



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Happy February!



Senator Pekarisky with members from the Business Roundtable for Early Education

This week, several of my bills moved through committees and passed out of the Senate. Despite the chilly temperatures, I have continued to meet with constituents,

advocates and other organizations to hear their perspectives and legislative priorities. I am grateful to everyone who traveled down to Richmond in the ice and snow. It's always good to see new and familiar faces!

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

Cheers,



Stella Pekarsky

Senator, District 36

Legislative Updates

As of today, I have 11 bills that have passed out of the Senate and are now headed to the House:

Click each bill number below for the full bill summary, text, and vote breakdown.

→ **SB 107: Jury Exemption**

→ **SB 108: Cell Phones in Schools**

→ **SB 109: Safe Storage**

- **SB 117: Teacher Contracts**
- **SB 126: Filing Deadline Extensions**
- **SB 137: Obstructing Healthcare Facilities**
- **SB 169: Candidate Qualifications**
- **SB 172: Health Insurance Claims**
- **SB 258: VHRA, Menopause or Perimenopause**
- **SB 309: Driver's Education Curriculum**
- **SB 492: Geology; Added to Professional Services**
- **SB 493: Click to Cancel**

Additionally, four of my bills have been carried over, or continued, to 2027.

- **SB 110: Certified Library Specialists**
- **SB 174: VA Student Teacher Scholarship Program**
- **SB 365: Fair AI Act**
- **SB 615: Surveillance Pricing**

This allows for further research and commission studies (if applicable) to be conducted to ensure the legislation, when enacted, does exactly what the intent is.

To see all of my filed legislation this session, check out the LIS website!

Stella's Bills

Richmond Updates

Meetings, Meetings, and more Meetings!



Senator Pekarsky with advocates from Virginia Tech and Birth In Color



Senator Pekarsky with advocates from the US Air Force Auxiliary and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



Senator Pekarsky with advocates from Centreville Immigration Forum

Other News

495 Lane Closures & Traffic Changes

495 NEXT Project Area Map



The above construction-related lane closures and traffic changes are planned in the I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) project corridor. Travelers may encounter delays in this area. All work is subject to change based on weather and other factors.

Visit 511.vdot.virginia.gov for information on work zones and lane closures.

Fairfax County Paid Summer Internship Program for Students w/ 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

Complete applications include:

- [John Hudson Internship Program application](#)**
 - [Two letters of recommendation \(can be emailed or mailed separately\)](#)**
 - [Resume](#)**
-

Super Bowl Sunday Sober Ride Resources



Join the DMV's Highway Safety Office in planning like a pro this weekend by making safety part of your game plan and lining up a sober ride home!

Every Super Bowl, we see avoidable crashes involving alcohol, causing injury and even fatalities. Planning ahead and choosing not to drink and drive can help prevent these crashes - here are a few ways to plan like a pro:

- **Host responsibly** – Hosts should provide non-alcoholic beverage options and food for guests. Step in to help guests find a safe ride home if they have been drinking.
- **Designate a driver** – Make arrangements with friends ahead of time to identify a designated driver who will remain sober and ensure everyone gets home safely.
- **Call a car service** – Save the number of a local taxi service or download a rideshare

app, like Uber or Lyft, before heading out. Our partners at Washington Regional Alcohol Program are covering up to \$15 for Lyft passengers – get the details and code at <https://wrap.org/soberride/>

• **Buckle up – Seat belts remain the best defense in a crash and are required for all passengers under Virginia’s seat belt law.**

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



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