**OEMS Legislative Grid**

**January 13, 2023**

[**HB 1389**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1389)**Mental illness or emotional disturbance; administration of controlled substances for treatment, etc.**

*Patron:* Anderson

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2969 of the Code of Virginia, relating to administration of controlled substances for treatment of mental illness or emotional disturbance; parental consent required.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Administration of controlled substances for treatment of mental illness or emotional disturbance; parental consent required.** Provides that a minor shall not be deemed an adult for the purpose of consenting to administration of controlled substances for the treatment of mental illness or emotional disturbance. Currently, a minor is deemed an adult for the purpose of consenting to medical and health services needed in the case of outpatient care, treatment, or rehabilitation for mental illness or emotional disturbance.

11/17/22 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23100047D  
11/17/22 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 1390**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1390)**Fires; negligence, recovery of costs of firefighting.**

*Patron:* Ballard

A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-1141 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fires; negligence; firefighting; recovery of costs.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Fires; negligence; firefighting; recovery of costs.** Allows localities to collect the costs of firefighting from any person who negligently or intentionally without using reasonable care and precaution starts a fire or who negligently or intentionally fails to attempt to prevent its escape when such fire burns on any forestland, brushland, grassland, or wasteland. Current law allows localities to collect the costs of firefighting only when a person intentionally starts a fire and fails to attempt to prevent its escape when such fire burns on any forestland, brushland, grassland, or wasteland.

11/28/22 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101515D  
11/28/22 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 1400**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1400)**Budget Bill.**

*Patron:* Knight

A BILL for all amendments to Chapter 2 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, which appropriated funds for the 2022-24 Biennium, and to provide a portion of revenues for the two years ending, respectively, on the thirtieth day of June, 2023, and the thirtieth day of June, 2024, submitted by the Governor of Virginia to the presiding officer of each house of the General Assembly of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509, Code of Virginia, and a Bill to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-301, 58.1-320, 58.1-322.02, 58.1-322.03, 58.1-400, 58.1-402, and 58.1-609.2 of the Code of Virginia.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Budget Bill.** Amends Chapter 2 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I

12/15/22 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103491D  
12/15/22 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

[**HB 1410**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1410)**Workers' compensation; presumption for arson and hazardous materials investigators.**

*Patron:* Marshall

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-402 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; presumption for arson and hazardous materials investigators.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Workers' compensation; presumption for arson and hazardous materials investigators.** Expands the workers' compensation presumption of compensability for certain cancers causing the death or disability of certain employees who have completed five years of service in their position to include (i) arson investigators or bomb investigators employed by the Department of State Police and (ii) personnel employed by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies to collect, analyze, or handle hazardous materials, hazardous chemicals, radiological materials, biological agents, or drugs.

12/06/22 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23100248D  
12/06/22 House: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Energy

[**HB 1447**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1447)**Controlled substances; administration by paramedics.**

*Patron:* Orrock

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia, relating to controlled substances; administration by paramedics.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Controlled substances; administration by paramedics.** Allows paramedics certified by the Board of Health who act pursuant to an oral or written order or standing protocol and who are employed or engaged at a medical care facility to administer controlled substances.

12/21/22 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101080D  
12/21/22 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions  
01/13/23 House: Assigned HWI sub: Subcommittee #2

[**HB 1449**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1449)**Emergency medical services providers; administration of prescription medication.**

*Patron:* Orrock

A BILL to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to adopt a process to allow emergency medical services providers to administer prescription medication to persons under certain circumstances.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Secretary of Health and Human Resources; administration of prescription medication by emergency medical services providers.** Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to adopt a process to allow emergency medical services providers to administer prescription medication to persons under certain circumstances.

12/21/22 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101813D  
12/21/22 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions  
01/13/23 House: Assigned HWI sub: Subcommittee #2

[**HB 1472**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1472)**Emergency medical services; provision by localities.**

*Patrons:* Fowler and Kory

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-955 of the Code of Virginia, relating to provision of emergency medical services by localities.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Provision of emergency medical services by localities.** Requires each locality to ensure that essential emergency medical services are maintained throughout the entire locality. Under current law, each locality is required to seek to ensure that emergency medical services are maintained throughout the entire locality.

12/30/22 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102489D  
12/30/22 House: Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns  
01/11/23 House: Assigned CC & T sub: Subcommittee #1  
01/13/23 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table (6-Y 4-N)

[**HB 1571**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1571)**Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.**

*Patron:* Walker

A BILL to amend and reenact § 51.1-138 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.** Adds 911 dispatchers to the list of local employees eligible to receive enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service under the Virginia Retirement System.

01/06/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102459D  
01/06/23 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

[**HB 1572**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1572)**Emergency response; false information by device, penalty.**

*Patron:* Walker

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-426 and 18.2-428 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency response; false information by device; penalty.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Emergency response; false information by device; penalty.** Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to maliciously advise or inform another over any other device by any means, or cause another to do the same, of the death of, accident to, injury to, illness of, or disappearance of some third party, or of the imminent threat to the safety of a person, that results in an emergency response, knowing the information to be false. The bill defines emergency response as a response by law-enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel to a situation where human life or property is in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential. Current law only prohibits such false information to another by telephone.

01/06/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102628D  
01/06/23 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

[**HB 1573**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1573)**Mental health conditions and impairment; DHP to amend its licensure, etc., applications.**

*Patron:* Walker

A BILL to direct the Department of Health Professions to amend language related to mental health conditions and impairment in licensure, certification, and registration applications; emergency.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Department of Health Professions; applications for licensure, certification, and registration; mental health conditions and impairment; emergency.** Directs the Department of Health Professions to amend its licensure, certification, and registration applications to remove any existing questions pertaining to mental health conditions and impairment to and include the following questions: (i) Do you have any reason to believe that you would pose a risk to the safety or well-being of your patients or clients?; and (ii) Are you able to perform the essential functions of a practitioner in your area of practice with or without reasonable accommodation? The bill contains an emergency clause.

EMERGENCY

01/06/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed with emergency clause; offered 01/11/23 23103067D  
01/06/23 House: Committee Referral Pending  
01/10/23 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1573)

[**HB 1590**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1590)**Telephone, digital pager, or other device; causing alert with intent to annoy, penalty.**

*Patron:* Sullivan

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-429 of the Code of Virginia, relating to causing a telephone, digital pager, or other device to alert with intent to annoy; emergency communications; penalty.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Causing a telephone, digital pager, or other device to alert with intent to annoy; emergency communications; penalty.** Modernizes the harassing phone call statute to include any communications that may ring or otherwise signal or alert. Under current law, only telephones and digital pagers are included within the ambit of the statute.

01/06/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23100630D  
01/06/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 1602**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1602)**State plan for medical assistance services; telemedicine, in-state presence.**

*Patron:* Robinson

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-325 of the Code of Virginia, relating to state plan for medical assistance services; telemedicine; in-state presence.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**State plan for medical assistance services; telemedicine; in-state presence.** Establishes that health care providers are not required to maintain a physical presence in the Commonwealth to maintain eligibility to enroll as a Medicaid provider. Additionally, the bill establishes that telemedicine services provider groups with health care providers duly licensed by the Commonwealth are not required to maintain an in-state service address to maintain eligibility to enroll as a Medicaid vendor or Medicaid provider group.

01/06/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101772D  
01/06/23 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions  
01/13/23 House: Assigned HWI sub: Subcommittee #1

[**HB 1613**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1613)**False emergency communication to emergency personnel; penalties, report.**

*Patron:* Williams Graves

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-1716.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-461.1, relating to false emergency communication to emergency personnel; penalties.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**False emergency communication to emergency personnel; penalties; report.**Provides that it is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly report, or cause another to report in reliance on intentionally false information provided by such person, a false emergency communication to any emergency personnel that results in an emergency response. The bill also provides that it is a Class 6 felony if such false emergency communication results in an emergency response during which and as a result of such emergency response any person suffers a serious bodily injury and a Class 5 felony if any person is killed. The bill authorizes any locality to provide by ordinance that a person convicted of such false emergency communication shall be liable for the reasonable expense in responding to such false emergency communication. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education, together with the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, to convene a work group for the purpose of establishing best practices, policies, and procedures for school personnel in the event of false information resulting in an emergency response at or near a school.

01/06/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103594D  
01/06/23 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice  
01/09/23 House: Impact statement from VCSC (HB1613)

[**HB 1631**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1631)**Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers.**

*Patrons:* Bulova and Taylor

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-107 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers.** Allows dispatchers, as defined in the bill, to claim workers' compensation benefits relating to post-traumatic stress disorder under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. Currently, only law-enforcement officers and firefighters may claim such benefits.

01/07/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102941D  
01/07/23 House: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Energy

[**HB 1719**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1719)**Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; release or dissemination of information.**

*Patron:* Clark

A BILL to amend and reenact § 52-48 of the Code of Virginia, relating to release or dissemination of information from the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; whistleblower protection; report.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Release or dissemination of information from the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; whistleblower protection; report.** Provides that any release or dissemination of information from the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center made in good faith and in accordance with the provisions of the Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act is not punishable. The bill also requires the Department of State Police to prepare a report to the Governor and the General Assembly summarizing its triennial review of information contained in any database maintained by the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center.

01/09/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101511D  
01/09/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 1738**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1738)**Virginia Freedom of Information Act; state public bodies, meetings, virtual public access.**

*Patron:* Carr

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3707, 2.2-3707.2, 2.2-3708.3, 15.2-1416, 15.2-2308.1, and 23.1-1303 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; state public bodies; meetings; virtual public access.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Virginia Freedom of Information Act; state public bodies; meetings; virtual public access.** Requires all state public bodies to provide public access to meetings through electronic communication means and to provide the public with the opportunity to comment at such meetings through such the use of such electronic communication means when public comment is customarily received. The bill contains technical amendments.

01/09/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23100100D  
01/09/23 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws  
01/11/23 House: Assigned GL sub: Subcommittee #4

[**HB 1754**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1754)**Telemedicine; extension of time period for provision of services.**

*Patron:* Head

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2901, 54.1-3601, and 54.1-3701 of the Code of Virginia, relating to telemedicine; extension of time period for provision of services.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Telemedicine; extension of time period for provision of services.** Allows patients who have an established relationship with a practitioner who is a member of a health maintenance organization or multispecialty group to receive services from a practitioner who is a member of the same multispecialty group via telemedicine without undergoing another in-person exam within the specified time period and increases the specified time period from one year to three years. The bill increases from one year to three years the period during which psychologists and clinical social workers who are licensed outside the Commonwealth and who meet certain criteria may provide behavioral health services via telemedicine to a patient located in the Commonwealth.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103808D  
01/10/23 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions  
01/12/23 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1754)  
01/13/23 House: Assigned HWI sub: Subcommittee #1

[**HB 1765**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1765)**Fire protection; expands definition of fire company.**

*Patron:* Carr

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 27-6.01, 27-8, and 27-10 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fire protection; definition of fire company.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Fire protection; definition of fire company.**Expands the definition of fire company to include local organizations of at least 20 individuals organized for the provision of rehabilitation and other support services for firefighters and similar fire safety personnel. The current definition is limited to organizations of at least 20 individuals organized for the purpose of extinguishing fires.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101433D  
01/10/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 1787**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1787)**Schedule VI controlled substance; practitioner-patient relationship.**

*Patron:* Robinson

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3303 of the Code of Virginia, relating to prescription for controlled substance; practitioner-patient relationship.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Prescription for controlled substance; practitioner-patient relationship.**Allows a practitioner to establish a bona fide practitioner-patient relationship for the purpose of prescribing a Schedule VI controlled substance if the patient chooses not to seek reimbursement by a health plan or carrier for the prescribing and if such prescribing complies with federal requirements for the practice of telemedicine.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101674D  
01/10/23 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions  
01/12/23 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB1787)  
01/13/23 House: Assigned HWI sub: Subcommittee #2

[**HB 1904**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1904)**Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and Fund; established and created, report.**

*Patrons:* Hope; Senator: Dunnavant

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 19.1, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-372.1, 32.1-372.2, and 32.1-372.3, relating to Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and Fund; report.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and Fund; report.**Establishes the Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and the Emergency Department Care Management Grant Fund. The bill provides that the Program is established to provide grants to eligible hospitals that provide care management and medical services to frequent users of hospital emergency departments, with grants to be awarded to (i) reduce patient usage of emergency departments for routine, nonurgent, primary medical care; (ii) support emergency department case management staff; (iii) identify and analyze the comprehensive health care needs of patients; (iv) identify social determinants of health and barriers to care; (v) facilitate collaboration with providers and payers to develop a plan for community care; and (vi) improve the ability of patients to manage their care in the community. The bill directs the Department of Health to evaluate the effectiveness of the Program and requires the State Health Commissioner to report the Department's findings to the General Assembly and the Joint Commission on Health Care by October 1, 2027. The provisions of the bill sunset on July 1, 2028.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101556D  
01/10/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 1918**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1918)**Health insurance; coverage for audio-only telehealth services.**

*Patron:* Batten

A BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-3418.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; coverage for audio-only telehealth services.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Health insurance; coverage for audio-only telehealth services.** Requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage beginning January 1, 2024, for the cost of health care services provided through audio-only telehealth services, defined in the bill as counseling interventions designed to facilitate a patient's achievement of human development goals and remediate mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders and associated distresses that interfere with mental health and development by a mental health professional delivered to a patient via audio-only means when no other means of real-time two-way audio-visual or other telecommunications or electronic communications are available and operational to the patient or the patient does not have the capability to use such real-time two-way means of communication. The bill requires that prescribing of controlled substances via audio-only telehealth services comply with state requirements for prescribing controlled substances and all applicable federal law.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104173D  
01/10/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 1993**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1993)**Fire marshals; police powers, training requirements.**

*Patron:* Krizek

A BILL to amend and reenact § 27-34.2:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to police powers of fire marshals; training requirements.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Police powers of fire marshals; training requirements.**Provides that a local fire marshal or assistant shall not exercise any police powers until such person has satisfactorily completed a basic law-enforcement course for fire marshals with police powers and maintains satisfactory participation in in-service and advanced courses and programs. The bill also provides that current or prior certification as a law-enforcement officer may satisfy the police powers training requirements.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101309D  
01/10/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 2073**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB2073)**Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and Commission; created.**

*Patrons:* Murphy and Maldonado

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 an article numbered 11, consisting of a section numbered 54.1-2999, relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.** Creates the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to create a process for expedited issuance of a license to practice medicine in the Commonwealth for qualifying physicians to enhance the portability of medical licenses while protecting patient safety. The bill establishes requirements for coordination of information systems among member states and procedures for investigation and discipline of physicians alleged to have engaged in unprofessional conduct. The bill creates the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission to administer the compact.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23100642D  
01/10/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 2133**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB2133)**State Fire Marshal; authority.**

*Patron:* Wilt

A BILL to amend and reenact § 9.1-206 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State Fire Marshal; authority.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**State Fire Marshal; authority.** Clarifies that the State Fire Marshal, or his designee, is the authority having jurisdiction over state-owned buildings, properties, or structures for purposes of fire safety and fire prevention in accordance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code.

01/10/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103985D  
01/10/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 2175**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB2175)**Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; fire service needs, sustainability of funding.**

*Patron:* Sickles

A BILL to direct the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to establish a work group to study existing fire service needs, analyze sustainability of current funding, and review alternative funding models from other states; report.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; fire service needs, sustainability of funding, and alternative funding models work group; report.** Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security (the Secretary) to establish a work group to study existing fire service needs, analyze sustainability of current funding, and review alternative funding models from other states. In conducting its study, the work group may hire an outside consultant and shall create a needs assessment survey that analyzes existing fire service needs, the sustainability of current funding, any gaps in current funding, how other states fund fire and EMS services, and best practices from other states. The Secretary shall report the work group's findings and any recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology on or before October 1, 2023.

01/11/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104174D  
01/11/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 2293**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB2293)**Emergency Services and Disaster Law; Commissioner of Health; emergency orders and regulations.**

*Patron:* LaRock

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-13, 32.1-20, 32.1-42, and 44-146.17, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to Emergency Services and Disaster Law; Commissioner of Health; emergency orders and regulations; limitations; civil penalty.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Emergency Services and Disaster Law; Commissioner of Health; emergency orders and regulations; limitations; civil penalty.** Provides that neither the Board of Health nor the Commissioner of Health shall make any emergency order or regulation unless, on the basis of the evidence available to the Board, (i) such order or regulation is necessary to suppress a nuisance dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health; (ii) no alternatives to the proposed order or regulation that are reasonable in light of the impact on quality of life and economic well-being exist; and (iii) the provisions of such order or regulation are narrowly tailored to address the nuisance dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health. The bill also provides that the Governor shall not issue any emergency rule, regulation, or order unless, on the basis of the evidence available to the Governor, (a) such rule, regulation, or order is necessary to address a compelling circumstance; (b) no alternatives to the proposed rule, regulation, or order that are reasonable in light of the impact on quality of life and economic well-being exist; and (c) the provisions of such rule, regulation, or order are narrowly tailored to address the compelling circumstance.

The bill provides that any order that limits the number of individuals who may gather together in person, in public or private, or categorizes individuals on the basis of their relationship to or association with such individuals and limits the categories of individuals with whom an individual who is not known or reasonably suspected to have been exposed to or infected with a communicable disease of public health threat may associate is presumed to negatively impact quality of life and economic well-being.

The bill also limits the duration of any emergency rule, regulation, or order to 15 days; provides for one 15-day extension of such rule, regulation, or order; and provides that any person who violates such rule, regulation, or order shall be subject to a civil penalty of no more than $100 per violation. Under current law, any person who violates the provisions of an executive order is subject to a Class 1 misdemeanor.

01/11/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104137D  
01/11/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 2327**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB2327)**Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.**

*Patron:* Cherry

A BILL to amend and reenact § 51.1-138 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.** Allows local governments to provide enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service to full-time salaried 911 dispatchers. The bill provides that such enhanced retirement benefits apply only to service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher on or after July 1, 2024, but allows an employer, as that term is defined in relevant law, to provide such enhanced retirement benefits for service earned as a full-time salaried 911 dispatcher before July 1, 2024, in addition to service earned on or after that date. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2024.

01/12/23 House: Presented and ordered printed 23100311D  
01/12/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HB 2328**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB2328)**Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; 911 dispatchers.**

*Patron:* Cherry

A BILL to amend and reenact § 51.1-212 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; 911 dispatchers.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; 911 dispatchers.** Extends membership in the Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System (VaLORS) to 911 dispatchers who are employed by the Department of State Police and agencies whose law-enforcement officers are eligible for membership in VaLORS. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2024, and provides that such membership would apply only to service earned on or after July 1, 2024.

01/12/23 House: Presented and ordered printed 23104266D  
01/12/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**HJ 537**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HJ537)**Study; Secretary of Public Safety; emergency response vehicles; report.**

*Patron:* LaRock

Requesting the Secretary of Public Safety to study the impact of federal emissions standards on the quality, cost, and availability of emergency response vehicles. Report.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Study; Secretary of Public Safety; emergency response vehicles; report.**Requests the Secretary of Public Safety to study the impact of federal emissions standards on the quality, cost, and availability of emergency response vehicles.

01/11/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102994D  
01/11/23 House: Committee Referral Pending

[**SB 340**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB340)**Freestanding emergency departments; Bd. of Health to promulgate regulations related to departments.**

*Patron:* Barker

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-123, 32.1-125, 32.1-127, 59.1-200, and 59.1-204 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-125.6, relating to freestanding emergency departments.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Freestanding emergency departments.** Requires the Board of Health to promulgate regulations related to freestanding emergency departments, defined in the bill as facilities located in the Commonwealth that (i) provide emergency services, (ii) are owned and operated by a licensed hospital and operate under the hospital's license, and (iii) are located on separate premises from the primary campus of the hospital. The bill also requires freestanding emergency departments to make certain disclosures to patients, in advertisements, and on any online platforms associated with such emergency department.

01/11/22 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/12/22 22101751D  
01/11/22 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health  
01/21/22 Senate: Assigned Education sub: Health  
02/02/22 Senate: Impact statement from DPB (SB340)  
02/10/22 Senate: Continued to 2023 in Education and Health (11-Y 0-N)  
11/21/22 Senate: Left in Education and Health

[**SB 800**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB800)**Budget Bill.**

*Patrons:* Howell and Barker

A BILL for all amendments to Chapter 2 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, which appropriated funds for the 2022-24 Biennium, and to provide a portion of revenues for the two years ending, respectively, on the thirtieth day of June, 2023, and the thirtieth day of June, 2024, submitted by the Governor of Virginia to the presiding officer of each house of the General Assembly of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509, Code of Virginia, and a Bill to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-301, 58.1-320, 58.1-322.02, 58.1-322.03, 58.1-400, 58.1-402, and 58.1-609.2 of the Code of Virginia.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Budget Bill.** Amends Chapter 2 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I.

12/15/22 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103492D  
12/15/22 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

[**SB 827**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB827)**Hospital emergency departments; required security and training, regulations.**

*Patron:* Favola

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-127 of the Code of Virginia, relating to hospital emergency departments; required security and training; regulations.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Hospital emergency departments; required security and training; regulations.** Directs the Board of Health to amend its regulations to require every hospital with an emergency department to have at least one off-duty law-enforcement officer or a trained security officer present at all times. Hospital protocols shall ensure such officers providing security receive training in the use of weapons, defensive tactics, de-escalation techniques, appropriate physical restraint techniques, crisis intervention, and trauma-informed approaches in identifying and safely addressing situations involving patients, family members, or other persons who pose a risk of harm to themselves or others due to mental illness or substance abuse or who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

12/21/22 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101960D  
12/21/22 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

[**SB 904**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB904)**Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder.**

*Patrons:* DeSteph and Cosgrove

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 65.2-101, 65.2-107, 65.2-603, 65.2-605, 65.2-606, and 65.2-607 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder; law-enforcement officers, public safety telecommunicators, and firefighters.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder; law-enforcement officers, public safety telecommunicators, and firefighters.** Provides that an anxiety disorder or depressive disorder, as both are defined in the bill, incurred by a law-enforcement officer, public safety telecommunicator, or firefighter is compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act on the same basis as post-traumatic stress disorder. The bill adds correctional officers to the definition of law-enforcement officers for whom the workers' compensation presumption for post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder applies. The bill provides that a mental health professional must diagnose the covered individual as suffering from anxiety disorder or depressive disorder as a result of a qualifying event, defined in the bill as an incident or exposure occurring in the line of duty on or after July 1, 2023, and includes other conditions for compensability. The bill requires each employer of law-enforcement officers and public safety telecommunicators to provide resilience and self-care technique training beginning July 1, 2023. The bill also adds mental health professionals to certain provisions that currently apply to physicians and surgeons.

01/05/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101042D  
01/05/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

[**SB 905**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB905)**Fire marshals; police powers, training requirements.**

*Patron:* DeSteph

A BILL to amend and reenact § 27-34.2:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to police powers of fire marshals; training requirements.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Police powers of fire marshals; training requirements.**Provides that a local fire marshal or assistant shall not exercise any police powers until such person has satisfactorily completed a basic law-enforcement course for fire marshals with police powers and maintains satisfactory participation in in-service and advanced courses and programs. The bill also provides that current or prior certification as a law-enforcement officer may satisfy the police powers training requirements.

01/05/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101310D  
01/05/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology  
01/11/23 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology (14-Y 0-N)

[**SB 906**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB906)**Workers' compensation; presumption of compensability for certain cancers.**

*Patrons:* Saslaw, Cosgrove and Ebbin

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-402 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; presumption of compensability for certain cancers.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Workers' compensation; presumption of compensability for certain cancers.**Expands the workers' compensation presumption of compensability for certain cancers causing the death or disability of certain employees who have completed five years of service in their position to include melanoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and bladder and thyroid cancer. The presumption for these cancers does not apply for any individual diagnosed with such a condition before July 1, 2023.

01/05/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23100602D  
01/05/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

[**SB 926**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB926)**Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and Fund; established and created, report.**

*Patron:* Favola

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 32.1 a chapter numbered 19.1, consisting of sections numbered 32.1-372.1, 32.1-372.2, and 32.1-372.3, relating to Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and Fund; report.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and Fund; report.**Establishes the Emergency Department Care Management Grant Program and the Emergency Department Care Management Grant Fund. The bill provides that the Program is established to provide grants to eligible hospitals that provide care management and medical services to frequent users of hospital emergency departments, with grants to be awarded to (i) reduce patient usage of emergency departments for routine, nonurgent, primary medical care; (ii) support emergency department case management staff; (iii) identify and analyze the comprehensive health care needs of patients; (iv) identify social determinants of health and barriers to care; (v) facilitate collaboration with providers and payers to develop a plan for community care; and (vi) improve the ability of patients to manage their care in the community. The bill directs the Department of Health to evaluate the effectiveness of the Program and requires the State Health Commissioner to report the Department's findings to the General Assembly and the Joint Commission on Health Care by October 1, 2027. The provisions of the bill sunset on July 1, 2028.

01/06/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101557D  
01/06/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

[**SB 981**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB981)**Flashing red and white warning lights; emergency vehicle exemptions.**

*Patron:* Marsden

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-920, 46.2-1023, and 46.2-1030 of the Code of Virginia, relating to flashing red and white warning lights; emergency vehicle exemptions; WMATA Response and Recovery Coordination Branch vehicles.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Flashing red and white warning lights; emergency vehicle exemptions; WMATA Response and Recovery Coordination Branch vehicles.** Authorizes vehicles operated by the Response and Recovery Coordination Branch of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Office of Emergency Preparedness to (i) be equipped with flashing, blinking, or alternating red or red and white combination warning lights and (ii) disregard certain regulations regarding the operation of vehicles without being subject to criminal prosecution while responding to an emergency. The bill adds responding to metropolitan transit-related incidents to the list of circumstances in which such lighted warning lights shall be displayed.

01/06/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101698D  
01/06/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Transportation

[**SB 982**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB982)**Stationary vehicles; yielding or reducing speed for vehicles displaying hazard lights, etc.**

*Patron:* Marsden

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-861.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to yielding or reducing speed for stationary vehicles; vehicles displaying hazard lights, caution signs, or road flares.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Yielding or reducing speed for stationary vehicles; vehicles displaying hazard lights, caution signs, or road flares.** Requires drivers to make a lane change or reduce speed when passing stationary vehicles that have activated the vehicular hazard warning signal flashers, displayed caution signs, or been marked with properly lit flares or torches on certain highways when safe and reasonable to do so, and makes a violation of this requirement a traffic infraction.

01/06/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102033D  
01/06/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Transportation  
01/12/23 Senate: Reported from Transportation (12-Y 2-N)

[**SB 1034**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1034)**Telephone, digital pager, or other device; causing alert with intent to annoy, penalty.**

*Patron:* McPike

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-429 of the Code of Virginia, relating to causing a telephone, digital pager, or other device to alert with intent to annoy; emergency communications; penalty.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Causing a telephone, digital pager, or other device to alert with intent to annoy; emergency communications; penalty.** Modernizes the harassing phone call statute to include any communications that may ring or otherwise signal or alert. Under current law, only telephones and digital pagers are included within the ambit of the statute.

01/08/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101703D  
01/08/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

[**SB 1046**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1046)**Law-enforcement officer; definition includes fire marshal with police powers.**

*Patron:* McPike

A BILL to amend and reenact § 9.1-101, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 18.2-31 of the Code of Virginia, relating to definition of law-enforcement officer; fire marshal with police powers.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Definition of law-enforcement officer; fire marshal with police powers.**Provides that fire marshals who have been appointed with police powers are included in the definition of law-enforcement officer that applies in numerous applications in the Code.

01/08/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102698D  
01/08/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

[**SB 1084**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1084)**Prescription of Schedule VI controlled substances; asynchronous interactions.**

*Patron:* Bell

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3303 of the Code of Virginia, relating to prescription of Schedule VI controlled substances; asynchronous interactions.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Prescription of Schedule VI controlled substances; asynchronous interactions.** Allows practitioners to establish a bona fide practitioner-patient relationship through asynchronous interaction for the purpose of prescribing Schedule VI controlled substances if the patient chooses not to use insurance for the encounter and if such prescribing complies with federal requirements for the practice of telemedicine. The bill directs the Board of Pharmacy to conduct a review of Schedule VI controlled substances and report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions by December 31, 2023, any Schedule VI substances that the General Assembly may want to consider rescheduling due to potential risk of abuse by a patient if prescribed in accordance with the standard of care for asynchronous telemedicine interactions.

01/09/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104083D  
01/09/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health  
01/11/23 Senate: Assigned Education sub: Health Professions

[**SB 1088**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1088)**Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers.**

*Patron:* Ebbin

A BILL to amend and reenact § 65.2-107 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Workers' compensation; post-traumatic stress disorder incurred by dispatchers.** Allows dispatchers, as defined in the bill, to claim workers' compensation benefits relating to post-traumatic stress disorder under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. Currently, only law-enforcement officers and firefighters may claim such benefits.

01/09/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103951D  
01/09/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

[**SB 1119**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1119)**Telemedicine; extension of time period for provision of services.**

*Patron:* Stuart

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2901, 54.1-3601, and 54.1-3701 of the Code of Virginia, relating to telemedicine; extension of time period for provision of services.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Telemedicine; extension of time period for provision of services.** Allows patients who have an established relationship with a practitioner who is a member of a health maintenance organization or multispecialty group to receive services from a practitioner who is a member of the same multispecialty group via telemedicine without undergoing another in-person exam within the specified time period and increases the specified time period from one year to three years. The bill increases from one year to three years the period during which psychologists and clinical social workers who are licensed outside the Commonwealth and who meet certain criteria may provide behavioral health services via telemedicine to a patient located in the Commonwealth.

01/10/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104213D  
01/10/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

[**SB 1157**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1157)**Health insurance; coverage for audio-only telehealth services.**

*Patron:* Marsden

A BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-3418.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; coverage for audio-only telehealth services.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Health insurance; coverage for audio-only telehealth services.** Requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage beginning January 1, 2024, for the cost of health care services provided through audio-only telehealth services, defined in the bill as counseling interventions designed to facilitate a patient's achievement of human development goals and remediate mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders and associated distresses that interfere with mental health and development by a mental health professional delivered to a patient via audio-only means when no other means of real-time two-way audio-visual or other telecommunications or electronic communications are available and operational to the patient or the patient does not have the capability to use such real-time two-way means of communication. The bill provides that "audio-only telehealth services" does not include counseling interventions delivered by a mental health professional while such mental health professional is operating or riding in a motor vehicle unless the patient is experiencing an acute mental health crisis. The bill requires that prescribing of controlled substances via audio-only telehealth services comply with state requirements for prescribing controlled substances and all applicable federal law.

01/10/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104016D  
01/10/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

[**SB 1183**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1183)**Applicant Fingerprint Database; participation in FBI Next Generation Identification Rap Back Serv.**

*Patron:* Reeves

A BILL to amend and reenact § 52-46 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Applicant Fingerprint Database; participation in FBI Next Generation Identification Rap Back Service, through Virginia Rap Back Service, for fingerprint-based criminal history record monitoring; penalty.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Applicant Fingerprint Database; participation in FBI Next Generation Identification Rap Back Service, through Virginia Rap Back Service, for fingerprint-based criminal history record monitoring; penalty.** Requires the Department of State Police (the Department) to participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Next Generation Identification (NGI) Rap Back Service, through the Virginia Rap Back Service (the Service), for the purpose of allowing those agencies and governmental entities that require a fingerprint-based criminal background check as a condition of (i) providing care to (a) children, (b) the disabled, or (c) the elderly or (ii) (a) licensure, (b) certification, (c) employment, or (d) volunteer service to be advised when an individual subject to such screening is arrested for, or convicted of, a criminal offense. The bill provides that fingerprints submitted to the FBI through the Virginia Rap Back Service may be used for future searches, including latent searches.

The bill requires the Department to ensure that notification is made to the participating entity, defined in the bill, when an FBI Rap Back report is received. Any unauthorized use of the information submitted to the Service is prohibited; any willful violation with the intent to harass or intimidate another is a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill requires the Department to promulgate regulations governing the Service and the removal and destruction of records on persons who are deceased or are no longer enrolled in the Service. The bill authorizes the Department to charge a reasonable fee per individual enrolled in the Service, paid by any participating entity enrolling the individual in the Service and provides that when more than one participating agency enrolls the same individual in the Service, both entities shall be responsible for paying the full cost for maintenance and notification. The bill requires that any fees collected shall be deposited in a special account to offset costs of subscription fees, maintenance fees, and enhancements related to the Criminal and Rap Back Information Service.

Under current law, the Department maintains an Applicant Fingerprint Database (the Database) that functions similarly to the Service. The bill transitions the Department from using the Database and requires the Service to be operational no later than July 1, 2025, contingent upon appropriation of funds.

01/10/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104211D  
01/10/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

[**SB 1246**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1246)**Emergency medical services agencies; ordinances or resolutions; designation as emergency response.**

*Patron:* Obenshain

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-955 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency medical services agencies; ordinances or resolutions; designation as emergency response agencies.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Emergency medical services agencies; ordinances or resolutions; designation as emergency response agencies.**Requires that ordinances or resolutions establishing an emergency medical services agency shall specify the geographic boundaries of the agency's primary service area within the locality. This bill also directs that emergency medical services agencies that respond to medical emergencies be a designated emergency response agency and be recognized as an integral part of the official public safety program of the locality with responsibility for providing emergency medical response.

01/10/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102677D  
01/10/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Local Government

[**SB 1255**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1255)**smartCHaRt network Program.**

*Patron:* Dunnavant

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3705.5, 32.1-372, 54.1-2523, and 54.1-2525 of the Code of Virginia, relating to smartCHaRt network Program.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**smartCHaRt network Program.**Renames the Emergency Department Care Coordination Program as the smartCHaRt network Program and expands the Program to allow participation by all health care providers, insurance carriers, and other organizations with a treatment, payment, or operations relationship with a patient in the Commonwealth Under current law, participation is limited to hospital emergency departments. The bill makes several other modifications to the Program, including adding a requirement that the Program allow health care providers, insurance carriers, and other participating organizations to access information necessary to evaluate and monitor the care and treatment of a patient in accordance with applicable patient privacy and security requirements. The bill also directs the State Health Commissioner to convene a work group to study and establish a plan to develop and implement a system to share information regarding a patient's prescription history. The bill requires the Commissioner to report his findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the Joint Commission on Health Care, Senate Committee on Education and Health, and House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions by October 1, 2023.

01/10/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103954D  
01/10/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

[**SB 1291**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1291)**False emergency communication to emergency personnel; penalties, report.**

*Patrons:* Deeds and Hackworth

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-1716.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-461.1, relating to false emergency communication to emergency personnel; penalties.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**False emergency communication to emergency personnel; penalties; report.**Provides that it is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly report, or cause another to report in reliance on intentionally false information provided by such person, a false emergency communication to any emergency personnel that results in an emergency response. The bill also provides that it is a Class 6 felony if such false emergency communication results in an emergency response during which and as a result of such emergency response any person suffers a serious bodily injury and a Class 5 felony if any person is killed. The bill authorizes any locality to provide by ordinance that a person convicted of such false emergency communication shall be liable for the reasonable expense in responding to such false emergency communication. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education, together with the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, to convene a work group for the purpose of establishing best practices, policies, and procedures for school personnel in the event of false information resulting in an emergency response at or near a school.

01/10/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103560D  
01/10/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary  
01/12/23 Senate: Impact statement from VCSC (SB1291)

[**SB 1301**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1301)**Managed care health insurance plan licensees; network adequacy for mental health care services.**

*Patron:* Deeds

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-137.2:1, relating to managed care health insurance plan licensees; network adequacy for mental health services.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Managed care health insurance plan licensees; network adequacy for mental health care** **services.** Requires each managed care health insurance plan licensee (licensee) to (i) provide a sufficient number and mix of services, specialists, and practice sites to meet covered persons' mental health care needs; (ii) ensure that covered persons have telephone access 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to responsible and knowledgeable mental health care practitioners capable of assessing the covered persons' conditions and, as necessary, providing for appropriate services; and (iii) incorporate strategies into its access procedures to facilitate utilization of the licensee's mental health care services by covered persons with physical, mental, language, or cultural barriers. The bill requires a managed care health insurance plan licensee to cover out-of-network mental health care services to a covered person if (a) the licensee does not have a mental health care provider within its network capable of providing mental health care services to the covered person; (b) the majority of the managed care health insurance plan licensee's mental health care providers within 25 miles of a covered person or, if appropriate for the covered person, available via telemedicine who have experience treating the general age group of a covered person are no longer accepting new patients or have wait-lists to receive care; or (c) the managed care health insurance plan licensee does not have a mental health care provider within 25 miles of a covered person or, if appropriate for the covered person, available via telemedicine who (1) has experience or expertise in treating patients who share the emotionally distressing experiences, defined in the bill, or demographics of the covered person seeking care and (2) is capable of providing care within the next 31 days. The bill provides that a licensee may require certain verification that the mental health care services are related to an emotionally distressing experience but is prohibited from requiring proof of a criminal proceeding.

The bill requires a managed care health insurance plan licensee, for any covered person seeking mental health care services that has self-harm or suicidal ideation, to cover any associated out-of-network care such that the covered person shall not be responsible for any additional costs incurred by the managed care health insurance plan licensee for such services, other than any applicable copayment, coinsurance, or deductible. The bill requires a licensee to accept verification from the associated out-of-network provider that the mental health care services provided were related to the covered person's self-harm or suicidal ideation and prohibits a licensee from imposing any additional requirements to verify that the covered person was seeking care related to self-harm or suicidal ideation.

01/10/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23104175D  
01/10/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

[**SB 1383**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1383)**Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline; creation.**

*Patron:* Stuart

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 11 of Title 52 a section numbered 52-49.1, relating to Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline; creation.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline; creation.** Directs the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center to (i) establish a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week toll-free Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline to receive anonymous tips regarding individuals suspected to be in need of mental health treatment in order to facilitate mental health treatment, crisis intervention, and the prevention of tragedies and (ii) develop and implement policies and procedures for referring tips received through the Hotline to state or local law enforcement, as may be appropriate, in a timely manner for follow-up and investigation.

01/11/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101979D  
01/11/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

[**SB 1399**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1399)**Health insurance; essential health benefits benchmark plan.**

*Patron:* Surovell

A BILL to repeal §§ 38.2-3418.15 and 38.2-3418.18 of the Code of Virginia, relating to requiring the Bureau of Insurance to select a new essential health benefits benchmark plan.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Health insurance; essential health benefits benchmark plan.** Requires the Bureau of Insurance to select a new essential health benefits benchmark plan for the 2025 plan year that includes, in addition to the essential health benefits package included in the existing benchmark plan, coverage for prosthetic devices and components and formula and enteral nutrition products as medicine. The bill contains an emergency clause. This bill is a recommendation of the Health Insurance Reform Commission.

01/11/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23103361D  
01/11/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

[**SB 1403**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1403)**Income tax subtraction; professional firefighter pension.**

*Patron:* Barker

A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-322.02, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to income tax subtraction; professional firefighter pension.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Income tax subtraction; professional firefighter pension.**Establishes an income tax subtraction for up to $20,000 of firefighter benefits in taxable year 2023, up to $30,000 in taxable year 2024, and up to $40,000 in taxable year 2025 and each year thereafter. The bill defines firefighter benefits to include retirement income related to firefighting services and benefits paid to the surviving spouse of a firefighter whose death occurred in the line of duty.

01/11/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23101880D  
01/11/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

[**SB 1418**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1418)**State plan for medical assistance services; telemedicine; in-state presence.**

*Patron:* Pillion

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-325 of the Code of Virginia, relating to state plan for medical assistance services; telemedicine; in-state presence.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**State plan for medical assistance services; telemedicine; in-state presence.** Establishes that health care providers are not required to maintain a physical presence in the Commonwealth to maintain eligibility to enroll as a Medicaid provider. Additionally, the bill establishes that telemedicine services provider groups with health care providers duly licensed by the Commonwealth are not required to maintain an in-state service address to maintain eligibility to enroll as a Medicaid vendor or Medicaid provider group.

01/11/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102751D  
01/11/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

[**SB 1426**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1426)**Administration of controlled substances; paramedics.**

*Patron:* Suetterlein

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia, relating to administration of controlled substances; paramedics.

*Summary as introduced:*  
**Administration of controlled substances; paramedics.**Allows paramedics certified by the Board of Health who act pursuant to a prescribing practitioner's oral or written order or standing protocol and who are employed or engaged at a hospital to administer controlled substances.

01/11/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/11/23 23102718D  
01/11/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health