



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

2022 General Assembly session: fewer bills passed, greater progress made

During the 2022 General Assembly session (Jan. 12 – March 12), fewer bills crossed the finish line than in recent years. From the standpoint of VCC advocacy, however, a greater number of issues had favorable results. And even on many of the issues that did not end favorably, progress was made. The VCC priorities described below and included in the accompanying charts are featured because they were the subjects of key contested votes. The VCC also worked on many other important issues that could not be included due to space limits.

Which issues had favorable results?

Opposing Assisted Suicide: For the third time in four years, legislation was introduced that would have legalized assisted suicide. This VCC-opposed bill was defeated in a Senate committee in a tie vote. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Opposing Assisted Suicide” in Senate chart.)

Preserving Death Penalty Repeal: Legislation enacted last year repealed Virginia’s death penalty. A bill proposed this year would have brought back the death penalty for the killing of a law-enforcement officer. The bill was defeated in a Senate committee. VCC advocacy against the measure affirmed our respect and honor for law enforcement as well as our continued support of last year’s repeal of the death penalty. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Preserving Death Penalty Repeal” in Senate chart.)

Protecting Marriage: Virginia’s constitution defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman – a definition approved by Virginia voters in November 2006. A VCC-opposed resolution to remove this provision from Virginia’s constitution, and to replace it with language to “recognize marriages ... regardless of the sex or gender of the parties to the marriage”, passed the Senate but was defeated in a House subcommittee. Because the resolution was defeated, it will not appear on the ballot in November 2022. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Protecting Marriage” in charts.)

Opposing Marijuana Commercialization: Although Virginia enacted legislation last year to legalize marijuana possession and home cultivation, a VCC-opposed bill introduced this year to allow the sale of marijuana – including high-potency THC – in “pot shops” was not enacted. Though the commercialization bill did pass the Senate, a House committee voted not to advance it this year. Hence, sales remain illegal. The VCC opposes commercialization because of the severe risks to children, health and public safety. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Opposing Marijuana Commercialization” in charts.)

Regulating Explicit Content: Parents with children in public school often do not know what their kids are being taught. VCC-supported legislation that passed the Senate and House, and was signed by Gov. Youngkin, requires parental notification before sexually explicit content is presented. The legislation also permits parental review of such “instructional materials” and provides non-explicit alternatives to any student upon parental request. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Regulating Explicit Content” in charts.)

Which issues did not have favorable final results?

Protecting Pain-Capable Unborn: Unborn children can experience pain at or before 20 weeks. VCC-supported legislation to prohibit most abortions 20 weeks after fertilization, and thereby protect pain-capable unborn children, was defeated in a Senate committee. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Protecting Pain Capable Unborn” in Senate chart.)

Protecting Abortion Survivors: Babies sometimes survive abortion attempts. The Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would have ensured they receive the same life-saving care that any other premature baby would receive. This VCC-supported bill passed the House but was defeated in a Senate committee after a series of unusual actions. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Protecting Abortion Survivors” in House chart, as well as report on “Senate Rules Committee Votes”.)

Strengthening Informed Consent: In the 2020 session, many pro-life protections were dismantled, including Virginia’s “Women’s Right to Know” law which provided women crucial information before an abortion. A VCC-supported bill that would have restored some of this law, including requiring women to be given information about pregnancy support programs in Virginia, passed the House but was defeated in a Senate committee. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Strengthening Informed Consent” in charts.)

Religious Liberty: Legislation enacted in 2020 added “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as protected categories in many areas of state law. A VCC-supported bill to add religious liberty protections to this law – and thus safeguard the right of religious organizations and ministries to practice their beliefs about marriage and human sexuality – passed the House but was defeated in a Senate committee. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Religious Liberty” in charts.)

Requiring Parental Consent for FLE: The VCC supported a bill that would have required parental consent to enroll children in public school Family Life Education programs (offered in some schools). This legislation passed the House but was defeated in a Senate committee. Currently, parents only have the ability to opt out their children. The opt-out process can be burdensome, socially awkward for the child and ineffective. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Requiring Parental Consent for FLE” in charts.)

Parental Consent – Health Communications: VCC-supported legislation prohibiting state and local health officials from initiating communication with minors about sex-related topics without parental consent passed the House but was defeated in a Senate committee after a series of unusual actions. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Parental Consent – Health Communications” in House chart, as well as report on “Senate Rules Committee Votes”.)

Restoring Voting Rights: A VCC-supported resolution to restore voting rights for persons convicted of a felony once they have completed their sentences passed the Senate but was defeated in a House subcommittee. Because the resolution was defeated, it will not appear on the ballot in November 2022. (To see how your legislators voted, see “Restoring Voting Rights” in charts.)

How legislators voted in the 2022 General Assembly session

Senate Votes

√: Vote agreed with VCC position

X: Vote disagreed with VCC position

■: No opportunity to vote because not on committee

A: Abstained

NV: Recorded as not voting

Name of Senator (Party, District)	Protecting Pain Capable Unborn	Strengthening Informed Consent	Opposing Assisted Suicide	Preserving Death Penalty Repeal	Protecting Marriage	Religious Liberty	Opposing Marijuana Commercialization	Requiring Parental Consent for FLE	Regulating Explicit Content	Restoring Voting Rights
Barker, George L. (D-39)	X	X	X	■	X	X	X	X	X	√
Bell, John J. (D-13)	■	■	■	■	X	X	X	■	X	√
Boysko, Jennifer B. (D-33)	■	■	■	√	X	X	X	■	X	√
Chase, Amanda F. (R-11)	■	■	■	■	√	■	√	■	√	X
Cosgrove, John A., Jr. (R-14)	√	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	X
Deeds, R. Creigh (D-25)	■	■	■	√	X	■	X	■	X	√
DeSteph, Bill (R-8)	■	■	■	■	√	■	√	■	√	X
Dunnavant, Siobhan S. (R-12)	√	X	√	■	X	√	X	X	√	√
Ebbin, Adam P. (D-30)	■	■	■	■	X	X	X	■	X	√
Edwards, John S. (D-21)	X	X	√	√	X	■	X	X	X	√
Favola, Barbara A. (D-31)	■	■	■	■	X	■	X	■	X	√
Hackworth, T. Travis (R-38)	■	■	■	■	√	■	√	■	√	X
Hanger, Emmett W., Jr. (R-24)	■	■	■	■	√	■	√	■	√	√
Hashmi, Ghazala F. (D-10)	X	X	X	■	X	X	X	X	X	√
Howell, Janet D. (D-32)	X	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	X	√
Kiggans, Jen A. (R-7)	■	■	■	■	X	√	√	■	√	X

Senate Votes

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Name of Senator (Party, District)	Protecting Pain Capable Unborn	Strengthening Informed Consent	Opposing Assisted Suicide	Preserving Death Penalty Repeal	Protecting Marriage	Religious Liberty	Opposing Marijuana Commercialization	Requiring Parental Consent for FLE	Regulating Explicit Content	Restoring Voting Rights
Lewis, Lynwood W., Jr. (D-6)	X	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	√	√
Locke, Mamie E. (D-2)	X	X	X	■	X	X	X	X	X	√
Lucas, L. Louise (D-18)	X	X	X	√	X	■	X	X	X	√
Marsden, David W. (D-37)	■	■	■	■	X	■	X	■	X	√
Mason, T. Montgomery "Monty" (D-1)	■	■	■	■	X	X	X	■	√	√
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D-9)	■	■	■	√	X	■	X	■	X	√
McDougle, Ryan T. (R-4)	■	■	■	X	√	■	√	■	√	X
McPike, Jeremy S. (D-29)	■	■	■	■	X	X	X	■	NV	√
Morrissey, Joseph D. (D-16)	■	■	■	√	X	■	X	■	X	√
Newman, Stephen D. (R-23)	√	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	X
Norment, Thomas K., Jr. (R-3)	■	■	■	X	X	■	√	■	√	X
Obenshain, Mark D. (R-26)	■	■	■	X	√	■	√	■	NV	X
Peake, Mark J. (R-22)	√	√	√	X	√	■	√	√	√	X
Petersen, J. Chapman (D-34)	X	X	A	√	X	■	NV	X	X	√
Pillion, Todd E. (R-40)	√	√	√	■	√	√	√	X	√	X
Reeves, Bryce E. (R-17)	■	■	■	■	√	√	√	■	√	X
Ruff, Frank M., Jr. (R-15)	■	■	■	■	√	√	√	■	√	X
Saslaw, Richard L. (D-35)	X	X	X	√	X	■	X	X	X	√

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Spruill, Lionell, Sr. (D-5)	■	■	■	■	X	■	X	■	X	✓
Stanley, William M., Jr. (R-20)	■	■	■	X	✓	■	✓	■	✓	X
Stuart, Richard H. (R-28)	■	■	■	X	✓	✓	✓	■	✓	X
Suetterlein, David R. (R-19)	✓	✓	✓	■	NV	■	✓	X	✓	X
Surovell, Scott A. (D-36)	■	■	■	✓	X	■	X	■	X	✓
Vogel, Jill Holtzman (R-27)	■	■	■	■	X	✓	X	■	✓	✓

House of Delegates Votes

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Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Protecting Abortion Survivors	Strengthening Informed Consent	Protecting Marriage	Religious Liberty	Opposing Marijuana Commercialization	Requiring Parental Consent for FLE	Regulating Explicit Content	Parental Consent – Health Communications	Restoring Voting Rights
Adams, Dawn M. (D-68)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
Adams, Leslie R. "Les" (R-16)	√	√	√	√	▪	√	√	√	X
Anderson, Timothy V. (R-83)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Austin, Terry L. (R-19)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Avoli, G. John (R-20)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Bagby, Lamont (D-74)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Ballard, Jason S. (R-12)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Batten, Amanda E. (R-96)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Bell, Robert B. (R-58)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Bennett-Parker, Elizabeth B. (D-45)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Bloxom, Robert S., Jr. (R-100)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Bourne, Jeffrey M. (D-71)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Brewer, Emily M. (R-64)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Bulova, David L. (D-37)	X	X	▪	X	X	X	NV	X	▪
Byron, Kathy J. (R-22)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Campbell, Jeffrey L. (R-6)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Campbell, Ronnie R. (R-24)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Carr, Betsy B. (D-69)	X	X	▪	X	X	X	X	X	▪

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Cherry, Mike A. (R-66)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Clark, Nadarius E. (D-79)	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	X	■
Convirs-Fowler, Kelly K. (D-21)	X	X	■	√	■	X	NV	X	■
Cordoza, A.C. (R-91)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Coyner, Carrie E. (R-62)	√	√	■	√	√	X	√	√	■
Davis, Glenn R., Jr. (R-84)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Delaney, Karrie K. (D-67)	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	X	■
Durant, Tara A. (R-28)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Edmunds, James E., II (R-60)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Fariss, C. Matthew (R-59)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Filler-Corn, Eileen (D-41)	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	X	■
Fowler, Hyland F. "Buddy", Jr. (R-55)	√	√	■	√	√	√	√	√	■
Freitas, Nicholas J. "Nick" (R-30)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Gilbert, C. Todd (R-15)	√	√	■	√	■	√	√	√	■
Glass, Jackie Hope (D-89)	X	X	X	X	■	X	X	X	√
Gooditis, Gwendolyn W. "Wendy" (D-10)	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	X	■
Greenhalgh, Karen S. (R-85)	√	√	√	√	■	√	√	√	X
Guzman, Elizabeth R. (D-31)	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	X	■
Hayes, C. E. "Cliff", Jr. (D-77)	X	X	■	X	■	X	X	X	■

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Head, Christopher T. (R-17)	√	√	√	√	▪	√	√	√	X
Helmer, Daniel I. (D-40)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Herring, Charniele L. (D-46)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Hodges, M. Keith (R-98)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Hope, Patrick A. (D-47)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Hudson, Sally L. (D-57)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Jenkins, Clinton L. (D-76)	X	X	▪	√	X	X	X	X	▪
Keam, Mark L. (D-35)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Kilgore, Terry G. (R-1)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Knight, Barry D. (R-81)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Kory, Kaye (D-38)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Krizek, Paul E. (D-44)	X	X	▪	X	X	X	X	X	▪
LaRock, David A. (R-33)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Leftwich, James A. "Jay", Jr. (R-78)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Lopez, Alfonso H. (D-49)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Maldonado, Michelle Lopes (D-50)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
March, Marie E. (R-7)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Marshall, Daniel W., III (R-14)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
McGuire, John J., III (R-56)	√	√	√	√	▪	√	√	√	X

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McNamara, Joseph P. (R-8)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
McQuinn, Delores L. (D-70)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Morefield, James W. "Will" (R-3)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Mullin, Michael P. (D-93)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Mundon King, Candi (D-2)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Murphy, Kathleen J. (D-34)	X	X	▪	X	X	X	X	X	▪
O'Quinn, Israel D. (R-5)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Orrock, Robert D., Sr. (R-54)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Plum, Kenneth R. (D-36)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Price, Marcia S. "Cia" (D-95)	X	X	▪	X	X	X	X	X	▪
Ransone, Margaret B. (R-99)	√	√	√	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Rasoul, Sam (D-11)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Reid, David A. (D-32)	X	X	X	X	▪	X	X	X	√
Robinson, Roxann L. (R-27)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Roem, Danica A. (D-13)	X	X	▪	X	X	X	X	X	▪
Runion, Chris (R-25)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Scott, Don L., Jr. (D-80)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Scott, Phillip A. (R-88)	√	√	√	√	▪	√	√	√	X
Sewell, Briana D. (D-51)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪

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Shin, Irene (D-86)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Sickles, Mark D. (D-43)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Simon, Marcus B. (D-53)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Simonds, Shelly A. (D-94)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Subramanyam, Suhas (D-87)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Sullivan, Richard C. "Rip", Jr. (D-48)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Tata, Anne Ferrell H. (R-82)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Taylor, Kimberly A. (R-63)	√	√	▪	√	▪	NV	√	√	▪
Torian, Luke E. (D-52)	X	X	▪	X	X	X	X	X	▪
Tran, Kathy K. L. (D-42)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
VanValkenburg, Schuyler T. (D-72)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
Wachsmann, Howard Otto, Jr. (R-75)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Walker, Wendell S. (R-23)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Wampler, William C., III (R-4)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Ward, Jeion A. (D-92)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Ware, R. Lee (R-65)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Watts, Vivian E. (D-39)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Webert, Michael J. (R-18)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Wiley, William D. "Bill" (R-29)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪

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Willett, Rodney T. (D-73)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Williams, Wren M. (R-9)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Williams Graves, Angelia (D-90)	X	X	▪	X	▪	X	X	X	▪
Wilt, Tony O. (R-26)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪
Wright, Thomas C., Jr. (R-61)	√	√	▪	√	√	√	√	√	▪
Wyatt, Scott A. (R-97)	√	√	▪	√	▪	√	√	√	▪

Senate Rules Committee Votes

Report on “Unusual Actions” and Senate Rules Committee Votes

Protecting Abortion Survivors: As reported earlier, the House-passed Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act was defeated in a Senate committee after a series of unusual actions. When the bill reached the Senate, it was referred to the Senate Education and Health Committee, which was appropriate for the subject matter. On Feb. 25, a Senate Education and Health subcommittee voted 5-3 to recommend that the full committee refer the bill to the Judiciary committee – slightly out of the ordinary. However, the full committee, at its last meeting of the year on March 3, disregarded the bill entirely – more than slightly out of the ordinary. It simply disappeared from the committee’s docket. Pocketing a bill goes against the Senate tradition of giving every bill a hearing, so Senate leaders who supported the legislation raised an objection on the Senate floor later that day. In a highly unusual move, opponents of the bill then re-referred it to the Rules committee. On March 4, the Rules committee defeated the bill 11-4. That vote is highlighted below.

The following committee members voted FOR the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act:

Petersen (D-34); Norment (R-3); McDougale (R-4); Newman (R-23).

The following committee members voted AGAINST the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act:

Locke (D-2); Saslaw (D-35); Howell (D-32); Lucas (D-18); Edwards (D-21); Deeds (D-25); Marsden (D-37); Barker (D-39); Favola (D-31); Ebbin (D-30); McPike (D-29).

Parental Consent – Health Communications: House-passed legislation prohibiting state and local health officials from initiating communication with minors about sex-related topics without parental consent also took an unusual path in the Senate. It too was defeated on March 4 in the Senate Rules committee. The 12-4 vote is highlighted below.

The following committee members voted FOR the parental consent bill:

Lewis (D-6); Norment (R-3); McDougale (R-4); Newman (R-23).

The following committee members voted AGAINST the parental consent bill:

Locke (D-2); Saslaw (D-35); Howell (D-32); Lucas (D-18); Edwards (D-21); Deeds (D-25); Marsden (D-37); Petersen (D-34); Barker D-39; Favola D-31); Ebbin (D-30); McPike (D-29).

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*The Virginia Catholic Conference is the public policy agency representing Virginia’s Catholic bishops and their two dioceses.
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