



Dear Friend,

As the ice finally melts and the temperature climbs out of the twenties we are moving along! Committee work is work is starting to lighten up but this is a natural part of the legislative session, as we have finished considering many of the Senate bills in committee. The floor session is a different story, as it grows longer the closer we get to crossover, which falls on Wednesday, February 18. The increasing length of the session leading up to Wednesday is due to the higher number of bills being docketed after clearing committee. Once the bills from the House of Delegates move to the Senate, the schedule should return to normal.

This week I had 3 of my bills pass:

[SB 123](#): The bill amends the charter of the Poquoson to clarify the school board's name, appointment process, and membership restrictions. It sets a two-consecutive-term limit, extends full terms from three to four years, changes the board's composition to seven at-large members, and bars appointees from serving on any other city board, committee, or commission.

[SB 399](#): The bill prohibits licensing a driver training school instructor for minors if the individual has been convicted of certain sex crimes or any offense requiring registration on the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry. It removes the five-year cap on how long the Department of Motor Vehicles may bar a revoked licensee from reapplying and mandates a minimum 10-year period before reapplication when the revocation stems from offenses such as DUI, reckless driving, refusal to submit to testing, or vehicular manslaughter. The measure also

requires the Department to create a public, searchable database of disciplinary actions, obligates schools to disclose recent disciplinary history to students and guardians, and directs the Department to submit an annual report of such actions to the House and Senate Transportation Committees.

[**SB 707**](#): The bill makes it unlawful for any person engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine to perform a surgical devocalization procedure on a dog, except when such procedure is necessary to treat or relieve any injury, disease, or congenital defect that is causing or may cause the dog physical pain or harm. A violation is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor, with subsequent offenses within 36 months elevated to a Class 6 felony, and licensed veterinarians who perform the procedure must retain related records for four years.

Here are some bills I voted in favor of that passed the Senate:

[**SB 33**](#): The bill expands the At-Risk Program to include initiatives that support both the physical and mental health of public school students, including funding for the hiring of registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses. The measure is a recommendation of the School Health Services Committee.

[**SB 261**](#): The bill creates a Class 6 felony under animal cruelty laws for any person who maliciously kills a companion dog or cat, regardless of ownership. Currently, the felony applies only when a person commits acts such as torture or cruelly beating, maiming, or mutilating a companion dog or cat and those acts directly result in serious bodily injury, death, or euthanasia recommended by a licensed veterinarian.

Here are some good bills I am disappointed to see fail:

[**SB 772**](#): Requires the State Corporation Commission to prioritize the most affordable and reliable energy generation sources in collaboration with public utilities.

[**SB 104**](#): Mandates that the utility bills transparently disclose hidden costs and tax increases.

[SB 512](#): Requires public utilities to increase electric generation projects before raising power bills on customers.

I was visited by a few groups this week to discuss issues that were pertinent to them!



The Medical Society of Virginia came by the office.



Virginia Interfaith swung by to discuss a few pieces of legislation.



A few representatives for Jewish Advocacy Day talked with us about some bills they found important.

I encourage you to reach out to my office and my team will be there to assist you, regardless of the issue. Whether or you are a Republican, Democrat or Independent, I want to hear about what is important to you. Do not ever hesitate to email my office at senatordiggs@senate.virginia.gov or call me at (757) 888-7524.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Senator Danny Diggs