

Virginia State Firefighters Association Bill Report 2-13-26

The week of February 9–13 marked a transition in the 2026 General Assembly from early committee storytelling toward more consequential floor action, negotiations, and public awareness of major policy debates. With the mid-February crossover looming, lawmakers pushed key measures and leadership priorities across committees and chamber floors. A central political theme continues to be affordability and cost burdens facing Virginians, a top priority championed by Governor Abigail Spanberger and Democratic leaders as part of their broader economic agenda. Lawmakers touted progress on elements like medicine pricing relief and consumer protections.

In addition to affordability, several high-profile policy conflicts gained traction this week. The Virginia Senate voted to adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, a symbolic but politically charged measure with implications for how the state participates in presidential elections alongside other compact members. Meanwhile, the Commonwealth saw increased political attention around congressional redistricting: the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that a mid-decade redistricting referendum will proceed to an April statewide vote even as legal challenges continue. That decision could reshape the U.S. House map out of Virginia and is already drawing national scrutiny about the partisan balance of power.

Political dynamics were also reflected in recent special elections and representation changes. On February 10, Democrat Elizabeth Bennett-Parker won a Virginia Senate District 39 special election, helping Democrats maintain their legislative bench strength after several members were appointed to administration posts. Such shifts matter as both chambers prepare for crucial votes on budgets and major policy packages leading up to crossover and budget deadlines later this month.

On the legislative calendar, the February 17 crossover deadline is now just days away - the point by which most bills must pass their chamber of origin to remain viable for final action later in session. Committees are likewise under pressure to clear measures ahead of deadlines for moving bills out of chamber committee of origin and preparing for floor consideration. Per the established legislative calendar, hearings and committee votes will intensify as legislators balance constituent priorities with the need to focus on initiatives that can realistically pass both chambers.

Beyond crossover, legislators are navigating other procedural milestones and policy arenas that will define the remainder of session. Alongside affordability and election reform discussions, lawmakers are debating issues such as gun violence prevention funding, prescription drug pricing transparency, and broader healthcare cost-relief measures. These topics illustrate an underlying theme of the current session: reconciling transformative policy ambitions with fiscal realities and timeline constraints as session heads toward its March 14 adjournment.

You can access the Legislative Calendar [here](#).



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Bill	Catch line	Legislation Status	Chief Patron
HB7	Law-enforcement officers; restrictions on wearing of facial coverings, exceptions, civil liability.	In Committee	Jones
HB11	Emergency custody orders; transportation to treatment center, etc.	Continued	McNamara
HB38	Public schools; mental health awareness training and instruction, requirements.	In Committee	Henson
HB43	Suicide; abolishes common-law crime, delayed effective date, report.	In Committee	Simon
HB48	Suicide prevention; VDH to convene work group to develop plan to reduce among at-risk populations.	In Committee	Reid
HB169	Emerg. management; Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Sec. shall convene work group to evaluate.	Passed House	Askew
HB204	Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; extends membership to emergency dispatchers.	In Committee	Cherry
HB205	Va. Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers, delayed effective date.	In Committee	Cherry
HB209	Peer recovery specialists; VDH & DOC to develop guidelines for hiring.	In House	Price
HB227	Line of Duty Act; transitional coverage.	In Committee	Cornett
HB230	Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems, certain emergency medical services personnel exempted.	In Committee	McQuinn
HB233	Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems, exempts certain emergency medical services personnel.	In Committee	Wachsmann
HB240	Admission to bail; fixing terms of bail, mental health considerations.	Continued	Gardner
HB246	Mental illness, neurocognitive disorder, etc.; affirmative defense or reduced penalty.	In House	Watts
HB248	Interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements; development of behavioral health co-response teams.	In Committee	Watts
HB249	Marcus alert system; external database information removal.	In Committee	Watts
HB273	Law-enforcement officers; duty to render aid upon danger to life or limb, civil immunity.	In Committee	Helmer
HB289	Electric utilities; small portable solar generation devices.	Incorporated	Anderson
HB325	Fire Programs, Department of; development of mental health awareness training.	In Committee	Sullivan
HB393	First Responders Cancer Screening Fund; created.	In House	Askew
HB394	Fire Programs Fund; increases assessment.	In Committee	Askew
HB457	Land development; solar canopies in parking areas, definition.	Incorporated	Krizek
HB585	Va. Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for animal control officers and 911 dispatchers.	In Committee	Ballard
HB682	Fire Programs Fund; aid to localities, redistribution of funds.	Failed	Zehr
HB735	Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code; temporary tents used for agritourism purposes.	In House	Leftwich
HB1054	Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.	In Committee	Phillips
HB1269	Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; extends membership to emergency dispatchers.	In Committee	Nivar
HB1314	Civil action for deprivation of rights; liability of persons acting under color of law.	Continued	Maldonado
HB1333	Paid firefighters; hours of work.	In House	Feggans
SB80	Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.	Continued	Mulchi



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SB87	Local government sporting events and sporting facilities; automated external defibrillators.	Passed Senate	Stanley
SB98	Virginia Emergency Management Preparedness & Capabilities Grant Program & Fund; established, report.	Passed Senate	Stanley
SB100	Volunteer emergency responders, protection of employees; civil action.	In Committee	Stanley
SB101	Med. assistance serv.; supplemental payment for ground emerg. medical serv. vehicle transportation.	Continued	Stanley
SB102	School boards; high school courses or dual enrollment programs for certain certifications.	Continued	Stanley
SB111	Trespassing on Emergency vehicles; prohibition, penalty.	In Committee	Craig
SB132	Uniform Statewide Building Code; exemptions for agritourism structures.	In Senate	Craig
SB140	Fire Programs, Department of; development of mental health awareness training.	In Subcommittee	McPike
SB156	Emergency medical services personnel; requirements for personnel without commercial drivers license.	Failed	McDougle
SB197	Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; loan and grant program, deferment of interest accrual.	Passed Senate	Williams Graves
SB233	Fire Programs Fund; distribution of fund.	In Senate	Head
SB523	Line of Duty Act; payments to beneficiaries.	Engrossed	Deeds
SB635	Emergency Services and Disaster Law; declaration of a state of preparedness.	In Senate	McDougle
SB775	Insurance; increases fees for vehicles, etc.	Continued	Hackworth