



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

We just wrapped up our 5th week of session!



Senator PeKarsky and Senator Marsden on the Capitol Square with Richmond SPCA

I am particularly happy to announce that **SIX** more of my bills ([SB115](#), [SB207](#), [SB305](#), [SB308](#), [SB491](#), and [SB685](#)) have now passed the Senate and will head to the House. Each one addresses the important issues I have heard from

both my constituents and other residents of the Commonwealth.

With the ice slowly melting away, I was excited to welcome more constituents back in my office this week! Being the week before crossover, I have been extremely busy in committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and long floor sessions to ensure I am well-informed on each bill, have heard all of the relevant testimony, and have all of the information I need prior to voting.

Follow along to see what all I have been up to this week.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District,

Cheers,



Stella Pekarsky

Senator, District 36

[Legislative Updates](#)

As of today's date, I have 18 bills that have passed out of the Senate!

- **[SB 107](#): Jury Exemption**
- **[SB 108](#): Cell Phones in Schools**
- **[SB 109](#): Safe Storage**

- [**SB 115**: Reciprocity](#)
- [**SB 117**: Teacher Contracts](#)
- [**SB 126**: Filing Deadline Extensions](#)
- [**SB 137**: Obstructing Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [**SB 169**: Candidate Qualifications](#)
- [**SB 172**: Health Insurance Claims](#)
- [**SB 207**: SUDEP](#)
- [**SB 258**: VHRA, Menopause or Perimenopause](#)
- [**SB 305**: Kinship Barrier Crimes](#)
- [**SB 308**: VDH; Opioid](#)
- [**SB 309**: Driver's Education Curriculum](#)
- [**SB 491**: Student Protections](#)
- [**SB 492**: Geologists](#)
- [**SB 493**: Click to Cancel](#)
- [**SB 685**: Language Access](#)

Click each bill number for the full bill summary, bill text, and vote breakdown, or click the button below!

Stella's Bills

Relevant Updates

Today, I voted **against** SB661 - a bill which would allow neighborhood businesses to place machines in convenience stores, restaurants and gas stations.

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA

S.B. 661. (Rouse) Pg. 33

Va. Small Business Economic Dev. Act; established, regulation and taxation of sk...

YEAS: 24 NAYS: 15 R36: 0

YEAS: Aird	NAYS: Ebbin	YEAS: McDougle	YEAS: Rouse
YEAS: Bagby	YEAS: Favola	NAYS: McPike	YEAS: Salim
YEAS: Boysko	FRENCH	NAYS: Mulchi	YEAS: Srinivasan
YEAS: Carroll Foy	NAYS: Hackworth	YEAS: Obenshain	YEAS: Stanley
NAYS: Cifers	NAYS: Head	NAYS: Peake	YEAS: Stuart
YEAS: Craig	YEAS: Jones	NAYS: Pekarsky	NAYS: Sturtevant
YEAS: Deeds	YEAS: Jordan	YEAS: Perry	NAYS: Suetterlein
YEAS: DeSteph	YEAS: Locke	NAYS: Pillion	YEAS: Surovell
YEAS: Diggs	YEAS: Lucas	YEAS: Reeves	NAYS: VanValkenburg
NAYS: Durant	NAYS: Marsden	NAYS: Roem	YEAS: Williams Graves

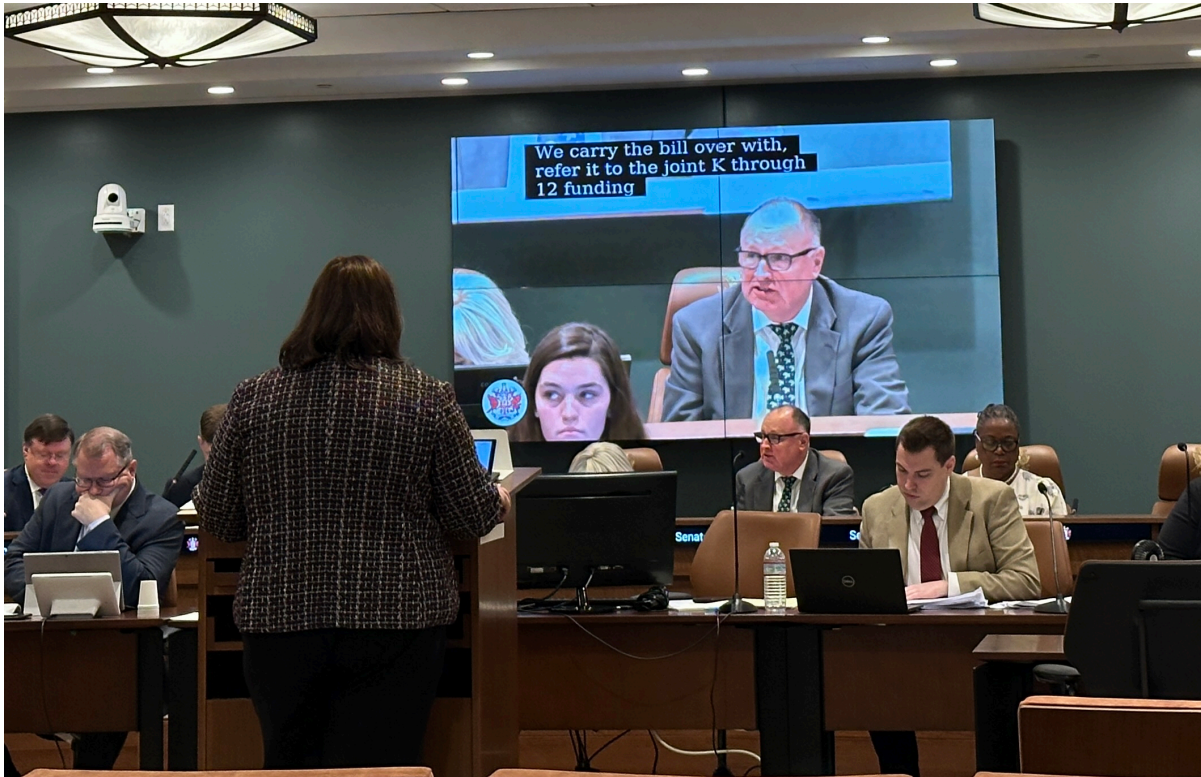
I believe the easy access it would create for our youth far outweighs any support of this legislation.

Richmond Updates

On Monday, I began my morning in the full Local Government committee listening to testimony and voting on legislation relating to land development, zoning development, affordable housing initiatives, and so much more!

If you want to watch the full committee meeting, check out the Senate of Virginia Youtube Archives [HERE](#).

Directly after, I presented four of my bills ([SB147](#), [SB491](#), [SB678](#), [SB685](#)) to the Senate Finance committee.



[SB491](#) and [SB685](#) reported out of the Finance and Appropriations committee and will go to the Senate floor for a full vote! Two of the bills ([SB147](#) and [SB678](#)) were carried over to the 2027 session to allow for additional studies to be conducted.

If you wish to watch the full finance committee meeting, check out the Senate of Virginia Youtube Archives [HERE](#).

On Tuesday, I spoke in favor of [SB115](#) on the Senate floor on its 3rd constitutional reading to ensure its passage.

[SB115](#) Concealed handgun permits; reciprocity with other states.

[Tally Sheet PDF](#) [Print](#)

02/10/2026 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (21-Y 19-N 0-A)

Votes

YEAS--Aird, Bagby, Boysko, Carroll Foy, Deeds, Ebbin, Favola, Jones, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, McPike, Pekarsky, Perry, Roem, Rouse, Salim, Srinivasan, Surovell, VanValkenburg, Williams Graves--21

NAYS--Cifers, Craig, DeSteph, Diggs, Durant, French, Hackworth, Head, Jordan, McDougle, Mulchi, Obenshain, Peake, Pillion, Reeves, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Suetterlein--19

RULE 36--0

NOT VOTING--0

Here in Virginia, we have agreed on certain standards and training that are necessary before a concealed carry permit is issued, and this bill would ensure that any reciprocal agreements would be with states that have the same or higher standards as our Commonwealth.

By passing this bill, we can ensure that Virginia gun owners are all held to Virginia standards.

I ended Tuesday on the full Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources committee where I heard legislation on regulations for air pollutants, safeguard protections for our drinking water, and others.



If you wish to watch the full Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources committee meeting, check out the Senate of Virginia Youtube Archives [HERE](#).

On Wednesday, I spoke on the Senate floor on two of my bills, [SB207](#) and [SB308](#) to ensure their passage.

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA

S.B. 207. (Pekarsky) **Pg. 5**

SUDP; Office of Chief Medical Examiner to publish information on its website.

YEAS: 39**NAYS: 0****R36: 0**

YEA Aird	YEA Ebbin	YEA McDougle	Rouse
YEA Bagby	YEA Favola	YEA McPike	YEA Salim
YEA Boysko	YEA French	YEA Mulchi	YEA Srinivasan
YEA Carroll Foy	YEA Hackworth	YEA Obenshain	YEA Stanley
YEA Cifers	YEA Head	YEA Peake	YEA Stuart
YEA Craig	YEA Jones	YEA Pekarsky	YEA Sturtevant
YEA Deeds	YEA Jordan	YEA Perry	YEA Suetterlein
YEA DeSteph	YEA Locke	YEA Pillion	YEA Surovell
YEA Diggs	YEA Lucas	YEA Reeves	YEA VanValkenburg
YEA Durant	YEA Marsden	YEA Roem	YEA Williams Graves

By passing [SB207](#), the Commonwealth can lead efforts to better understand SUDEP and provide peace of mind to those impacted through collaboration with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA

S.B. 308. (Pekarsky) **Pg. 7**

Opioid overdose and opioid overdose deaths; Department of Health to reduce rates, report.

YEAS: 39**NAYS: 0****R36: 0**

YEA Aird	YEA Ebbin	YEA McDougle	Rouse
YEA Bagby	YEA Favola	YEA McPike	YEA Salim
YEA Boysko	YEA French	YEA Mulchi	YEA Srinivasan
YEA Carroll Foy	YEA Hackworth	YEA Obenshain	YEA Stanley
YEA Cifers	YEA Head	YEA Peake	YEA Stuart
YEA Craig	YEA Jones	YEA Pekarsky	YEA Sturtevant
YEA Deeds	YEA Jordan	YEA Perry	YEA Suetterlein
YEA DeSteph	YEA Locke	YEA Pillion	YEA Surovell
YEA Diggs	YEA Lucas	YEA Reeves	YEA VanValkenburg
YEA Durant	YEA Marsden	YEA Roem	YEA Williams Graves

By passing [SB308](#), we will position the Commonwealth to lead a coordinated, data-driven response to reduce opioid overdose rates and overdose-related deaths, while maximizing the impact of existing opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.

Lastly, on Friday, I spoke on the Senate floor in favor of three more bills, [SB305](#), [SB491](#) and [SB685](#) to ensure their passage.

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA

S.B. 305. (Pekarsky) **Pg. 17**

Kinship foster care; barrier crime waiver.

YEAS: 37 **NAYS: 0** **R36: 0**

YEA Aird	YEA Ebbin	YEA McDougle	YEA Rouse
YEA Bagby	YEA Favola	McPike	YEA Salim
YEA Boysko	French	YEA Mulchi	YEA Srinivasan
YEA Carroll Foy	YEA Hackworth	YEA Obenshain	Stanley
YEA Cifers	YEA Head	YEA Peake	YEA Stuart
YEA Craig	YEA Jones	YEA Pekarsky	YEA Sturtevant
YEA Deeds	YEA Jordan	YEA Perry	YEA Suetterlein
YEA DeSteph	YEA Locke	YEA Pillion	YEA Surovell
YEA Diggs	YEA Lucas	YEA Reeves	YEA VanValkenburg
YEA Durant	YEA Marsden	YEA Roem	YEA Williams Graves

By passing [SB305](#), and maintaining a rigorous review process and appropriate exclusions, the waiver program will lighten the burden of Virginia’s extremely restrictive system and allow those who have paid their dues to the Commonwealth to create happier and healthier homes for foster children.

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA

S.B. 491. (Pekarsky) **Pg. 29**

Public schools; right to free public elementary and secondary education, discrimination, etc.

YEAS: 21 **NAYS: 18** **R36: 0**

YEA Aird	YEA Ebbin	NAY McDougle	YEA Rouse
YEA Bagby	YEA Favola	YEA McPike	YEA Salim
YEA Boysko	French	NAY Mulchi	YEA Srinivasan
YEA Carroll Foy	NAY Hackworth	NAY Obenshain	NAY Stanley
NAY Cifers	NAY Head	NAY Peake	NAY Stuart
NAY Craig	YEA Jones	YEA Pekarsky	NAY Sturtevant
YEA Deeds	NAY Jordan	YEA Perry	NAY Suetterlein
NAY DeSteph	YEA Locke	NAY Pillion	YEA Surovell
NAY Diggs	YEA Lucas	NAY Reeves	YEA VanValkenburg
NAY Durant	YEA Marsden	YEA Roem	YEA Williams Graves

By passing [SB491](#), we can ensure that all students in our Commonwealth have the right to an education -

regardless of their actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status.

THE SENATE OF VIRGINIA S.B. 685. (Pekarsky) Pg. 34 SOQ; communication and language accessibility for limited English profici...

YEAS: 39 **NAYS: 0** **R36: 0**

YEA Aird	YEA Ebbin	YEA McDougle	YEA Rouse
YEA Bagby	YEA Favola	YEA McPike	YEA Salim
YEA Boysko	French	YEA Mulchi	YEA Srinivasan
YEA Carroll Foy	YEA Hackworth	YEA Obenshain	YEA Stanley
YEA Cifers	YEA Head	YEA Peake	YEA Stuart
YEA Craig	YEA Jones	YEA Pekarsky	YEA Sturtevant
YEA Deeds	YEA Jordan	YEA Perry	YEA Suetterlein
YEA DeSteph	YEA Locke	YEA Pillion	YEA Surovell
YEA Diggs	YEA Lucas	YEA Reeves	YEA VanValkenburg
YEA Durant	YEA Marsden	YEA Roem	YEA Williams Graves

By passing [SB685](#), we can ensure that students, as well as their parents and guardians, have access to the language support they deserve.

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings!



Senator Pekarsky with advocates from the Greater Washington Society of Clinical Social Workers.



Senator Pekarsky with members from the Jewish Community Relations Committee.



Chief of Staff, Alex Kellum, with advocates from the Alzheimer's Association



Senator Pekarsky with advocates from the Data Center Reform Coalition



Senator Pekarsky with advocates from CASA and the Legal Aid Justice Center

District Events & Public Meetings

Monday, February 16

[Veterans and Military Families Survey Closes](#)

Tuesday, February 17

[Council to End Domestic Violence Victim Access Workgroup Meeting](#)

Friday, February 20

[Fairfax County Black History Month Celebration](#)

Saturday, February 21

[Black History Month Celebration - Sully Community Center](#)

Friday, February 27

[FCCPTA Reflections Awards Ceremony](#)

Saturday, February 28

[Community Survey on Potential Changes to Accessory Living Units](#)

To see the full February calendar for Fairfax County's public meetings and events, check out their website [HERE](#).

Other News

Fairfax County Paid Summer Internship Program for Students with Disabilities

I am thrilled to share the Fairfax County Disability Rights and Resources is accepting applications for the [2026 John Hudson Internship Program](#) (JHIP).

This summer's paid internships are hosted within [Information Technology Services](#) in the Department of Land Development Services and

the [Alcohol Safety Action Program](#) in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

**Application packets are due by Tuesday, March 31st
at **11:59 PM****

APPLY HERE

[Submit Issues to VDOT](#)

VDOT has an online form that you can complete for a list of issues, including needing a road repaired, something removed from the road, a stop sign installation, and other requests. You can find that form [HERE](#).

[Contact my Office](#)

If you would like to schedule a meeting during the 2026 Legislative Session, contact our office directly at: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

I would love to hear directly from you!

[Commending & Memorial Resolutions](#)

Continue to submit your Commending & Memorial Resolution nominations by reaching out to my office directly at: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

[Subscribe to my Newsletter](#)

Stay informed on what's happening in Richmond & the 36th District!

SUBSCRIBE

**As always, it is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District,
Cheers,**



Stella Pekarsky
Senator, District 36

Email: senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov

Phone: (804) 698-7536

Richmond Office

201 North 9th Street Room, 621
Richmond, VA 23219

Richmond Direct Mail

P.O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

***Paid and Authorized by Friends of Stella G Pekarsky
Copyright © 2024, Stella Pekarsky, All rights reserved.***

Friends of Stella G Pekarsky
PO BOX 231191 CENTREVILLE, VA 20120

{{Disclaimer}}

Friends of Stella Pekarsky
PO BOX 231191
CENTREVILLE, VA 20120
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).