



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON · DIOCESE OF RICHMOND  
Representing the Virginia Catholic Bishops and their Dioceses in Public Policy Matters

## **VOTE CHARTS 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

At the conclusion of the Virginia General Assembly session each year, the Virginia Catholic Conference publishes a report of votes taken by members of the Senate and House of Delegates on bills of particular interest to the Conference.

During this year's 46-day General Assembly session (January 11 — February 25), the Conference took formal positions on more than 120 bills and budget amendments. The two charts that follow record 10 Senate floor and committee votes and nine House floor and committee votes that were focal points of Catholic advocacy.

*The Virginia Catholic Conference is the public-policy agency representing Virginia's Catholic bishops and their two dioceses. To sign up for Conference email alerts and updates, please visit [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org).*

(These charts have been prepared for Diocese of Arlington residents and therefore include only those General Assembly members whose districts are within that Diocese.)

# Senate

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

NV: Senator did not vote

■: Senator not on Committee

Name of Senator (Party, District)	Floor Votes				Committee Votes					
	Defunding Abortion Industry	Protecting Religious Liberty	Protecting Immigrant Communities	Helping At-Risk Pre-K Students	Ultrasound/ Informed Consent/ Clinic Regs	Sparing Severely Mentally Ill from Death Penalty	Preserving Virginia's Marriage Amendment	Increasing the Scholarship Tax Credit	Driving Privileges for Legally Present Immigrants	Raising the Minimum Wage
Barker, George L. (D-39)	X	X	√	√	X	■	■	X	■	■
Black, Richard H. (R-13)	√	√	X	√	√	■	■	■	■	X
Ebbin, Adam P. (D-30)	X	X	√	√	■	■	X	■	■	■
Favola, Barbara A. (D-31)	X	X	√	√	■	■	■	■	√	■
Hanger, Emmett W., Jr. (R-24)	√	√	X	√	■	■	■	X	■	■
Howell, Janet D. (D-32)	X	X	√	√	X	√	X	X	■	■
Marsden, David W. (D-37)	X	X	√	√	■	■	■	■	√	■
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D-9)	X	X	√	X	■	■	■	■	√	■
McDougle, Ryan T. (R-4)	√	√	X	√	■	X	■	X	■	X
McPike, Jeremy S. (D-29)	X	X	√	√	■	■	■	■	■	■
Norment, Thomas K., Jr. (R-3)	NV	√	X	√	■	X	■	X	■	X
Obenshain, Mark D. (R-26)	√	√	X	√	■	X	■	√	■	X
Peake, Mark J. (R-22)	√	√	X	√	√	X	√	■	X	■
Petersen, J. Chapman (D-34)	X	X	√	√	X	√	■	■	■	■
Reeves, Bryce E. (R-17)	√	√	X	√	■	X	√	■	■	■
Saslaw, Richard L. (D-35)	X	X	√	√	X	■	■	X	■	√
Stuart, Richard H. (R-28)	√	√	X	√	■	X	■	√	■	X
Surovell, Scott A. (D-36)	X	X	√	√	■	■	■	■	■	■

# Senate

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Name of Senator (Party, District)	Floor Votes				Committee Votes					
	Defunding Abortion Industry	Protecting Religious Liberty	Protecting Immigrant Communities	Helping At-Risk Pre-K Students	Ultrasound/ Informed Consent/ Clinic Regs	Sparing Severely Mentally Ill from Death Penalty	Preserving Virginia's Marriage Amendment	Increasing the Scholarship Tax Credit	Driving Privileges for Legally Present Immigrants	Raising the Minimum Wage
Vogel, Jill Holtzman (R-27)	√	√	X	√	■	■	√	√	■	■
Wexton, Jennifer T. (D-33)	X	X	√	√	■	■	■	■	√	■

## Descriptions of Senate Floor Votes

**Defunding Abortion Industry-** Conference-supported legislation passed in the Senate (20-19; see Senate chart) and House (64-34; see House chart) would have diverted public health funds away from Planned Parenthood (and others in the abortion-on-demand business) and toward community health centers that provide primary care. The bill also would have prohibited the state from contracting with or providing grants to the abortion industry. Governor McAuliffe vetoed the bill.

**Protecting Religious Liberty-** Conference-supported legislation that would have protected clergy and religious organizations from being punished by the state for following the teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman passed the Senate (21-19; see Senate chart) and House (57-38; see House chart). Governor McAuliffe vetoed the bill.

**Protecting Immigrant Communities-** Two pieces of Conference-opposed legislation would have forced local governments to use their own resources and personnel to do the job of immigration law enforcement, a federal responsibility. They passed the House (66-34; see House chart) and Senate (21-19; see Senate chart). Governor McAuliffe vetoed the bills.

**Helping At-Risk Pre-K Students-** Thousands of Virginia students receive the financial assistance they need to attend Catholic and other nonpublic K-12 schools through the state Education Improvement Scholarships tax credit program. Conference-supported legislation to expand the program to include economically disadvantaged pre-K students passed the Senate (39-1; see Senate chart) but was defeated in a House committee (10-12; see House chart).

## Descriptions of Senate Committee Votes

**Ultrasound/Informed Consent/Clinic Regs-** Three Conference-opposed bills would, taken together, have eliminated vital health and safety standards at abortion facilities and informed consent requirements that an ultrasound be performed and that the mother be provided the opportunity to see the ultrasound before an abortion. All three bills were defeated in a Senate committee by identical votes (7-8; see Senate chart).

**Sparing Severely Mentally Ill from Death Penalty-** The Conference supported a bill that would have exempted those with severe mental illnesses from receiving the death penalty. It was defeated in a Senate committee (5-9; see Senate chart).

**Preserving Virginia's Marriage Amendment-** A Conference-opposed resolution would have repealed the marriage-protection provision in Virginia's constitution, approved by the Commonwealth's voters in November 2006. The Senate committee voted (8-7; see Senate chart) to keep the definition of marriage as the union of a man and a woman in the state constitution.

**Increasing the Scholarship Tax Credit-** The state Education Improvement Scholarships tax credit is currently 65%. Conference-supported legislation to increase it to 90% failed in a Senate committee (7-9; see Senate chart) and also failed in a House committee (9-12; see House chart).

**Driving Privileges for Legally Present Immigrants-** Conference-supported legislation would have allowed legally present residents of the Commonwealth to access temporary driving privileges. Currently, roughly 6,000 people holding various legal immigration statuses are not allowed to drive in Virginia - one of only nine states to have such a policy. The bill passed the House (70-27; see House chart) but was defeated in a Senate committee (6-7; see Senate chart).

**Raising the Minimum Wage-** A Conference-supported bill to raise the minimum wage failed in a Senate committee (3-11; see Senate chart).

# House of Delegates

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

NV: Delegate did not vote

■: Delegate not on Committee

Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Floor Votes							Committee Votes	
	Defunding Abortion Industry	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Stopping Taxpayer-Funded Contraception	Protecting Religious Liberty	Protecting Immigrant Communities	Driving Privileges for Legally Present Immigrants	Recognizing Harm of Porn	Helping At-Risk Pre-K Students	Increasing the Scholarship Tax Credit
Albo, David B. (R-42)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Anderson, Richard L. (R-51)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Bell, John (D-87)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■
Bell, Rob B. , III (R-58)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	■	■
Boysko, Jennifer B. (D-86)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■
Bulova, David L. (D-37)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■
Cole, Mark L. (R-88)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√
Collins, Chris (R-29)	√	√	√	√	X	√	NV	■	■
Dudenhefer, Mark (R-2)	√	√	√	NV	X	X	√	■	■
Filler-Corn, Eileen (D-41)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X
Fowler, Buddy, Jr. (R-55)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√
Freitas, Nicholas J. (R-30)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√
Gilbert, C. Todd (R-15)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	■	■
Greason, Thomas A. (Tag) (R-32)	√	NV	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Herring, Charniele L. (D-46)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■
Hope, Patrick A. (D-47)	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	■	■
Howell, William J. (R-28)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Hugo, Timothy D. (R-40)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	X	NV
Keam, Mark L. (D-35)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X

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Kory, Kaye (D-38)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X
Krizek, Paul E. (D-44)	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	■	■
LaRock, David A. (R-33)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	■	■
LeMunyon, James M. (R-67)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Levine, Mark H. (D-45)	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	■	■
Lingamfelter, L. Scott (R-31)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	■	■
Lopez, Alfonso H. (D-49)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■
Marshall, Robert G. (Bob) (R-13)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√
Miller, Jackson H. (R-50)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Minchew, J. Randall (R-10)	√	NV	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Murphy, Kathleen J. (D-34)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X
Orrock, Robert D., Sr. (R-54)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	X	√
Peace, Christopher K. (R-97)	√	NV	√	√	X	X	√	■	■
Plum, Kenneth R. (D-36)	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	■	■
Ransone, Margaret B. (R-99)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	■	■
Sickles, Mark D. (D-43)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■
Simon, Marcus B. (D-53)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■
Sullivan, Richard C. (Rip), Jr. (D-48)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X
Torian, Luke E. (D-52)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	■	■

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Watts, Vivian E. (D-39)	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X
Webert, Michael J. (R-18)	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	■	■

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**Defunding Abortion Industry-** Conference-supported legislation passed in the Senate (20-19; see Senate chart) and House (64-34; see House chart) would have diverted public health funds away from Planned Parenthood (and others in the abortion-on-demand business) and toward community health centers that provide primary care. The bill also would have prohibited the state from contracting with or providing grants to the abortion industry. Governor McAuliffe vetoed the bill.

**Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children-** The House adopted (61-34; see House chart) a Conference-supported budget amendment offered by Delegate Bob Marshall to bring Virginia into line with the 32 states that limit taxpayer funding of abortion to the three Hyde Amendment exceptions (life of the mother, rape and incest). Currently, Virginia goes beyond federal Hyde policy by also funding abortions of potentially disabled children. Unfortunately, the amendment was not included in the final budget.

**Stopping Taxpayer-Funded Contraception-** The House removed funding (65-34; see House chart) for a Conference-opposed program proposed by Governor McAuliffe that would have promoted and provided “long-acting reversible contraception,” such as IUDs and skin implants, to Virginia women and teens. The final budget did not include funding for this program.

**Protecting Religious Liberty-** Conference-supported legislation that would have protected clergy and religious organizations from being punished by the state for following the teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman passed the Senate (21-19; see Senate chart) and House (57-38; see House chart). Governor McAuliffe vetoed the bill.

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**Recognizing Harm of Porn-** The House adopted (85-8; see House chart) a Conference-supported resolution to recognize that pornography is an increasingly pervasive problem that leads to individual and societal harms, given the research increasingly showing that pornography uses similar pathways in the brain as drug addictions, is linked to an increase in both violence against women and human trafficking, and has an average age of first exposure of 11. The resolution was left in a Senate committee without a vote.

## Descriptions of House Committee Votes

**Helping At-Risk Pre-K Students-** Thousands of Virginia students receive the financial assistance they need to attend Catholic and other nonpublic K-12 schools through the state Education Improvement Scholarships tax credit program. Conference-supported legislation to expand the program to include economically disadvantaged pre-K students passed the Senate (39-1; see Senate chart) but was defeated in a House committee (10-12; see House chart).

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Dated: March 30, 2017