

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



CALENDAR

2019 American Legion Boys State of Virginia Session

Wednesday, June 19, 2019
Bills on Regular Calendar

ALBS Bill 1 A BILL to limit the number of automobile accidents resulting in fatalities as well as modernizing the entirety of the Commonwealth through Virginia's roads.

Patron—Pershing City

SUMMARY: More funding and attention will be placed onto the development and maintenance of Virginia state roads, specifically undeveloped and underdeveloped roads.

ALBS Bill 2 A BILL to amend existing punishments for fatal accidents caused by drivers operating under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Patron—Eisenhower City

SUMMARY: If a driver under the influence causes a fatal accident, he or she will be charged with 2nd degree murder rather than involuntary manslaughter and convicted appropriately.

ALBS Bill 3 A BILL to allocate Virginia funding to aid first responders and victims that are currently supported by the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Patron—Lee City

SUMMARY: As a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, many victims and first responders suffered lifelong psychiatric and bodily injuries. After the attacks occurred, the families of the deceased were compensated based on an estimated yearly salary that they would have earned in a lifetime. VCF (Victim Compensation Fund) projections show that the \$7.37 billion that was granted by the government in compensation, averaging out to approximately \$3.7 million per person, proved insufficient to properly suit victims' medical and therapeutic needs. Due to the claims, both new and pre-existing, the funding for the victims' is currently being overused, resulting in a compensation gap for families affected. With insufficient funds rising in February of 2019, many Virginians are currently left without their promised compensation. To resolve issues associated with victims not receiving compensation, the funding needs to be aided in order to alleviate economic inconveniences that victims and first responders have been exposed to. In order to aid victims, the Virginia State government can allocate similar funds while the congressional bill passes through the federal government. The federal level will raise this dwindling yearly budget associated with this bill. If the income tax of Virginia citizens was raised by 0.1%, with an average salary of \$50,450 it will cost the tax payer about \$51 per year. These funds from the 0.1% tax increase would generate about \$211 million annually for the victims and first responders thus solving a short-term problem.

ALBS Bill 4 A BILL to expand tax breaks for honorably discharged veterans, based on their current economic income.

Patron—Burke City

SUMMARY: Current main stream tax breaks for veterans residing in Virginia mainly benefit disabled veterans. Expansion will include all honorably discharged veterans with residence in Virginia. In addition to state guidelines, this expansion, qualifications would include a current personal income review for eligibility.

ALBS Bill 5 A BILL to recognize the underfunded and inconvenient highways in Southwestern Virginia

Patron—MacArthur City

SUMMARY: Increase funding to the I-81 Highway's structure which passes through Southwestern Virginia as well as the I-64 Highway with the I-81 funding being used to improve the road conditions and the I-64 funding will go towards overdue road construction. The funding of this project will be executed through a miniscule increase in sales tax from 5% to 7% in which 60% of the new revenue will go to.

ALBS Bill 6 A BILL to modify the Commonwealth’s sentencing for Reckless Driving.

Patron—Stuart City

SUMMARY: A motorist going 20 to 29 miles per hour over the speed limit in the Commonwealth of Virginia will be considered to be driving recklessly and will be prosecuted appropriately for a Class 3 Misdemeanor. After going 30 to 39 miles per hour over the speed limit, a driver will be considered to be driving recklessly by the Commonwealth and their offense will be considered to be a Class 2 Misdemeanor. A motorist driving at speeds between 40 and 49 miles per hour over the speed limit will be considered to be driving recklessly by the Commonwealth and their offense will be considered a Class 1 Misdemeanor. Any motorist driving 50 miles per hour or higher above the speed limit will be considered to be driving recklessly by the Commonwealth and will be charged with a Class 6 Felony (punishable with a term of imprisonment of 1 to 5 years and a maximum fine of \$2,500). This law will not change existing punishments for automobile-related offenses that do not include reckless driving due to speed considerations.

ALBS Bill 7 A BILL to provide a statewide alternative criminal sentencing program for citizens convicted of non-violent, low-risk crimes on their first or second offense.

Patron—Washington City

SUMMARY: A statewide prison reform program providing alternative sentencing will be created which requires mandatory community service and productive rehabilitation for first or second time non-violent criminal offenders. Instead of serving a traditional prison sentence, offenders would participate in various public works projects, while also providing them a degree of choice in their service. Additionally, the program offers multiple avenues of rehabilitation including personal counseling, drug clinics, and educational opportunities. The intention of this program is to reduce incarceration costs at prisons around the state as well as open up rehabilitation opportunities for the offenders. The program is inspired by Commonwealth Attorney for Wise County and the City of Norton Hon. Charles H. Slemp III’s Wise Works alternative sentencing program but would be administered by the state, across the state.

ALBS Bill 8 A BILL to mitigate the adverse effects of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline running through Virginia for both the environment and the citizens impacted.

Patron—Maury City

SUMMARY: Part 1: The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a natural gas pipeline that was proposed for construction through western, central, and southern Virginia; these areas include Augusta County, Buckingham County, and Nottaway County, as well as cities like Waynesboro and Staunton. This bill mandates that Dominion Energy, Inc. takes certain precautions prior to and during construction of the pipeline as well as planting grasses and shrubs around the pipeline afterwards to prevent erosion, which causes sediment and nutrient pollution in the local water sources.

Part 2: Eminent Domain is a doctrine that reserves the government’s right to take the land of citizens. This bill will require Dominion Energy and construction contractors to pay a fair market price for homes and land seized through Eminent Domain, which has not been practiced thus far with the pipeline in Virginia.

ALBS Bill 9 A BILL to ensure that incapable individuals may not threaten the safety of Virginians through unlawful possession of firearms.

Patron—Marshall City

SUMMARY: When an individual is declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law, the ruling must be logged in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) within ten days after the court ruling. In the event of any firearm transfer, a background check must be performed by the initial owner, whether a licensed seller or private actor, through the NICS. Firearms obtained through inheritance are exempt from background checks. Any individual seeking to purchase or possess a firearm must possess a firearm license, which shall be issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia under the condition that the individual is able to purchase a firearm under existing statute, and that they pass an NICS background check. A firearm license must be renewed every year. A felony conviction will result in the revocation of a firearm license with no possibility for renewal. Possession of a firearm without a valid license shall be tried as a misdemeanor of up to six months; a third offense and all subsequent offenses shall be tried as a felony of up to three years. Any prior owner of a firearm at the time at which this legislation comes into force may not be charged with possession without a permit during an initial twelve-month period. The Virginia Department of Health must publicize the requirement of a firearm license.

ALBS Bill 10 A BILL to increase state funds to lower income school districts

Patron—Puller City

SUMMARY: State funding for education will increase by 10% per student across the commonwealth. This will be specifically targeted to low income areas and school districts that do not perform as well as the wealthier areas.

ALBS Bill 11 A BILL to phase out private prisons in favor of government-run prisons by the year 2030

Patron – Jackson City

SUMMARY: By the year 2030, using a nominally raised tax on tobacco and the money already allotted toward corporate prisons, the government of Virginia, instead of continuing to fund for-profit prisons, would buy these prisons and turn them over to government control. The goal of this would be to improve the overall quality of the state's prisons and save money for the state of Virginia.

For-profit prisons offer lower-quality service for an equal, sometimes even higher, price. For example, in a 2016 report from the Justice Department found that private prisons had a 28 percent higher rate of inmate-on-inmate assaults, and twice as many inmate-on-staff assaults. These for-profit prisons are not safe for the prisoners, and they are not safe for the employees. They attempt to save money by cutting corners, sacrificing safety in favor of an increased bottom line for the corporation. An independent report found that employees from for-profit prisons earn \$5,000 less than their government-employed counterparts, and they are trained 58 fewer hours. Private prisons also establish a conflict of interest, as they lobby for longer prison sentences, mandatory minimums on drug charges, and refusal of parole.

ALBS Bill 12 A BILL to provide means of support for veterans and the needy.

Patron—Patton City

SUMMARY: Local governments can offer community service positions to veterans and/or seriously economically disadvantaged persons, and if judged to be valid candidates, the state will double the contributions of any local government to offer compensation for those workers.

ALBS Bill 13 A BILL to remove legal prohibitions on the purchase and possession of recreation marijuana.

Co-Chief Patrons— Patton and Nimitz City

SUMMARY: In accordance with the recent recommendation of Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, this bill proposes to allow the legal purchase and possession of marijuana, in this case up to one ounce.

ALBS Bill 14 - A BILL to create the Public Transportation Incentive Program of 2019 (PTIP)

Patron—James City

SUMMARY: A proposal to initiate a tax break for the purpose of increasing the use of public transportation in order to curb carbon emissions. On an annual basis, the Department of Taxation in conjunction with the Department of Transportation will formulate a matrix designed to serve as guidelines for the magnitude of the tax break for the individual tax payer. The tax break is incumbent upon the amount of money spent on public transportation but shall not exceed 15.0% of the amount spent in the year in question.

ALBS Bill 15 A BILL to improve the safety, accountability, and carbon footprint of the Virginia coal industry.

Patron – Bradley City

SUMMARY: The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health agency shall audit every coal mine and coal plant in Virginia twenty-four times a year, without notice and on an irregular basis. The General Assembly shall create the Black Lung Victim's Fund. Said fund will be reappropriated from part of the existing tax on energy suppliers (58.1-400.2). The size of the fund will change per year based on the number of citizens diagnosed and certified by a medical professional with Coal Worker's pneumoconiosis, determined at the beginning of each fiscal year. The fund shall match the federal standards enumerated in Section 412(a)(1) of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act and shall be administered on a monthly basis. The General Assembly shall grant a tax incentive for coal plants to install EPA certified carbon scrubbing technology in their industrial complexes. Said companies will be granted a 50% tax reduction in business expenses for said technologies.

ALBS Bill 16 A BILL to remove the statues of Monument Avenue that are labeled under Confederate Generals (J.E.B. Stuart, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Matthew Fontaine, and Stonewall Jackson) and to be replace them with Patrick Henry, Woodrow Wilson, Meriwether Lewis, Booker T. Washington, and Henry Marsh.

Patron – Henry City

SUMMARY: In more recent years, the Confederate Statues on Monument Avenue have proven to be extremely controversial for the moralization of these Confederate generals post-Civil War. As the Senate and the House of Delegates, we believe in the relocation these statues and in replacing them with more current and admired individuals like Arthur Ashe. The Confederate statues would be moved to the White House of Confederacy and American Civil War Museum for others to view.

ALBS Bill 17 A BILL to expand off-shore wind turbines in the Eastern Shore area by increasing incentives for renewable energy companies through lowering corporate tax to 5%.

Patron—MacArthur City

SUMMARY: Expand off-shore wind turbines in the Eastern Shore Area by increasing incentives for renewable energy companies through lowering corporate tax to 5%. The inception of the expansion of Virginia’s Wind Energy industry will be kick started with 40% of the new tax revenue from the sales tax increase to 7%.

ALBS Bill 18 A BILL to battle the opioid epidemic in Virginia through access, funding, and support.

Patron – Bradley City

SUMMARY: The General Assembly shall mandate every county in the Commonwealth have a clean needle exchange program. Every public health building in counties shall maintain a supply of clean needles and proper disposal mechanisms for used needles. The General Assembly shall appropriate a 30% increase in the regular budget for the Governor’s Task Force for Prescription Drug and Heroin abuse. The new appropriation may not be lowered from the new price floor for the next 5 years or until opioid abuse rates have dropped by at least 50%. Lastly, the Virginia Department of Education shall ensure that the drug naloxone shall be provided and maintained at all public schools in the Commonwealth. Naloxone, commonly known as Narcan, can treat narcotic overdoses in emergency situations.

ALBS Bill 19 A BILL to implement a “bottle deposit plan” to increase population percentage of recycling in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Patron—Burke City

SUMMARY: Virginia will implement a bill that will incentivize business involved in the consumer distribution of bottles to create a system where a small increase of price will be added to the purchase of any bottle. This addition in price will be returned to the consumer when they return the product to a receptacle of the business’s designation for recycling. To promote the adoption of this policy, Virginia will offer private pensions to business for the first phase of implementation since the business’s adoption of the policy to help with the construction of infrastructure. In addition to this assistance, corporate tax breaks would be offered to any business currently in accordance with the program.

ALBS Bill 20 A BILL to provide a competitive contract for private companies to expand the i-81 corridor.

Patron—Lee City

SUMMARY: The potential i-81 highway widening will allow for an “Express Lane” to be made through the high density traffic locations at the i-81 and i-66 intersection through to the i-81 and i-77 intersection going both north and southbound. This will aid in alleviating in traffic density as passenger cars will have the option to pay a toll to move to the faster 18-wheeler free lanes, thus proving revenue and getting people off the roads. This project can be offered as a competitive contract to private businesses so they will fund the initial construction and maintenance to the roads. For the state, this will provide another source of tax revenue, thus increasing the budget.

ALBS Bill 21 A BILL to require more help developing schools and learning centers in overpopulated and underdeveloped areas of the state.

Patron—Henry City

SUMMARY: There will be additional funding provided to these regions that need it, and the region would be supplied with all the resources necessary to work and develop learning centers across state.

ALBS Bill 22 A BILL to create Road Visibility Bill of 2019

Patron—James City

SUMMARY: This proposal advocates for mandatory reflectors on guard rails on roads. This bill will promote road safety and visibility in low light zones. Also, the bill will make it illegal for road signs to be covered by any form of foliage, allowing for clearer visibility of said signs. This act will be enforced by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

ALBS Bill 23 A BILL to encourage the employment of convicted felons to reduce recidivism rates and reincorporate convicted felons into society.

Patron—Marshall City

SUMMARY: Any business that employs a convicted felon who has served their sentence or has been granted parole shall receive a tax deduction of \$500 upon the first filing of tax returns after the completion of the first year of full-time employment; a tax deduction of \$1000 upon the first filing of tax returns after the completion of the second year of full-time employment; and a tax deduction of \$1500 upon the first filing of tax returns after the completion of the third year of full-time employment. For the purposes of this bill, “full-time employment” is defined as an employment contract in which the employee receives pay during each pay period. After a certain business has benefited from three years of tax deductions due to the employment of a certain felon, no business may claim tax deductions by hiring the same felon.

ALBS Bill 24 A BILL to provide mental health checks within schools to support students and teachers to identify and treat mental health issues.

Patron—Maury City

SUMMARY: Schools will be mandated to provide an appropriate number of therapists for the students and teachers in schools once every six weeks to provide mental health check-ups. These check-ups will make sure students and teachers are mentally healthy in order to improve the students' performance in school and ensure teachers are able to teach to the best of their ability.

ALBS Bill 25 A BILL to ensure merit-based admissions and academic equality in Virginia's public institutions of higher education.

Patron – Bradley City

SUMMARY: The General Assembly shall prohibit public colleges and universities in the Commonwealth from using race as a factor of consideration for admission decisions. Applications for applicable colleges and universities shall not include any option that denotes race or ethnicity. This shall be monitored by the Virginia Human Rights Council. Infractions will be reported to the General Assembly and punishment, including but not limited to loss of funding, shall be determined by the Attorney General. This law shall not be implemented until August of 2023.

ALBS Bill 26 A BILL to improve upon existing highways.

Patron—Puller City

SUMMARY: This will improve the quality of the existing roads and add additional lanes to highways that move slow. This will be paid for with more tolls on existing roads.

ALBS Bill 27 A BILL to protect Virginia's historical monuments and landmarks

Patron – Jackson City

SUMMARY: Any citizen of Virginia who deems it necessary to preserve a historical monument (whether it be property, statute or plaque) can file to a specially created commission to investigate the provenance of said object. To qualify for consideration, it must be at least seventy five years of age at the time of nomination. If the item passes, it is protected in perpetuity from any demolition or removal and given proper maintenance by the State of Virginia.

ALBS Bill 28 A BILL to promote the advancement and increase opportunity for the homeless population of the Commonwealth.

Patron – Pershing City

SUMMARY: Halfway housing will be established where needed and housing will be equipped with not only proper living quarters, but also rehabilitation centres for the addicted and full time caretakers for the mentally ill.

ALBS Bill 29 A BILL to increase funding for roadways in Virginia

Patron—Eisenhower City

SUMMARY: The General Assembly shall provide increased funding toward the maintenance of heavily used roadways in Virginia. This will come in the form of pothole and guardrail repair. This funding will come from an increased tax rate on the Virginia lottery system, diesel fuel, and on 18 wheeler truck registration forms.

ALBS Bill 30 A BILL to mandate shorter shifts for registered nurses to reduce the risk of medical mistakes from fatigue.

Patron – Washington City

SUMMARY: When working long shifts of 12-13 hours, nurses are more prone to administer incorrect dosages of vital medicines, misread pharmaceutical labels, and generally give patients a lower level of care due to expected fatigue. Under this bill, a maximum shift length of 9 hours would be set for Virginia nurses in order to limit the fatigue and risk for medical error when working strenuous, extended hours. To offset this reduction in hours per shift, the nurses would essentially “stretch out” their hours by working more shifts per week, while at the same time giving them the opportunity for more sleep and allowing them to be more awake and active during their shifts.

Boys State Bills on Regular Calendar

ALBS Bill 31 A BILL to promote the freedom of political association at Boys’ State.

Patron—Patton City

SUMMARY: As a part of an institution that values cooperation and impartiality, and seeks to provide attendees with exposure to realistic governance, the Boys State Legislature has an obligation to ensure that all candidates have an equal opportunity to achieve leadership positions, regardless of party. Therefore, certain amendments should be made to Boys State rules.

Article 1: Independent candidates who reach the existing signature count will be given the opportunity to speak in front their cities for local office along with the candidates from the two major parties, and all citizens for state-wide office.

Article 2: Candidates from any party, including third parties, who reach the minimum membership requirement will be permitted to speak at Boys State Campaign Rallies, along with the candidates from the two major parties.*

Article 3: Third parties can form a coalition with any willing party to form either a majority or minority and elect the associated positions thereof.

Article 4: The Speaker of the House and President pro tempore of the Senate shall be elected on a majority vote of the members of the appropriate chamber of the General Assembly, regardless of party.

**A third party is defined as any association of Boys State citizens cooperating to advance (a) candidate(s) or policy measures, with at least twenty members (as indicated by signatures) in at least three different cities.*

ALBS Bill 32 A BILL to nullify the boy's state rule which requires the free drawstring bag to be a required part of the uniform.

Patron – Maury City

SUMMARY: The free drawstring bags offered by The Virginia National Guard did not fit the needs of the participants of Boys State because of their poor quality. This bill will nullify the drawstring uniform rule, which requires the citizens to use the Virginia National Guard bags. Additionally, it will give Boys State citizens the choice to use drawstring bags brought from home, which are properly labeled with the delegate's required identifying information.

ALBS Bill 33 A BILL to release regulation on Boys State uniform by allowing boys who want to run for office to wear formal clothing when campaigning and speaking with the purpose of emulating real elections in Virginia politics

Patron – MacArthur City

ALBS Bill 34 A BILL to implement new differences and personalization to Boy's State Shirts.

Patron – Burke City

SUMMARY: That the American Legion Boys State insignia on the front of the shirt will be changed to a color code based on city in order to be able to easily identify fellow city members before and after state wide activities in order to reduce confusion.

ALBS Bill 35 A BILL revise the Mandatory Backpack policy at Boy's State.

Patron – Stuart City

SUMMARY: To prevent the confusion associated with having uniform backpacks and the location of lost backpacks, and to give Boy's State Delegates the option of having their own familiar backpacks that better fit their needs, the backpacks provided by the Virginia National Guard will be available upon arrival to Radford University to all citizens of Boy's State, but will be completely optional. Some form of backpack will be mandatory for all citizens, but there will not be a requirement of which kind.

ALBS Bill 36 A BILL to update the packing and supplies procedure for Boys' St

Patron – Nimitz City

SUMMARY: To avoid confusion and promote adequate preparation among delegates attending Boys' State, this bill proposes that Boys' State program provide trash bins for the rooms of the attendees, as well as advise the Boys' State delegates before the start of the program on what supplies to bring, such as soap, which they may not realize are not provided. In addition, to avoid future problems with plumbing, this bill asks the administration to review their choice of toilet paper.

ALBS Bill 37 A BILL to alter the schedule and participation of athletics during the Afternoon Activities of Boys State of Virginia in order to provide freedom of choice to all participants.

Patron – Marshall City

SUMMARY: During the Afternoon Activities portion of a day, the participant can play any sport he desires any day, instead of committing to one sport for the duration of the program, as long as that participant has no other conflicting activities. The participant must tell his Athletic Director and Counselors where he is going during Afternoon Activities and the Athletic Director must keep a concise log of those individuals playing sports.

ALBS Bill 38 A BILL to ensure all meeting rooms have adequate means of entertainment.

Patron – Eisenhower City

SUMMARY: The meeting rooms of each city in the Virginia Boys State program are, at a minimum, required to have one functional television, as well as one table game (foosball, ping-pong, pool, etc.) with all equipment necessary for game play.

ALBS Bill 39 A BILL to provide introduction video to educate new Boys State citizens

Patron – Puller City

SUMMARY: This video will consist of instructional information for new Boys State citizens. It will provide education on the processes that occur at Boys State. This video will consist of information on the elections, dorm situations, and the day to day activities at Boys State. The video would be put on Virginia Boys State website and made available prior to the Boys State program. Previous Boys State reporters will work with the staff to create this video.

ALBS Bill 40 A BILL to move the creation of party platforms to Monday, and hold the nomination of City Party Chairmen at the same time as Sheriff.

Patron – Jackson City

SUMMARY: Party platforms should be created on Monday morning rather than late on Tuesday night in order to assist candidates for Delegate and Senator in their campaigns. As a consequence of this, City Party Chairmen would need to be elected earlier. As the only elections held on Sunday are those for Sheriff, the nomination for City Party Chairman should be held at the same time. Creating party platforms earlier in the week is beneficial because under the current system, candidates run on personal beliefs and experience, because they cannot run on party issues.

ALBS Bill 41 A BILL to award a counselor an award for excellent service named the Rocco's

Patron – Pershing City

SUMMARY: Many of the counselors provide advice and relationships that last a lifetime. Each city will elect a counselor to receive a "key to the state" formally known as a "Rocco."

ALBS Bill 42 A BILL to provide Virginia Boys State participants better gear and equipment for the week.

Patron – Henry City

SUMMARY: The participants of Boys State will be given better quality backpacks, supplied with writing utensils, and campus supply shops will be made more accessible. Newspapers will also be handed out daily by the mail clerk to each participant.

ALBS Bill 43 A BILL to create the Food Waste Reduction Program of 2019

Patron – James City

SUMMARY: This program will be instituted during meal times in order to reduce the amount of food wasted by the citizens of Boys State which will in turn reduce the carbon footprint left by the Boys State. The Boys State staff will have the power to penalize those who they deem to be wasteful in the form of demerit points that will be factored in the Best City Competition.

ALBS Bill 44 A BILL to reorganize the city election process to have the non-mayoral positions be selected by Monday Morning.

Patron – Lee City

SUMMARY: The election process for city positions at Boys State is currently spread throughout multiple days making for inefficient introductory city meetings. The proposed solution is to have all offered city officials/special participants, sub mayor and party positions nominated Sunday afternoon and elected Monday morning. This process is to aid in streamlining city meetings along with establishing the city government structure as soon as possible. This will reduce initial confusion and disarray among Boys' State Citizens and allows the cities to plan/organize campaigns for state office at an earlier time.

ALBS Bill 45 A BILL to augment Boys State city spirit and pride via the introduction of city-specific paraphernalia.

Patron – Washington City

SUMMARY: Each Boys State city would receive specially-designed logos/patches to be worn as part of the Boys State uniform for the duration of the program. The patches would feature the unique aspects of each city's name and history and serve to differentiate the citizens of the various cities while consequently instilling a greater sense of meaning to each city. Each citizen would receive two patches for their respective city and attach the patches to the sleeves of the two Boys State t-shirts they receive upon arrival. The patches would be ironed on to the right sleeve of the shirts to maintain an aspect of uniformity in the Boys State uniforms, while also displaying the individuality that each city represents. Including a physical way to represent each city via each citizen would be essential to raising city spirit and simultaneously heightening the competition for Best City and making the Citizenship Trophy an even more coveted prize.