



VOTE CHARTS – 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

At the conclusion of each year's Virginia General Assembly session, the Virginia Catholic Conference compiles 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 60-day Virginia General Assembly session (January 11 to March 10), the Conference took formal positions on more than 50 bills and budget amendments. The two charts that follow record nine Senate floor and committee votes and nine House floor votes on bills that were focal points of Conference advocacy.

Senate

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

O: Abstention

NV: Senator did not vote

■: Senator not on Committee

Name of Senator (Party, District)	Floor Votes						Committee Votes		
	Informed Consent – Ultrasound	Recognition of Life at Conception	Prohibiting Coerced Abortions	Child-Placing Agency Conscience Rights	Scholarship Tax Credits	Immigrants – Prenatal Care	Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation	Immigration – Probable Cause	Judicial Review of Juvenile Transfer
Barker, George L. (D-39)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Black, Richard H. (R-13)	√	√	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Blevins, Harry B. (R-14)	√	X	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Carrico, Charles W., Sr. (R-40)	√	√	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Colgan, Charles J. (D-29)	√	NV	√	√	X	√	■	■	■
Deeds, R. Creigh (D-25)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Ebbin, Adam P. (D-30)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Edwards, John S. (D-21)	X	X	X	X	X	√	√/√	√	√
Favola, Barbara A. (D-31)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Garrett, Thomas A., Jr. (R-22)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	X
Hanger, Emmett W., Jr. (R-24)	√	√	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Herring, Mark R. (D-33)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Howell, Janet D. (D-32)	X	X	X	X	X	√	√/√	√	√
Locke, Mamie E. (D-2)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Lucas, L. Louise (D-18)	X	X	X	X	X	√	√/√	NV	√
Marsden, David W. (D-37)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Marsh, Henry L., III (D-16)	X	X	X	X	X	√	√/√	√	√

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	Informed Consent – Ultrasound	Recognition of Life at Conception	Prohibiting Coerced Abortions	Child-Placing Agency Conscience Rights	Scholarship Tax Credits	Immigrants – Prenatal Care	Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation	Immigration – Probable Cause	Judicial Review of Juvenile Transfer
Martin, Stephen H. (R-11)	√	√	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
McDougle, Ryan T. (R-4)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	X
McEachin, A. Donald (D-9)	X	X	X	X	X	√	√/√	√	√
McWaters, Jeffrey L. (R-8)	√	√	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Miller, John C. (D-1)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Miller, Yvonne B. (D-5)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Newman, Stephen D. (R-23)	√	√	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Norment, Thomas K., Jr. (R-3)	√	X	√	√	√	√	X/X	√	X
Northam, Ralph S. (D-6)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Obenshain, Mark D. (R-26)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	X
Petersen, J. Chapman (D-34)	X	X	X	X	X	√	■	■	■
Puckett, Phillip P. (D-38)	√	NV	√	√	X	√	■	■	■
Puller, Linda T. “Toddy” (D-36)	X	X	X	X	X	√	√/√	√	√
Reeves, Bryce E. (R-17)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X/√	X	X
Ruff, Frank M., Jr. (R-15)	√	X	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Saslaw, Richard L. (D-35)	X	X	X	X	X	√	√/√	√	√
Smith, Ralph K. (R-19)	√	√	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Stanley, William M., Jr. (R-20)	√	√	√	√	√	√	O/O	X	X

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Stosch, Walter A. (R-12)	√	X	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Stuart, Richard H. (R-28)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	X
Vogel, Jill Holtzman (R-27)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	X
Wagner, Frank W. (R-7)	√	X	√	√	√	√	■	■	■
Watkins, John (R-10)	X	X	√	√	√	√	■	■	■

Descriptions of Senate Floor Votes

Informed Consent – Ultrasound: The House (62-35; see House chart) and Senate (21-19; see Senate chart) passed a Conference-supported bill requiring that, prior to an abortion: (1) a transabdominal ultrasound be conducted, (2) other ultrasound imaging be offered (but which the pregnant woman may refuse) if the unborn child’s gestational age cannot be determined by a transabdominal ultrasound, and (3) the pregnant woman be given an opportunity to view the ultrasound image, to receive a printed copy of the image, and to hear the fetal heart tones. Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1.

Recognition of Life at Conception: A Conference-endorsed bill – modeled after a provision that has been in Missouri’s statutory law for over 25 years – sought to provide explicit recognition in Virginia law of the intrinsic value and dignity of unborn life. The measure passed the House (66-32; see House chart), was approved 8-7 by the Senate Education and Health Committee, but then failed on the Senate floor (24-14; see Senate chart) when a majority voted to recommit the bill to committee. Had the bill been enacted, it would not have changed any current abortion laws, but one of its practical effects would have been to create a wrongful death cause of action for the death of an unborn child in certain situations (*e.g.*, in instances of domestic violence).

Prohibiting Coerced Abortions: A Conference-supported bill sought to provide that anyone who forces or coerces a pregnant woman to have an abortion against her will would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. It also sought to create a private right of action – for the woman herself and for the wrongful death of her unborn child – against the person who coerced her to have an abortion. The measure passed the Senate (22-18; see Senate chart), but it then stalled when a House subcommittee tabled it for the year.

Child-Placing Agency Conscience Rights: The House (71-28; see House chart) and Senate (22-18; see Senate chart) passed Conference-backed legislation codifying explicit conscience protections for private adoption and foster-care agencies. The measure provides that private child-placing agencies cannot be forced to participate in placements that violate their beliefs; it further provides that those agencies cannot be denied licenses, denied state funding, or sued for not participating in such placements. Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1.

Scholarship Tax Credits: Enacted, Conference-endorsed legislation establishes a tax credit for K-12 scholarship donations by individuals and businesses. The scholarships from tax-credit-derived funds will enable lower-income students, and low-to-moderate-income students with disabilities, to attend nonpublic schools. The initiative passed the House (54-37; see House chart) and the Senate (20-20; see Senate chart), with Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling casting the deciding vote in favor of the bill in his role as Senate President. Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1.

Immigrants – Prenatal Care: Conference-supported legislation sought to ensure that legal immigrants have better access to health care through Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS), the state program which provides insurance for low-income women and children who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. Specifically, the bills provide Medicaid and FAMIS Plan access for Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) pregnant women and children within the first five years of residency. The legislation passed the House (99-0; see House Chart) and Senate (40-0; see Senate Chart). Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1. In addition, the General Assembly also included funding for this care in its final budget.

Descriptions of Senate Committee Votes

Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation: Currently, with few exceptions, only the actual perpetrator of a capital murder (the “triggerman”) is eligible for the death penalty. Conference-opposed legislation in the Senate and House threatened to eliminate this “triggerman rule” so that accomplices could be sentenced to death under a much broader range of circumstances. However, both measures failed to pass: The Senate bill failed in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee (7-7-1; see Senate Chart); the House bill passed the House (72-28; see House Chart) but also failed to pass the Senate Courts of Justice Committee (8-6-1; see Senate chart).

Immigration – Probable Cause: A number of bills which attempted to address immigration enforcement at the state level were introduced during the 2012 session. Of particular concern to the Conference was a bill which would have required a police officer to inquire about the immigration status of an arrested individual before that individual went before a magistrate. (Virginia is one of two states which already checks the immigration status of all persons arrested and taken into custody and those convicted of crimes upon admission to a jail or prison.) The Conference-opposed bill passed the House (75-25; see House chart) but failed in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee (7-7; see Senate chart).

Judicial Review of Juvenile Transfer: This Conference-supported legislation would have allowed – under certain circumstances – for a juvenile defendant of a violent felony to appeal a Commonwealth Attorney’s decision to transfer the case to the circuit court for trial as an adult. The bill failed in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee (8-7; see Senate chart).

House of Delegates

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Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Informed Consent – Ultrasound	Recognition of Life at Conception	Banning State Abortion Funding	Ethical Research Standards	Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation	Child-Placing Agency Conscience Rights	Scholarship Tax Credits	Immigrants – Prenatal Care	Immigration – Probable Cause
Albo, David B. (R-42)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Alexander, Kenneth C. (D-89)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	X
Anderson, Richard L. (R-51)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
BaCote, Mamy E. (D-95)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Bell, Richard P. (R-20)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Bell, Robert B. (R-58)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Brink, Robert H. (D-48)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Bulova, David L. (D-37)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√
Byron, Kathy J. (R-22)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Carr, Betsy B. (D-69)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Cline, Benjamin L. (R-24)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Cole, Mark L. (R-88)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Comstock, Barbara J. (R-34)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Cosgrove, John A. (R-78)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Cox, John A. (R-55)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Cox, M. Kirkland (R-66)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Crockett-Stark, Anne B. (R-6)	√	√	√	NV	X	√	X	√	X
Dance, Rosalyn R. (D-63)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X
Dudenefer, L. Mark (R-2)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Edmunds, James E., II (R-60)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X

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Englin, David L. (D-45)	X	X	X	X	√	X	NV	√	√
Fariss, C. Matthew (R-59)	√	√	√	NV	X	√	√	√	X
Farrell, Peter F. (R-56)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Filler-Corn, Eileen (D-41)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Garrett, T. Scott (R-23)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Gilbert, C. Todd (R-15)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Greason, Thomas A. (R-32)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Habeeb, Gregory D. (R-8)	√	√	√	NV	X	√	√	√	X
Head, Christopher T. (R-17)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Hesel, Gordon C., Jr. (R-91)	√	√	X	√	X	√	√	√	X
Herring, Charniele L. (D-46)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Hodges, M. Keith (R-98)	X	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Hope, Patrick A. (D-47)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Howell, Algie T., Jr. (D-90)	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X
Howell, William J. (R-28)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Hugo, Timothy D. (R-40)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Iaquinto, Salvatore R. (R-84)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Ingram, Riley E. (R-62)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
James, Matthew (D-80)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Joannou, Johnny S. (D-79)	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	√	X

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Johnson, Joseph P., Jr. (D-4)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Jones, S. Chris (R-76)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Keam, Mark L. (D-35)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√
Kilgore, Terry G. (R-1)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Knight, Barry D. (R-81)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Kory, Kaye (D-38)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Landes, R. Steven (R-25)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
LeMunyon, James M. (R-67)	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	X
Lewis, Lynwood W., Jr. (D-100)	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	√	X
Lingamfelter, L. Scott (R-31)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Lopez, Alfonso H. (D-49)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Loupassi, G. M. (Manoli) (R-68)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Marshall, Daniel W., III (R-14)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Marshall, Robert G. (R-13)	NV	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Massie, James P. (Jimmie), III (R-72)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
May, Joe T. (R-33)	X	X	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D-71)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
McQuinn, Delores L. (D-70)	X	X	X	NV	√	X	X	√	√
Merricks, Donald W. (R-16)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Miller, Jackson H. (R-50)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X

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Minchew, J. Randall (R-10)	NV	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Morefield, James W. (R-3)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Morris, Richard L. (R-64)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Morrissey, Joseph D. (D-74)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
O'Bannon, John M., III (R-73)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
O'Quinn, Israel D. (R-5)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Orrock, Robert D., Sr. (R-54)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Peace, Christopher K. (R-97)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Plum, Kenneth R. (D-36)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Pogge, Brenda L. (R-96)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Poindexter, Charles D. (R-9)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Purkey, Harry R. (R-82)	NV	NV	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Putney, Lacey E. (I-19)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Ramandan, David I. (R-87)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Ransone, Margaret B. (R-99)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Robinson, Roxann L. (R-27)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Rush, L. Nick (R-7)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Rust, Thomas Davis (R-86)	X	X	X	√	X	√	X	√	X
Scott, Edward T. (R-30)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Scott, James M. (D-53)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	X

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Sherwood, Beverly J. (R-29)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Sickles, Mark D. (D-43)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Spruill, Lionell, Sr. (D-77)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Stolle, Christopher P. (R-83)	√	√	X	X	X	√	√	√	X
Surovell, Scott A. (D-44)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Tata, Robert (R-85)	X	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	X
Torian, Luke E. (D-52)	X	NV	NV	X	√	X	X	√	√
Toscano, David J. (D-57)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Tyler, Roslyn C. (D-75)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Villanueva, Ronald A. (R-21)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Ward, Jeion A. (D-92)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Ware, Onzlee (D-11)	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Ware, R. Lee, Jr. (R-65)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Watson, Michael B. (R-93)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Watts, Vivian E. (D-39)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√
Webert, Michael J. (R-18)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Wilt, Tony O. (R-26)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Wright, Thomas C., Jr. (R-61)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Yancey, David E. (R-94)	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Yost, Joseph R. (R-12)	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X

Descriptions of House Floor Votes

Informed Consent – Ultrasound: The House (61-35; see House chart) and Senate (21-19; see Senate chart) passed a Conference-supported bill requiring that, prior to an abortion: (1) a transabdominal ultrasound be conducted, (2) other ultrasound imaging be offered (but which the pregnant woman may refuse) if the unborn child’s gestational age cannot be determined by a transabdominal ultrasound, and (3) the pregnant woman be given an opportunity to view the ultrasound image, to receive a printed copy of the image, and to hear the fetal heart tones. Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1.

Recognition of Life at Conception: A Conference-endorsed bill – modeled after a provision that has been in Missouri’s statutory law for over 25 years – sought to provide explicit recognition in Virginia law of the intrinsic value and dignity of unborn life. The measure passed the House (66-32; see House chart), was approved 8-7 by the Senate Education and Health Committee, but then failed on the Senate floor (24-14; see Senate chart) when a majority voted to recommit the bill to committee. Had the bill been enacted, it would not have changed any current abortion laws, but one of its practical effects would have been to create a wrongful death cause of action for the death of an unborn child in certain situations (*e.g.*, in instances of domestic violence).

Banning State Abortion Funding: Conference-supported legislation would have repealed the state law that currently authorizes Virginia to fund non-federally-funded abortions for women who qualify for Medicaid. Passage of the bill would have conformed the Commonwealth’s policy to the federal “Hyde” restrictions on abortion funding. The bill passed the House (64-35; see House chart) and was then approved 8-7 by the Senate Education and Health Committee. That committee, however, added an amendment that created uncertainty about the bill’s fiscal impact, and the measure was therefore referred to the Senate Finance Committee, where it failed 9-6. [Note: Under the Medicaid program, the federal government funds abortions when the life of the eligible woman is at risk and in cases of rape and incest, and in no other cases. This restriction on federal funding of abortion (in place since 1976) is called the Hyde policy. States are permitted, but not required, to spend their own funds (with no federal match) for abortions that fall outside these three categories. By funding abortions in cases of the fetus’ “physical deformity” or “mental deficiency,” Virginia is among the minority of states that fund abortions beyond the Hyde policy circumstances. The Conference opposes all government funding of abortion.]

Ethical Research Standards: A Conference-supported budget amendment to prohibit state funding of research that requires a human embryo to be destroyed or a human fetus to be aborted was approved on the House floor (65-31; see House chart). The amendment, however, was not included in the budget the House and Senate eventually approved on April 18.

Preserving Triggerman Death Penalty Limitation: Currently, with few exceptions, only the actual perpetrator of a capital murder (the “triggerman”) is eligible for the death penalty. Conference-opposed legislation in the Senate and House threatened to eliminate this “triggerman rule” so that accomplices could be sentenced to death under a much broader range of circumstances. However, both measures failed to pass: The Senate bill failed in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee (7-7-1; see Senate Chart); the House bill passed the House (72-28; see House Chart) but also failed to pass the Senate Courts of Justice Committee (8-6-1; see Senate chart).

Child-Placing Agency Conscience Rights: The House (71-28; see House chart) and Senate (22-18; see Senate chart) passed Conference-backed legislation codifying explicit conscience protections for private adoption and foster-care agencies. The measure provides that private child-placing agencies cannot be forced to participate in placements that violate their beliefs; it further provides that those agencies cannot be denied licenses, denied state funding, or sued for not participating in such placements. Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1.

Scholarship Tax Credits: Enacted, Conference-endorsed legislation establishes a tax credit for K-12 scholarship donations by individuals and businesses. The scholarships from tax-credit-derived funds will enable lower-income students, and low-to-moderate-income students with disabilities, to attend nonpublic schools. The initiative passed the House (59-40; see House chart) and the Senate (20-20; see Senate chart), with Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling casting the deciding vote in favor of the bill in his role as Senate President. Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1.

Immigrants – Prenatal Care: Conference-supported legislation sought to ensure that legal immigrants have better access to health care through Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS), the state program which provides insurance for low-income women and children who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. Specifically, the bills provide Medicaid and FAMIS Plan access for Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) pregnant women and children within the first five years of residency. The legislation passed the House (99-0; see House Chart) and Senate (40-0; see Senate Chart). Governor McDonnell signed the legislation, which will become law on July 1. In addition, the General Assembly also included funding for this care in its final budget.

Immigration – Probable Cause: A number of bills which attempted to address immigration enforcement at the state level were introduced during the 2012 session. Of particular concern to the Conference was a bill which would have required a police officer to inquire about the immigration status of an arrested individual before that individual went before a magistrate. (Virginia is one of two states which already checks the immigration status of all persons arrested and taken into custody and those convicted of crimes upon admission to a jail or prison.) The Conference-opposed bill passed the House (75-25; see House chart) but failed in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee (7-7; see Senate chart).