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Virginia State Firefighters Association Bill Report 3-14-26

The 2026 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly concluded this week with significant unfinished business centered on the state budget. While both chambers completed action on most of the policy legislation, negotiations between House and Senate budget conferees did not produce a final conference report before adjournment sine die on March 14. On March 13, House and Senate leadership publicly acknowledged that the two chambers would not reach agreement before adjournment and confirmed that a special session will be required to finalize a budget bill for presentation to the Governor.

The primary sticking points remain differences in tax policy, most notably the House proposal to scale back or eliminate certain data center tax incentives, along with variances in school funding, compensation adjustments, health and human services spending, and reserve deposits. Leadership from both chambers indicated that negotiations are ongoing and expressed confidence that a compromise budget can be completed within the next month. Under Virginia law, the Governor must call a special session, and it is widely expected that the administration of Abigail Spanberger will be unofficially and actively engaged in discussions during that process, given the executive branch's central role in shaping final fiscal policy.

Although the budget remains unresolved, all other legislation passed during session has now been transmitted to the Governor. She has 30 days from adjournment to act on bills presented within a week of session adjourning. The Governor's options include signing a bill into law, vetoing a bill in its entirety, or returning a bill with amendments. Attention will now shift to identifying which measures may draw amendments or vetoes during this executive review period.

Reconvene Day, scheduled for April 22, 2026, will be the General Assembly's opportunity to consider the Governor's vetoes and recommended amendments. During that brief, usually one day, session members may vote to sustain or override vetoes (which requires a two-thirds vote of members present) and may accept or reject gubernatorial amendments by majority vote. If amendments are rejected, the bill returns to the Governor in its original form. However, because the budget was not finalized during the Regular Session, it will not be part of Reconvene Day action and instead will be addressed separately during the forthcoming special session.

With adjournment complete, the 2026 session now transitions into executive action on policy legislation, with the upcoming 2026 Special Session covering continued legislative negotiation on the Commonwealth's biennial budget. The coming weeks will be defined by fiscal negotiations and the Governor's bill actions.



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Bill	Catch line	Legislation Status	Chief Patron
HB7	Law-enforcement officers; restrictions on wearing of facial coverings, exceptions, civil liability.	Failed	Jones
HB11	Emergency custody orders; transportation to treatment center, etc.	Continued	McNamara
HB38	Public schools; mental health awareness training and instruction, requirements.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Henson
HB43	Suicide; abolishes common-law crime, delayed effective date, report.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Simon
HB48	Suicide prevention; VDH to convene work group to develop plan to reduce among at-risk populations.	Failed	Reid
HB169	Emerg. management; Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Sec. shall convene work group to evaluate.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Askew
HB204	Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; extends membership to emergency dispatchers.	Failed	Cherry
HB205	Va. Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers, delayed effective date.	Failed	Cherry
HB209	Peer recovery specialists; VDH & DOC to develop guidelines for hiring.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Price
HB227	Line of Duty Act; transitional coverage.	Failed	Cornett
HB230	Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems, certain emergency medical services personnel exempted.	Awaiting Governor's Action	McQuinn
HB233	Motor vehicles; use of safety belt systems, exempts certain emergency medical services personnel.	Failed	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.	Passed	Watts
HB248	Interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements; development of behavioral health co-response teams.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Watts
HB249	Marcus alert system; external database information removal.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Watts
HB273	Law-enforcement officers; duty to render aid upon danger to life or limb, civil immunity.	Passed	Helmer
HB289	Electric utilities; small portable solar generation devices.	Incorporated	Anderson
HB325	Fire Programs, Department of; development of mental health awareness training.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Sullivan
HB393	Firefighters Cancer Screening Grant Program and Fund; established.	Continued	Askew
HB394	Fire Programs Fund; increases assessment.	Failed	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.	Failed	Ballard
HB682	Fire Programs Fund; aid to localities, redistribution of funds.	Failed	Zehr
HB735	Agritourism purposes; Bd. of HCD to review regulations for temporary tents.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Leftwich
HB1054	Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.	Failed	Phillips



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HB1269	Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; extends membership to emergency dispatchers.	Failed	Nivar
HB1313	Workers' compensation; law-enforcement officers and firefighters, post-traumatic stress disorder.	Passed	Callsen
HB1314	Civil action for deprivation of rights; liability of persons acting under color of law.	Continued	Maldonado
HB1333	Paid firefighters; hours of work.	Awaiting Signature	Feggans
SB80	Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program; established, report.	Continued	Mulchi
SB87	Local government sporting events and sporting facilities; automated external defibrillators.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Stanley
SB98	Emergency management; work group to evaluate existing needs in the Commonwealth, report.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Stanley
SB100	Volunteer emergency responders; protection of employees, civil action.	Awaiting Governor's Action	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.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Craig
SB132	Agritourism purposes; Bd. of HCD to review regulations for temporary tents.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Craig
SB140	Fire Programs, Department of; development of mental health awareness training.	Passed	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.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Williams Graves
SB233	Fire Programs Fund; distribution of fund.	Awaiting Governor's Action	Head
SB523	Line of Duty Act; payments to beneficiaries.	Continued	Deeds
SB635	State of preparedness; feasibility & impact of program to prioritize prevention/mitigation, etc.	Failed	McDougle
SB775	Insurance; increases fees for vehicles, etc.	Continued	Hackworth