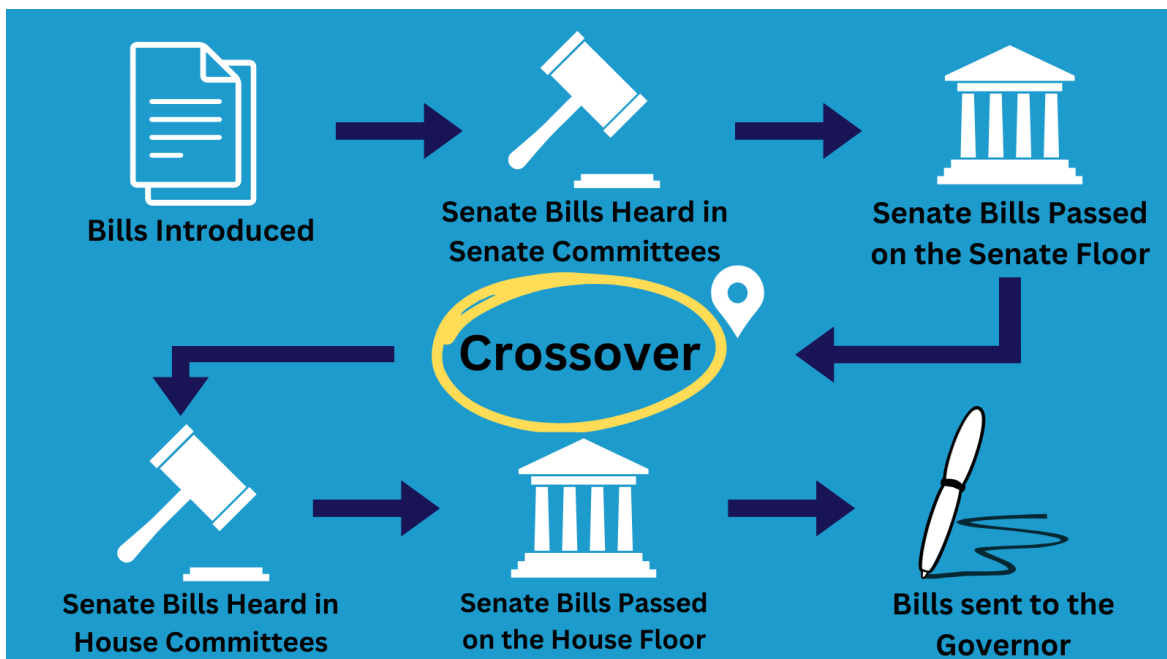


Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Yesterday was Crossover in the General Assembly in Richmond. Crossover marks the halfway point of the legislative session, where all bills still being considered cross over into the other body. This year, I have 15 bills that will be crossing over to the House to be voted on before heading to the Governor's desk.

This week, the Senate and the House released their budgets. I'm grateful to work alongside my colleagues as we advocate for all hardworking Virginians.

Please continue engaging my office on issues that are important to you. The 2025 legislative session is scheduled to end Sine Die on 2/22/2025.



# Legislation Heading Over to the House of Delegates

I'm proud to champion legislation that prioritizes education, children's health and safety, lowering the cost of living, and small businesses.

# CROSSOVER

*SEN. PEKARSKY'S*

*BILLS*

SENATE DISTRICT 36

## SB 738

- Requires school districts to develop cell phone and smart device use policies. This allows for local flexibility.

## SB 1030

- Requires that sports physicals for student athlete participation be accepted on a 14 month rolling basis

## SB 1034

- Supports students and teachers receiving training to utilize augmentative and alternative communication

## SB 1036

- Ensures that certified nurses and administrators can administer life saving seizure rescue medications to prescribed students

## SB 1035

- Opioid antagonists; dispensing and administration by person acting on behalf of an organization

## SB 1038

- Telehealth visits for patients with disabilities; best practice educational training

## SB 1037

- Requires school boards to develop policies for students to utilize tele

## SB 1039

- Requires the department of corrections to develop

therapy services

policies for inmate use  
of telehealth

# CROSSOVER

## *SEN. PEKARSKY'S BILLS*

### SENATE DISTRICT 36

#### **SB 1048**

- Requires school boards to share annually, materials outlining the importance of safely storing weapons and prescription medication

#### **SB 1210**

- Requires a buyer beware clause be added to all property purchases regarding airport noise from Dulles

#### **SB 1215**

- Updates insurance prior authorization process and creates additional transparency on timelines and appeals process.

#### **SB 1447**

- Requires insurance companies to cover of blood pressure

#### **SB 1188**

- Requires DPOR to develop a process for international professional license recognition; such as realtors or architects

#### **SB 1212**

- Requires full up front pricing on all purchases. Bans undisclosed junk fees.

#### **SB 1269**

- Saves the Virginia Railway Authority (VRE) over \$100,000 annually on duplicative state taxes

#### **SJ 261**

- Designating the first week of October as Specialized Education Week to honor our SPED teachers and

monitors

SUPPORTING TEACHERS and  
students

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## Budget Updates

This year, the House and Senate released their interim budget for FY 2025-2026. These increases show our shared priorities in investing in our future, hardworking Virginians, and lowering the cost of living. The Commonwealth Institute has a complete Side by Side view and comparison of all proposed budgets. [You can read more here](#)

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### Key Budget Policy Choices

Comparing the governor's and money committee budgets to current budget



The governor, House Appropriations, and Senate Finance & Appropriations committees have released their proposed changes to the 2024-2026 budget (FYs 2025 and 2026). The charts below provide a summary level assessment of key general fund changes proposed by the money committees and Gov. Youngkin compared to the current budget.

[Both chambers increase the state's standard deduction and refundable earned income tax credit, and expand access to affordable child care.](#)

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one of the most powerful and proven tools in our country to help families with low incomes put food on the table and, on a broader scale, lift families out of poverty. Both money committees proposed increasing the refundable EITC option to 20% of the federal credit. Compared to the current refundable option, [this choice will put more than \\$300 back into the pocket of a married couple making \\$30,000 a year with two children at tax time.](#)

Both the House and Senate committees took the historic step of fully removing the arbitrary cap on state funding for support staff and created flexible add-ons to [help school divisions with meeting the needs of students with disabilities.](#)

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[Stay informed about what is happening in Richmond and around the 36th District.](#)



## **It is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District**

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

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