

## General Assembly Terminology, David Bailey Associates

*Block* = a group of uncontested bills or resolutions; bills can be taken out of the block and voted on individually

*Continued to 2027* = put in a ‘comma’ (life support); must be acted on by committee no later than December 3, 2026, or the bill dies.

*Defeated by Senate or House* = dead for the year

*Engrossed* = in final form, ready for passage

*Failed to Report* = died in committee

*Left in committee* = dead for the year

*Passed by indefinitely* = dead for the year

*Passed by temporarily* = will be reconsidered later in the same meeting

*Passed by for the day* = will be considered during the next meeting

*Read first time, read second time, engrossed* = three-step process to passage

*Referred to committee* = All bills are considered in at least one committee within each chamber.

*Stricken* = pulled or withdrawn by patron without a vote

“*The Clause*” = used by the Senate; “That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed in 2026 by the General Assembly that becomes law.”

### Later in session

*Approved by the Governor* = will be in the Code and takes effect July 1 unless otherwise noted

*Acts of Assembly* = in the Code and takes effect July 1 unless otherwise noted

*Governor’s three options* = sign the bill, veto the bill, or return the bill to the house in which it originated with an amendment; a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote in both chambers is required to override a veto and become law. **note:** there is NO pocket veto in Virginia

*Governor’s Action Deadline* = time by which Governor must sign, veto, request an amendment or allow the bill to become law without signing. If the Governor receives a bill by the end of February, he has seven days to act on it. If received in less than seven days prior to the end of the session, he has thirty days from adjournment. A veto or requested amendment will be considered on April 22, 2026, *Reconvened Day*.