



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

**Crossover is looming ahead! This week my first bills passed the Senate and more of my bills were referred from committees.**



**Bills Pass the Senate**



On Monday, my bill, [SB 393 MEI Project Approval Commission; board-level gender and diversity requirements](#) was agreed to by the Senate. This bill requires the MEI Project Approval Commission to consider, prior to recommending approval of any major employment and investment (MEI) project, whether a business commits to maintaining a balanced board of directors based upon gender and racial diversity.

As this was my first bill to pass out of the Senate, Sen. Ebbin had some fun asking me questions about the Barbie movie. You can watch the exchange from floor below:



On Wednesday, two of my bills were agreed to by the Senate. First, [SB 389 Autism Advisory Council; reestablished](#) which reestablishes the Autism Advisory Council, which expired July 1, 2022, to promote coordination of services and resources among agencies involved in delivering services to Virginians with autism spectrum disorders (“ASDs”) and to increase public awareness of services and resources.

[SJ 26 JLARC; scope and cost of penalizing possession of drugs as a felony](#) which directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the scope and cost of the current laws in the Commonwealth penalizing possession of drugs as a felony.

Yesterday, my bill, [SB 392 hospitals; emergency departments; licensed physicians](#) was agreed to by the Senate. SB 392 requires any hospital with an emergency department to have at least one licensed physician on duty and physically present at all times. Current law requires such hospitals to have a licensed physician on call, though not necessarily physically present on the premises, at all times.

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## Bills Report Out of Committee



On Wednesday, my bill [SB 388 Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; mandatory fees disclosure](#) reported out of the General Laws and Technology Committee. SB 388 protects consumers from surprise fees. These fees are incredibly detrimental to hardworking Virginians, and to our economy. Hidden fees can occur when booking a hotel room, renting a car, or even purchasing Taylor Swift Eras Tour tickets. This bill enhances the Virginia Consumer Protection Act and is good for business because it builds trust with consumers and trust is what builds a customer base.

You can read more about the bill from the [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#).



In a show of bi-partisanship, my bill [SB 387 Public elementary and secondary schools; policies and requirements relating to naloxone](#) was rolled into Sen. Todd Pillion's bill [SB 726 Public secondary schools; naloxone procurement, possession, and administration; school board employee training and certification; opioid overdose prevention and reversal instruction; guidelines and requirements](#) during last week's Subcommittee on Public Education. This week SB 726 reported out of the Education and Health Committee.

SB 726 would require school boards to develop a plan for the procurement, storage, maintenance, and administration by a trained nurse or school employee of opioid antagonists for the purposes of opioid overdose reversal in every public elementary and secondary school.



On Thursday, I presented my bill, [SB 586 public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; evidence-based restorative disciplinary practices](#) in the Subcommittee on Public Education. SB 586 prohibits any public elementary or secondary school student from being suspended, expelled, or excluded from attendance at school without consideration of first implementing at least one evidence-based restorative disciplinary practice. There are exemptions for certain cases involving firearms, drugs, adjudications of delinquency, or convictions of certain crimes.

Yesterday, I presented my bill, [SB 391 employee protections; medicinal use of cannabis oil](#) which amends the provision that prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee for such employee's lawful use of cannabis oil pursuant to a valid written certification issued by a practitioner for the treatment or to eliminate the symptoms of the employee's diagnosed condition or disease to extend these protections to public employees with exemptions.

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## Meeting with Constituents



I met with a representative from the Virginia Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics. I also met with one of my constituents to discuss a bill to support foster children transitioning into independent life.



I met with representatives of the Giles County Farm Bureau to discuss agricultural issues and priorities.



Finally, I met with James Madison University President Jonathan R. Alger.

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**Happy Birthday Colleen!**







# SD 36 Resolution Nominations

Please send nominations for  
Commending and Memorial  
Resolutions to  
[info@stellapekarsky.com](mailto:info@stellapekarsky.com)



Nominations can include: A new business that has opened in the community, a local group that has started a new project, an individual that has received an award, or, at the family's request, a memorial resolution honoring the life of a constituent in the district, and more!

**Please send all nominations to:**  
[info@stellapekarsky.com](mailto:info@stellapekarsky.com)

While a resolution cannot be guaranteed for all nominations due to the volume we receive, I am looking forward to honoring some of the incredible constituents I will soon represent.



# Schedule a meeting with me in Richmond and reach out to our office about legislation that is important to you!

Email: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov  
Phone: (804) 698-7536

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Richmond, VA 23218

**Cheers,**  
**Stella Pekarsky**  
**Senator, District 36**

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