



# Tips for the General Assembly

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Delegate Israel O'Quinn

# Virginia General Assembly 101

- 400 Years of Self Governance
  - 1619-2019
- Divided into the Senate and House of Delegates – 140 Members
  - Senate – 40 Members that each represent roughly 200,000 people
  - House – 100 Members that each represent roughly 80,000 people
- Biggest fights are typically regional, not partisan
- Constitutionally obligated to balance the budget

# Legislative Process 101

- Process is done in 45 days in the odd years and 60 days in the even years
  - 2019 Session was 45 days
    - Jan 9 – Feb 23
  - 2020 Session will be 60 days
    - Jan 8 – March 7

House	Senate
Subcommittee	Subcommittee
Committee	Committee
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading	3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading
CROSSOVER	
Subcommittee	Subcommittee
Committee	Committee
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading	3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading
Conference (If Needed)	Conference (If Needed)
Governor	Governor



# Connecting with Legislators

- Legislators are People
  - Become a friendly advisor
- Befriend your Legislator before you need your Legislator
  - If they know you and know that you can work with them, they will more easily work with you

# Connecting with Legislators

- Legislators are Part-Time Positions
  - Most have full-time jobs in addition to this role
- Legislators can only be an expert on so many things
  - Having constituents with knowledge on other subjects is helpful
  - You may have to “dumb it down” for non-experts
- Legislative Assistants (LA's)
  - Gatekeepers
  - Can be a huge asset to you



# Before Session (Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan)

- Before Session, most bills are written and worked out
  - If you have an idea, reach out to your legislator during this time
    - The earlier, the better
    - Often, legislators have more time to discuss the issues during this time

# During Session (Jan – Feb or Mar)

- During this time, schedules are incredibly fast paced
  - Work days for legislators can go from 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM with dozens of meetings
  - When meeting with a legislator during session, be succinct and pleasant
    - Have a one page info sheet
- After the first full week of session, no new legislation can be introduced
  - Get your ideas in before session, or the very first week
- Promoting your Bill
  - Get Strategic Co-Patrons on your bills
  - Get lobbyist/organizational support

# During Session – Committee Testimony

- If a bill that you are concerned about is before a committee, you can testify on it.
  - In VA, any citizen can speak on a bill at committee.
  - This is the only chance to speak to members (other than individual emails/calls/letters/etc.)
- Committees move very fast
  - Bills heard in a certain meeting will be announced the day before at the earliest



# Tracking Bills

- VirginiaGeneralAssembly.gov has many great resources
  - Live Feed
    - House and Senate Chambers
    - House and Senate Committees
  - Bill Tracker
    - Search by bill number
    - Click on Member Listings to search member's bill lists
- Virginia's Legislative Information System (LIS.Virginia.Gov) allows for searches by subject, members, and bill numbers

Welcome to the Virginia General Assembly

Instant Access to your General Assembly.

You can now access our most requested information quickly, all in one place.

Track a 2019 Session Bill

Enter a Bill Number:

Examples: hb1, sj2, hr\* Bill Text Search | Session Tracking | Legislative Information System

Chambers' Status

House of Delegates: House adjourned at 1:33 p.m. to meet Monday, November 18, 2019, at 12 m. (7/9/19)

Senate of Virginia: The Senate adjourned at 8:47 p.m., sine die. (4/4/19)

Member Listings

House Member Listings

Senate Member Listings

Today's Events

See the full 2019 LIS meeting schedule and the House of Delegates Meeting Schedule.

Live Session Video

House of Delegates Chamber Video

House of Delegates Committee Video

Senate of Virginia Streaming

Who's My Legislator? Service

Need to contact your legislators? The Who's My Legislator? service is an online tool where the public at-large can determine what legislators represent them. Users can enter their home address or use map based navigation to see their Virginia House and Senate representatives, as well as those in the U.S.

District maps are available from the service.

Meeting Schedule

January	July
February	August
March	September
April	October
May	November
June	

Close Bill Tracking, Meetings, Who's My Legislator?

Enter a Bill Number:  Ex. HB 111

2019 Regular Session Tracking:

Bills & Resolutions

Virginia General Assembly LIS Home LIS Help Privacy Statement Live Help

# LIS

VIRGINIA'S LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM

SEARCH SITE

enter keyword here

QUICK LINKS

OTHER SESSIONS

**LOBBYIST in a BOX**  
Free bill tracking service

**2019 SPECIAL SESSION I**  
Convenes July 9, 2019

**Bills & Resolutions:** Status of individual bills and related information

**General Assembly Members:** Member sponsored legislation

**Standing Committees:** Legislation referred to committee

**Daily Floor Calendars:** Legislative agendas

**Communications:** Legislation communicated between houses

**House Minutes / Senate Minutes:** Record of floor sessions

**Meetings:** House and Senate committee meeting schedule

**Statistics:** Session statistics

**Lobbyist-in-a-Box:** Subscription-based bill tracking service

**Cumulative Index:** Subject index of bills and resolutions

**VIRGINIA LAW PORTAL**

Code of Virginia

Virginia Administrative Code

# Tracking an Individual Bill

- LIS has Detailed Info on Actions on Legislation
  - Sessions > Members > Israel O'Quinn > Chief Patron
  - Make sure to read the most current version

The screenshot shows the Virginia Legislative Information System (LIS) website. The page is titled "2019 SESSION" and displays information for "HB 2691 Electric utilities; provision of broadband services to unserved areas." The page includes a search bar, quick links, and a sidebar with various navigation options. The main content area shows the bill's title, introduction by Israel D. O'Quinn, and a summary of the bill's purpose. The "FULL TEXT" section lists various actions taken by the House and Senate, including committee reports, amendments, and votes. The "HISTORY" section provides a detailed timeline of the bill's progress through the legislative process.

**2019 SESSION**

**HB 2691 Electric utilities; provision of broadband services to unserved areas.**  
Introduced by: Israel D. O'Quinn | all patrons ... notes | add to my profiles

**SUMMARY AS PASSED:** (all summaries)  
Electric utilities; provision of broadband services. Requires the State Corporation Commission to establish pilot programs under which Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power may submit a petition to provide or make available broadband capacity to nongovernmental Internet service providers in areas of the Commonwealth that are unserved by broadband. The costs of Dominion Power and Appalachian Power's proposals are each capped at \$60 million annually. The provision of such broadband capacity is declared to be in the public interest. The measure authorizes the utilities to recover the net costs of the pilot program from customers through a rate adjustment clause. The measure authorizes such utility to own or lease broadband capacity equipment. The measure requires the Commission to conduct proceedings to determine whether an area is unserved by broadband.

**FULL TEXT**

01/14/19 House: Presented and ordered printed 19104679D pdf | impact statement  
01/31/19 House: Committee substitute printed 19105782D-H1 pdf | impact statement  
02/23/19 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB2691ER) pdf | impact statement  
03/19/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0619) pdf

**AMENDMENTS**

House subcommittee amendments and substitutes offered  
House subcommittee amendments and substitutes adopted

**SENATE AMENDMENTS**

Senate amendments engrossed

**HISTORY**

01/14/19 House: Presented and ordered printed 19104679D  
01/14/19 House: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor  
01/17/19 House: Assigned C & L sub: Subcommittee #3  
01/24/19 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (10-Y 0-N)  
01/31/19 House: Reported from Commerce and Labor with substitute (20-Y 0-N)  
01/31/19 House: Committee substitute printed 19105782D-H1  
02/03/19 House: Read first time  
02/04/19 House: Read second time  
02/04/19 House: Committee substitute agreed to 19105782D-H1  
02/04/19 House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB2691H1  
02/05/19 House: Read third time and passed House (96-Y 2-N 1-A)  
02/05/19 House: VOTE: PASSAGE (96-Y 2-N 1-A)  
02/06/19 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed  
02/06/19 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor  
02/18/19 Senate: Reported from Commerce and Labor with amendments (13-Y 1-N)  
02/18/19 Senate: Rereferred to Finance  
02/18/19 Senate: Reported from Finance (15-Y 0-N)  
02/19/19 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (40-Y 0-N)  
02/20/19 Senate: Read third time  
02/20/19 Senate: Reading of amendments waived  
02/20/19 Senate: Committee amendments agreed to  
02/20/19 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended  
02/20/19 Senate: Passed Senate with amendments (38-Y 0-N 1-A)  
02/20/19 Senate: Reconsideration of Senate passage agreed to by Senate (40-Y 0-N)  
02/20/19 Senate: Passed Senate with amendments (39-Y 0-N 1-A)  
02/21/19 House: Placed on Calendar  
02/21/19 House: Senate amendments agreed to by House (96-Y 3-N)  
02/21/19 House: VOTE: ADOPTION (96-Y 3-N)  
02/23/19 House: Enrolled  
02/23/19 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB2691ER)  
02/23/19 House: Signed by Speaker  
02/23/19 Senate: Signed by President  
03/04/19 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 4, 2019  
03/04/19 Governor: Governor's Action Deadline Midnight, March 26, 2019  
03/19/19 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 619 (effective 7/1/19)  
03/19/19 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0619)

The screenshot shows the Virginia Legislative Information System (LIS) website. The page is titled "2019 SESSION" and displays information for "Delegate Israel D. O'Quinn (R) - House District 5." The page includes a search bar, quick links, and a sidebar with various navigation options. The main content area shows the delegate's contact information, including his office address, mailing address, and phone numbers. It also lists various legislative actions and bills sponsored by the delegate, such as HB 1722 School safety procedures, HB 2109 Guaranteed asset protection waivers, and HB 2220 License plates, special: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

**2019 SESSION**

**Delegate Israel D. O'Quinn (R) - House District 5**

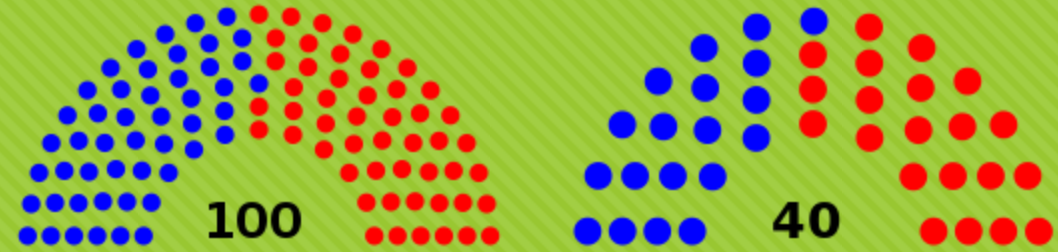
**to session address:** Psychotria Building, Room W120  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
(804) 696-1005  
email: DelOQuinn@house.virginia.gov

**Mailing address:** 101 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
P.O. Box 16325  
Bristol, Virginia 24201  
(276) 525-1311

Legislation as Chief Patron: (registered users; create report or csv file)  
Counts toward patron limit: \* specified, \*\* not profiled

- HB 1722 School safety procedures; emergency situations, annual training. \*
- HB 2109 Guaranteed asset protection waivers; establishes requirements for offering waivers, etc. \*
- HB 2220 License plates, special: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. \*
- HB 2221 License plates, special: former members of the Virginia General Assembly. \*
- HB 2222 School boards, local; display of advertising material on school buses. \*
- HB 2223 Pharmacies; delivery of prescription drugs, pharmacy benefits managers. \*
- HB 2224 Zoning appeals, local board of, membership. \*
- HB 2225 Financial exploitation of adults; reporting by financial institution staff. \*
- HB 2260 Banks; director's meetings. \*
- HB 2487 Bristol, City of; amending charter, city powers, council meetings, etc. \*
- HB 2565 Environmental Quality, Department of; stormwater regulations, Tennessee River Basin. \*
- HB 2536 Lottery Board; regulation of casino gaming, penalties. \*
- HB 2691 Electric utilities; provision of broadband services to unserved areas. \*\*
- HB 2789 Energy conservation measures; establishes, providing incentives for development of electric energy. \*\*
- HJ 021 Workforce development in the Commonwealth; JAARC to study.
- HJ 107 Celebrating the life of Fred Page Souders.
- HJ 206 Commemorate Richard Carroll Clark, Jr.

# 2019 Elections



- November 5, 2019 may shake things up
  - All 140 Members are up for election this year.
    - Currently, the House is 51-49
    - The Senate is 21-19
  - If control changes hands in one or both chambers, there will be a transition period
- The party in power will get more legislation passed
  - If you have a bill idea, going to a member in that party is better (if possible)

# Is there a Doctor in the House (or Senate)?



Del. Todd Pillion, (R)  
4th District  
Pediatric Dentist, Abingdon



Del. Roslyn Tyler, (D)  
75th District  
Physical Therapist, Sussex



Del. Cia Price, (D)  
95th District  
Dental Office Admin, Hampton



Del. Scott Garrett, (R)  
23rd District  
Physician, Lynchburg



Del. Chris Jones, (R)  
76th District  
Pharmacist, Suffolk



Del. Keith Hodges, (R)  
98th District  
Pharmacist, Urbanna



Del. Roxann Robinson, (R)  
27th District  
Optometrist, Chesterfield



Del. Chris Stolle, (R)  
83rd District  
Physician, VA Beach



Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant, (R)  
12th District  
Physician, Henrico



Del. Dawn Adams, (D)  
68th District  
Nurse Practitioner, Richmond



Del. Ibraheem Samirah, (D)  
86th District  
Herndon



Sen. Rosalyn Dance, (D)  
16th District  
Ret. Healthcare Admin, Petersburg



Sen. George Barker, (D)  
39th District  
Ret. Health Planner, Alexandria

- 9.42% (13/140) of Virginia's Legislators are in Health Fields  
(Professions Data from VPAP.org - Virginia Public Access Project)

**If you have questions,  
feel free to reach out:**

Jacob Holmes

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276-492-8703