



2022 General Assembly Crossover Update

BILLS WE SUPPORT

SB 494 (Sen. McClellan)

- ✓ Strengthen protections for those impacted by workplace and sexual harassment.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE, CROSSED OVER TO HOUSE

SB 494 sailed through the Senate (mostly on a party-line vote) and has been assigned to the House General Laws Committee where we expect it to need some help.

Workplace and sexual harassment continue to be a pervasive issue in Virginia. The Virginia Human Rights Act (VHRA) requires procedural clarity, particularly with regards to a consistent and expanded statute of limitations and employer size threshold. For more [see our one-pager](#).

HB 671 (Del. Hope)

- ✓ Expand the Hope Card Program for Petitioners of Final Protective Orders Statewide.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE, CROSSED OVER TO SENATE

HB 671 moved through the House quickly and did so with strong bipartisan support and little to no questions or hesitation from legislators.

The Hope Card Program, operated by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, allows anyone who has a final protective order to obtain a card summarizing the order's critical information. For more, [see our one-pager](#).

SJ 5 (Sen. Ebbin) and HJ 57 (Del. Sickles)

- ✓ Constitutional Amendment to repeal Virginia's Discriminatory Ban on LGBTQ Marriage.

STATUS: HJ 57 FAILED IN HOUSE, SJ 5 PASSED IN SENATE

HJ 57 was given an incredibly emotional hearing with committee members and legislators moved to tears in the House Committee on Privileges & Elections. The Republican lead committee voted down this proposal on a party-line vote. [Read more here](#).

SJ 5 is passed the Senate and has been referred to the same House Committee for consideration.

The Action Alliance supports healthy relationships between consenting adults and believe that ALL Virginians have the right to safe, respectful, and violence free relationships and homes.

BILLS WE OPPOSE

HB 69 (Del. Davis)

- ☒ Creates a “shared parenting” presumption in child custody and separation determinations.

STATUS: FAILED IN HOUSE

HB 69 was left in the House Committee on Courts of Justice. This bills, and bills like it, continue to have strong opposition from the Action Alliance, the Virginia Family Law Coalition, the Virginia Poverty Law Center, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

SB 174 (Sen. Peake)

- ☒ Reciprocal no-contact protective orders, affirmative defense for violations of protective orders.

STATUS: PASSED IN SENATE, FAILED IN HOUSE

SB 174 passed in Senate Judiciary and Senate Finance, squeaking by with a few Democrat supporters, and aided by the fact that the patron offered last minute substitute bills that drastically changed the nature of the proposal. The final bill that passed the Senate included an affirmative defense for ANY violation of a protective order when the petitioner or victim “initiated or invited contact with the respondent”.

This was quickly docketed in the House Committee on Courts of Justice, just days after crossover, where the Virginia Association of Commonwealth’s Attorneys, Virginia Poverty Law Center, Virginia Victim Assistance Network, and Action Alliance joined forces to defeat the bill. It failed to pass in the House of Delegates.

HB 1051 (Del. Phillip Scott) and similar bills

- ☒ Increasing abuser access to lethal firearms.

STATUS: FAILED IN HOUSE

Thankfully, this bill which would have repealed all firearm prohibitions imposed on respondents in protective order cases, was never docketed and did not receive a hearing in the House.

HB 212 (Del. Greenhaulgh) and similar bills

- ☒ Limiting survivor access to healthcare, including abortion, by imposing TRAP restrictions.

STATUS: PASSED IN HOUSE

HB 212 passed on strictly party-line votes in the Republican controlled House. It was heavily debated and widely opposed by reproductive health and justice advocates. It has been assigned to Senate Education, Subcommittee on Health Professions for consideration. We anticipate it will FAIL in the Senate.