital is seeking the court's or magistrate's authorization such detention.Statutes affected: Introduced: 37.2-1104, 37.2-1106	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned sub: Behavioral Health	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 321	Jackie H. Glass	Agricultural Workforce Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program; established, report. Agricultural Workforce Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program established; report . Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (the Department) to establish and administer the Agricultural Workforce Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program (the Program) to support the mental health and well-being of the agricultural workforce, as defined in the bill, in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Program to (i) increase public awareness of mental health and suicide prevention, (ii) provide access to culturally and contextually appropriate mental health services, and (iii) address mental health challenges arising from certain stressors affecting agricultural communities in the Commonwealth. The bill directs the Department to submit a report on the Program's progress, including data collected and any recommendations, to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by September 1, 2027, and biennially thereafter.	House • Jan 11, 2026: Referred to Committee on Rules	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 327	Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.	Commonwealth Health Reinsurance Program; extension of program, percentage goal to decrease premium. Commonwealth Health Reinsurance Program; extension of program; percentage goal to decrease premium. Directs the State Corporation Commission to apply to the appropriate federal agencies under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for an extension of the existing State Innovation Waiver authorizing the Commonwealth to implement a reinsurance program. The existing State Innovation Waiver is set to expire on January 1, 2028. Additionally, the bill removes the 20 percent upper limit of the premium reduction goal under the Commonwealth Health Reinsurance Program. This bill is a recommendation of the Health Insurance Reform Commission.Statutes affected: Introduced: 38.2-6604	House • Jan 11, 2026: Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce	Introduced	Clients BrightSpring RAM VACDS Vocal Virginia VPMA VRS
VA 2026 HB 335	Bonita G. Anthony	Independent Pharmacy Access and Resilience Pilot Program; established, report, sunset. Independent Pharmacy Access and Resilience Pilot Program; report; sunset. Establishes the Independent Pharmacy Access and Resilience Pilot Program in the Department of Health to strengthen and stabilize access to pharmacy services in medically underserved communities and communities at heightened risk of pharmacy closure. The Program is established as a pilot program with an expiration date of July 1, 2030, and participation is limited to 12 independent pharmacies meeting certain criteria outlined in the bill. The bill directs the Department to submit to the Governor and General Assembly an interim report with evaluations of participating pharmacies no later than November 1, 2028, and a final comprehensive evaluation no later than November 1, 2029, in order for the General Assembly to determine whether to continue, modify, expand, or terminate the Program.	House • Jan 16, 2026: Assigned sub: Health	Introduced	Priority List Clients HDA RxPartnership VACDS Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 453	Rodney T. Willett	Comprehensive mental health, substance abuse, & developmt. disability crisis services; written plan. Comprehensive crisis system; Marcus alert system; Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; comprehensive	House • Jan 12, 2026: Referred to Committee on	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia

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		mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability crisis services; written plan. Allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, in collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, to amend the written plan created pursuant to relevant law after the publication of such written plan, provided that (i) the stakeholders listed in relevant law are consulted during the development of any new language to be added to such written plan and (ii) a public comment period of no less than 30 days is held prior to the finalization of such written plan. This bill is a recommendation of the Behavioral Health Commission.Statutes affected: Introduced: 37.2-311.1 House Calendar: 01/19/2026: Bills Referred - Notification, Position: 63	Health and Human Services		
VA 2026 HB 465	Laura Jane Cohen	Behavior Analysis, Advisory Board on; amends composition. Advisory Board on Behavior Analysis; composition. Amends the composition of the Advisory Board on Behavior Analysis to require that three members shall be licensed behavior analysts or licensed assistant behavior analysts who have practiced for at least three years. Under current law, the composition of the Advisory Board requires two licensed behavior analysts who have practiced for at least three years and one licensed assistant behavior analyst who has practiced for at least three years.Statutes affected: Introduced: 54.1-2957.18 House Calendar: 01/19/2026: Bills Referred - Notification, Position: 75	House • Jan 16, 2026: Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB465)	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 529	Virgil Thornton	Suicide Prevention Program; created, deaths by suicide of veterans or military service members. Suicide Prevention Program created; deaths by suicide of veterans or military service members; inquiry by State Registrar of Vital Records; Department of Veterans Services annual report. Removes the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator within the Department of Veterans Services, transfers the duties of such position to the Suicide Prevention Program, established in the Department by the bill, and adds the following to such duties: (i) gather data on substance abuse challenges experienced by military service members, veterans, and their families that may lead to suicide; (ii) collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to increase substance use screenings and refer military service members, veterans, and their family members to the appropriate professionals or services; (iii) provide opioid addiction and substance use resources, training, and support to federal, state, and local agencies; and (iv) compile and analyze data relating to the suicides of veterans and military service members pursuant to death certificates filed with the State Registrar of Vital Records, with such data to be included in the Department's annual report. The bill provides that in any case where the death certificate of a veteran or military service member lists suicide as the cause and manner of death, the State Registrar of Vital Records shall provide such information concerning the suicide to the Department. Finally, the bill requires a copy of any autopsy report concerning the suicide ... House Calendar: 01/19/2026: Bills Referred - Notification, Position: 139	House • Jan 13, 2026: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 548	Patrick A. Hope	Uniform Health Care Decisions Act; civil penalty. Uniform Health Care Decisions Act; civil penalty. Repeals most provisions of the Health Care Decisions Act and enacts the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act. The bill creates a process for the execution of advance health care directives, as defined in the bill; establishes criteria for determining the capacity of an individual to make health care decisions; provides for the establishment of a default surrogate in the absence of an appointed agent for health care decisions; establishes powers and duties of agents appointed by powers of attorney for health care; and establishes duties of health care professionals.Statutes affected: Introduced: 54.1-2825., 54.1-2981, 54.1-2982, 54.1-2983, 54.1-2983.2, 54.1-2987, 54.1-2988, 54.1-2989, 54.1-2993	House • Jan 13, 2026: Fiscal Impact statement From VCSC (1/13/2026 1:31 pm)	Introduced	Clients RAM Vocal Virginia VRS
VA 2026 HB 625	Rozia A. Henson, Jr.	Health insurance; limit on cost-sharing payments for prescription drugs under certain plans. Health insurance; limit on cost-sharing payments for prescription drugs under certain plans. Requires each carrier that offers a health plan in either the individual or small group market to ensure that at least 50 percent of all health plans offered by the carrier, or at least one health plan if the carrier offers fewer than two health plans, in each rating area and in each of the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels of coverage in the individual and small group market conform with the following: (i) a plan that offers a silver, gold, or platinum level of coverage limits a person's cost-sharing payment for prescription drugs covered under the plan to an amount that does not exceed \$100 per 30-day supply of the prescription drug and (ii) a plan that offers a bronze level of coverage limits a person's cost-sharing payment for prescription drugs covered under the plan to an amount that does not exceed \$150 per 30-day supply of the prescription drug. The bill provides that such limits apply at any point in the benefit design, including before and after any applicable	House • Jan 13, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients BrightSpring HDA RAM VACDS Vocal Virginia

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		deductible is reached. The bill requires that any plans offered to meet its requirements are (a) clearly and appropriately named to aid the consumer or plan sponsor in the plan selection process and (b) marketed in the same manner as other plans offered by the health insurance carrier. The provisions of the bill apply with respect to health plans entered into, amended, extended, or renewed on or after January 1...			
VA 2026 HB 656	Rodney T. Willett	Mental health and substance abuse disorders; network adequacy standards; comparative analyses; report; emergency regulations. Mental health and substance abuse disorders; network adequacy standards; comparative analyses; report; emergency regulations. Directs the Department of Health to issue regulations that include quantitative network adequacy standards for timely access to care, travel time, and geographical distance that are at least as stringent as those imposed for qualified health plans and qualified dental plans. The bill amends the definitions of "mental health services" and "substance abuse services" for the purposes of health insurance coverage. The bill requires health carriers to submit all comparative analyses prepared pursuant to federal law to the Bureau of Insurance on the date and frequency as specified by the Bureau and includes additional information to include in such submission. Under the bill, the Bureau may impose a penalty not to exceed \$100,000 for a noncompliant or insufficient comparative analysis or require a carrier to remove, revise, or remedy noncompliant treatment limitations. The bill also amends the contents of the annual report submitted by the Bureau to the General Assembly to cover enforcement efforts with respect to the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. The bill authorizes the Bureau to promulgate regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of the bill and directs the Department of Health to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.	House • Jan 13, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients RAM Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 668	Michelle Lopes Maldonado	Use of artificial intelligence system by mental health service providers; civil penalty. Use of artificial intelligence system by mental health service providers; civil penalty. Permits the use of an artificial intelligence system by mental health service providers for administrative support and supplementary support, as those terms are defined in the bill, and prohibits the use of an artificial intelligence system to provide therapy or counseling services without a mental health service provider. The bill specifies that records kept by mental health service providers must comply with health records privacy requirements; creates an exception for religious counseling, peer support, or self-help materials and educational resources; and establishes a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for violations of the statute.	House • Jan 13, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients RAM Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 669	Michelle Lopes Maldonado	Professions and occupations; impersonation of certain licensed professionals by chatbot; notice; civil liability. Professions and occupations; impersonation of certain licensed professionals by chatbot; notice; civil liability. Provides that a proprietor that owns, operates, or deploys a chatbot, defined in the bill, shall not permit such chatbot to provide any substantive response, information, or advice, or take any action that, if taken by a natural person, would (i) constitute the unlawful practice of architecture, engineering, surveying, landscape architecture, geology, dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, certain mental health professions, psychology, social work, or veterinary medicine; (ii) violate the provisions of law making it unlawful for any person to practice medicine, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic, or podiatry or as a physician assistant in the Commonwealth without a valid unrevoked license or to practice law without being authorized or licensed; or (iii) violate the provisions of law making it unlawful for a teacher to be employed without a license or provisional license or relating to division superintendents, members of a school board or other school officers, or principals or teachers in a public school. The bill allows a person injured by a proprietor who engages in any such conduct to sue therefor no more than two years after the cause of action accrues and recover compensatory damages and reasonable attorney fees and costs. The bill also requires a proprietor operating or deploying a chatbot to provide a clear, conspicuous, and e...	House • Jan 13, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients MSV Watchlist RAM Vocal Virginia VPMA VRS
VA 2026 HB 681	C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr.	Retired law-enforcement officers; emergency and temporary detention admissions. Retired law-enforcement officers; emergency and temporary detention admissions. Clarifies that the term "law-enforcement officer" as used in relevant law relating to emergency and involuntary civil admissions includes retired law-enforcement officers, defined in the bill, for the purposes of laws related to emergency custody and involuntary temporary detention. Statutes affected: Introduced: 37.2-808, 37.2-810	House • Jan 13, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 754	Chris S. Runion	Emergency custody, involuntary temporary detention, and commitment hearings; special justice and judge fees. Emergency custody, involuntary temporary detention, and commitment hearings; special justice and judge fees. Increases from \$120 to \$150 the fee that any special justice, any retired judge sitting by designation, or any district court substitute judge who presides over hearings relating to emergency custody, involuntary temporary detention, and commitment is to receive for each such hearing. Statutes affected: Introduced: 37.2-804	House • Jan 13, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 1025	Wendell S. Walker	Access to investigational drugs, biological products, and devices; patient with severely debilitating condition.	House • Jan 14, 2026: Committee	Introduced	Clients HDA

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		Access to investigational drugs, biological products, and devices; patient with severely debilitating condition. Allows a patient who has a severely debilitating condition, defined in the bill as a disease or condition that causes major irreversible morbidity, to access investigational drugs, biological products, and devices when certain criteria are met. Under current law, only a patient who has a terminal condition may access such drugs, products, and devices.Statutes affected: Introduced: 54.1-3442.1, 54.1-3442.2, 54.1-3442.3	Referral Pending		RAM RxPartnership VACDS Vocal Virginia VPMA VRS
VA 2026 HB 1097	Amy J. Laufer	Driver communication improvement program for drivers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder; education for law-enforcement officers and emergency medical services providers; educational materials for public schools. Driver communication improvement program for drivers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder; education for law-enforcement officers and emergency medical services providers; educational materials for public schools. Requires law-enforcement officers and emergency medical service providers, as a condition of such providers' certification and recertification, to undergo education on the driver communication improvement program for drivers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The bill directs the Department of Motor Vehicles to display information about the driver communication improvement program on its website and distribute educational materials to all public schools offering a driver education program. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Disability Commission.Statutes affected: Introduced: 9.1-102, 32.1-111.5	House • Jan 14, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 1105	Terry G. Kilgore	Competency treatment in misdemeanor proceedings. Competency treatment in misdemeanor proceedings. Provides that in cases where the defendant has been charged with a misdemeanor offense, the court may (i) order outpatient treatment or (ii) dismiss the charges. Where a defendant is found to be incompetent, the bill permits a court to (a) order that such defendant receive treatment to restore his competency on an outpatient basis in a local correctional facility or at a location determined by the appropriate community services board or behavioral health authority, (b) order that such defendant be evaluated to determine whether he meets the criteria for temporary detention, or (c) dismiss the misdemeanor charge and release such defendant. The bill also requires a court to dismiss misdemeanor charges in a competency proceeding when a defendant is charged with both misdemeanor and felony offenses.Statutes affected: Introduced: 19.2-169.1, 19.2-169.2, 19.2-169.3	House • Jan 14, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 1113	May Nivar	Department of Education; culturally responsive and language-appropriate mental health support and services; guidance and policies. Department of Education; culturally responsive and language-appropriate mental health support and services; guidance and policies. Requires, no later than October 1, 2027, the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and provide to each local school board guidance on the adoption of policies governing the provision of culturally responsive and language-appropriate mental health support and services for students in the local school division and permits any school board to develop and adopt policies in the local school division that are consistent with the guidelines adopted and provided by the Department of Education.	House • Jan 14, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HB 1194	Phillip A. Scott	Parental access to minor's health records. Parental access to minor's health records. Requires health care entities that provide access to health records of minors through a secure website to make such health records available to the minor's parent or guardian through the same secure website.	House • Jan 14, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients BrightSpring RAM VACDS Vocal Virginia VPMA VRS
VA 2026 HB 1292	Marcia S. "Cia" Price	Temporary detention; certified evaluators; sunset repealed. Temporary detention; certified evaluators; sunset repealed. Repeals the July 1, 2026 sunset on the current provisions of law authorizing hospitals with a psychiatric emergency department located in the City of Hampton to employ certain trained individuals to perform evaluations to determine whether a person meets the criteria for temporary detention for behavioral health treatment. The current law also requires participating hospitals with psychiatric emergency departments in the City of Hampton to submit monthly and annual reports on temporary detentions and crisis evaluations.	House • Jan 15, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 HJ 25	Marcia S. "Cia" Price	Invisible Disabilities Awareness Week. Invisible Disabilities Awareness Week. Designates the third full week of October, in 2026 and in each succeeding year, as Invisible Disabilities Awareness Week in Virginia.	House • Jan 12, 2026: Committee Referral Pending	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia

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VA 2026 SB 34	Barbara A. Favola	<p>Incapacitated persons; finding of lack of capacity to understand act of voting.</p> <p>Incapacitated persons; finding of lack of capacity to understand act of voting. Provides that a finding that a person is incapacitated in a proceeding for guardianship or conservatorship shall not be synonymous with a finding that such person is "mentally incompetent," as such term is used in relevant law, and therefore not qualified to vote in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Virginia. The bill provides that no person shall be deemed disqualified to vote due to a lack of capacity for the purposes of the Constitution of Virginia unless a court makes a specific finding by clear and convincing evidence that such person lacks the capacity to understand the act of voting. Statutes affected: Introduced: 24.2-232, 24.2-410, 64.2-2000, 64.2-2003, 64.2-2009, 64.2-2009.1</p>	Senate • Nov 19, 2025: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections	Introduced	Clients VLSSE Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 SB 71	Barbara A. Favola	<p>Health Care Decisions Act; patients incapable of making informed decisions, absence of next of kin.</p> <p>Health Care Decisions Act; patients incapable of making informed decisions; absence of next of kin. Authorizes, for purposes of the Health Care Decisions Act, the patient care consulting committee to make health care decisions for a patient incapable of making informed decisions when no next of kin is reasonably available. Statutes affected: Introduced: 54.1-2982, 54.1-2986, 54.1-2986.2</p>	Senate • Dec 17, 2025: Referred to Committee on Education and Health	Introduced	Clients MSV Watchlist RAM Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 SB 75	L. Louise Lucas	<p>Retired law-enforcement officers; emergency and temporary detention admissions.</p> <p>Retired law-enforcement officers; emergency and temporary detention admissions. Clarifies that the term "law-enforcement officer" as used in relevant law relating to emergency and involuntary civil admissions includes retired law-enforcement officers, defined in the bill, for the purposes of laws related to emergency custody and involuntary temporary detention. Statutes affected: Introduced: 37.2-808, 37.2-810</p>	Senate • Dec 19, 2025: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services	Introduced	Clients MSV Watchlist RAM Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 SB 88	Tammy Brankley Mulchi	<p>Reapportionment; reallocation of populations, civil commitment facilities.</p> <p>Reapportionment; reallocation of populations; civil commitment facilities. Requires persons civilly committed to a residential behavioral health facility administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to be counted and reallocated for redistricting and reapportionment purposes. Statutes affected: Introduced: 24.2-314</p>	Senate • Jan 13, 2026: Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (SB88)	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 SB 199	Barbara A. Favola	<p>Employment; paid sick leave, civil penalties.</p> <p>Employment; paid sick leave; civil penalties. Expands provisions of the Code that currently require one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked for home health workers to cover all employees of certain private employers and state and local governments. The bill requires that employees who are employed and compensated on a fee-for-service basis accrue paid sick leave in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The bill provides that employees transferred to a separate division or location remain entitled to previously accrued paid sick leave and that employees retain their accrued paid sick leave under any successor employer. The bill allows employers to provide a more generous paid sick leave policy than prescribed by its provisions and specifies that employees, in addition to using paid sick leave for their physical or mental illness or to care for a family member, may use paid sick leave to seek or obtain certain services or to relocate or secure an existing home due to domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. The bill provides that certain health care workers who work no more than 30 hours per month may waive the right to accrue and use paid sick leave. The bill also provides that employers are not required to provide paid sick leave to certain health care workers who are employed on a pro re nata, or as-needed, basis, regardless of the number of hours worked. The bill requires the Commissioner to promulgate regulations r...</p>	Senate • Jan 9, 2026: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor	Introduced	Clients BrightSpring RAM VACDS Vocal Virginia VPMA VRS Williams
VA 2026 SB 259	William M. Stanley, Jr.	<p>Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program established; pilot programs; development of modules; report.</p> <p>Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program established; pilot programs; development of modules; report. Establishes the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program, to be administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (the Department) in coordination with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, for the purpose of providing and expanding the accessibility of early childhood mental health consultation services, as that term is defined in the bill. The bill requires, pursuant to the Program, early childhood mental health consultation services shall be provided to families of children three through five years of age who exhibit developmental delays and behavioral health concerns and to early childhood care and education programs as enumerated in the bill. The bill requires the Department, in administering the Program, to (i) develop, or contract with community services boards to develop, and make available to early childhood care and education programs and providers developmental readiness modules, in accordance with the requirements of the bill; (ii) designate three pilot regions for initial implementation of the Program, with implementation beginning no later than January 1, 2027; and (iv) submit to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1 of each year a</p>	Senate • Jan 12, 2026: Referred to Committee on Education and Health	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Last Action	Latest Version	Lists
		report on the implementation and outcomes of the Program for each pilot region selected for...			
VA 2026 SB 269	Barbara A. Favola	Use of artificial intelligence system by mental health service providers; civil penalty. Use of artificial intelligence system by mental health service providers; civil penalty. Permits the use of an artificial intelligence system by mental health service providers for administrative support and supplementary support, as those terms are defined in the bill, and prohibits the use of an artificial intelligence system to provide therapy or counseling services without a mental health service provider. The bill specifies that records kept by mental health service providers must comply with health records privacy requirements; creates an exception for religious counseling, peer support, or self-help materials and educational resources; and establishes a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for violations of the statute.	Senate • Jan 12, 2026: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia
VA 2026 SB 280	Lashrecse D. Aird	Autism Advisory Council; name change; membership; staffing; powers and duties. Autism Advisory Council; name change; membership; staffing; powers and duties. Provides for the Autism Advisory Council to be reconstituted as a permanent, independently staffed agency in the legislative branch of state government. Currently, the Autism Advisory Council is set to expire on July 1, 2027. The bill repeals the expiration date and renames the agency as the Autism Commission. The bill also modifies the membership of the Commission to more closely align with the membership makeup of other independently staffed legislative agencies and directs the Commission to appoint and employ an executive director and other staff to assist in carrying out the duties of the Commission. This bill is a recommendation of the Autism Advisory Council. Statutes affected: Introduced: 30-329.1, 30-329.2, 30-329.4	Senate • Jan 14, 2026: Referred to Committee on Rules	Introduced	Clients Vocal Virginia

42 bills