

## **2018 Virginia General Assembly Expose**

*What really happens in the Virginia legislative session and how it affects hard-working Virginians*

Virginia's General Assembly is a part-time legislature that encounters an enormous amount of legislation in a very short period of time. The General Assembly convenes its Regular Session on the second Wednesday of January each year and meets for only 60 calendar-day sessions in even-numbered years and 30 calendar-day sessions in odd-numbered years (which are typically extended to 46 calendar-days). In those short timeframes, the General Assembly typically discusses and votes on 2000-3000 bills. 2000-3000 bills that affect everyday Virginians.

At this breakneck pace, it becomes nearly impossible to monitor, let alone affect, the outcomes of legislation. The average Virginian is hard-pressed to follow the news, let alone the legal particulars of ongoing legislation. The average citizen does not have the time or the resources to sit in subcommittee meetings on a Tuesday morning. As a result, many decisions each year fail to address the concerns of common-sense Virginians. In recent years, political polarization and grandstanding have only increased these problems and Virginians are being left behind.

It is time that Virginians were aware of what their legislature is actually doing. Before Virginians can choose their response, they need mechanisms to witness what is happening at the General Assembly and respond in real-time. This report is a comprehensive look at what occurred in the 2018 legislative session. If its outcomes concern you, sign up for [www.VAOurWay.org](http://www.VAOurWay.org) updates to receive your own real-time updates from the 2019 General Assembly on the issues you care about, so you can choose how to react.

### **CELEBRATING 'COMPROMISE' CAN BE FALSELY CONGRATULATORY**

Although many bills each year are heralded as bipartisan compromises, they oftentimes entail one side working against hard-working Americans and another fighting tooth-and-nail to protect them. In the end, when a 'compromise' is accomplished, both parties are celebrated, when in fact one stood in the way of success for far too long. Below are several cases where both sides of the political aisle were congratulated on their bipartisan efforts, when only some participants truly had Virginians in mind.

#### ***Medicaid Expansion***

After four years of bruising political battles over Medicaid expansion, a budget was passed on May 30, 2018 to expand Medicaid for nearly 400,000 Virginians.<sup>1</sup> The issue of Medicaid expansion is not new to Virginia and nearly stalled budget negotiations in 2014, as it did again in 2018. The issue has been hotly contested in Virginia for many years, rejected by Virginia's Republican-majority legislature, but was finally agreed to after some compromise and

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.whsv.com/content/news/Virginia-lawmakers-vote-to-expand-Medicaid-484085081.html>

the changing minds of several Republican legislators. Many believe that the recent gains by Democrats, who campaigned heavily for Medicaid expansion in the 2017 elections, led some Republicans to reconsider their votes in preparation for next year's elections. Additionally, many Republicans, including Republican Speaker Kirk Cox, said that the Trump Administration's openness to reforms, like work requirements for Medicaid recipients, were key in garnering Republican support for the Medicaid expansion. Virginia became the 33rd state to approve Medicaid expansion after it passed the Senate with a 23-17 vote and the House with a 67-31 vote.

## WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Although Medicaid expansion was eventually heralded as a major compromise for the General Assembly, it came after more than four years of vigorous pushback from Republican legislators. Although polls showed that **83% of Virginians favored Medicaid expansion** (including 72% of Republicans), Republican legislators waited nearly 5 months in the 2018 legislative session to concede to its passage and nearly forced budget negotiations to stall.<sup>2</sup> Virginia was 1 of only 18 states that had not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Every year since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2013, nearly 400,000 low-income Virginians have been unable to obtain healthcare, while the Commonwealth has turned down nearly \$2 billion each year in federal dollars to aid its own residents.<sup>3</sup> In addition to their staunch opposition, despite opposing public opinion, Republicans also ensured that Medicaid expansion only occurred with an added work requirement provision that requires any adult without a disability to either work or volunteer in order to receive Medicaid. Many experts believe this requirement will make it much harder for valid recipients to receive their coverage. Although many Republicans opposed Medicaid until the very end, four principled Republican Senators did vote to support Medicaid expansion: Emmett Hanger, Frank Wagner, Ben Chafin, and Jill Holtzman Vogel.

**HIGHLIGHT: Although 72% of Republican Virginians were in favor of Medicaid expansion, Senate Republicans denied Virginia Medicaid expansion for several years.**

### *Felony Threshold Increase*

In one of the General Assembly's earliest celebrated compromises, the felony larceny threshold was raised from \$200 to \$500 with SB105<sup>4</sup>. Under state law, the larceny threshold determines the severity of criminal charges for stealing and sets the minimum amount for which

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<sup>2</sup> <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/369455-poll-83-of-virginians-support-medicaid-expansion>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2018/05/31/health-insurers-await-400k-virginians-about-to-gain-medicaid-coverage/#3ee88c26ba91>

<sup>4</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+bil+SB0105>

a criminal can be punished with a \$2,500 fine and up to 20 years in prison.<sup>5</sup> Although many Democratic legislators and the Governor had been pushing for a threshold of \$1,000, the increase to \$500 was considered a compromise to Republican legislators, who have defeated many similar bills in years past.

## WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Virginia's felony threshold had not been raised since 1980. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics had determined that \$200 in 1980 was the equivalent of \$633 in 2018, if accounting only for inflation.<sup>6</sup> With the \$200 threshold, the theft of sneakers or a cell phone was enough to put young people in prison for decades - limiting any chance of becoming a productive citizen, while costing Virginia taxpayers millions of dollars. Before the increase, Virginia was tied with New Jersey for having the lowest felony threshold in the country, but now joined 15 other states with thresholds between \$500 and \$950. Although this push is a step in the right direction, it failed to raise the threshold to a level that would have occurred naturally with inflation. This will inevitably lead to the imprisonment of countless young people for minor crimes, costing Virginians their tax dollars and keeping young people from becoming productive tax-payers themselves.

**HIGHLIGHT: Although inflation alone should have increased the felony larceny threshold to \$633, Republicans were heralded for finally compromising to a \$500 increase. As a result, Virginians can still suffer 20 years in prison for stealing an iPhone.**

## ALL VIRGINIANS LOSE ON PARTY-LINE VOTES

### *Attempts to bring equality to Virginia's schools stifled*

A large grouping of bills were introduced in the 2018 General Assembly to combat inequalities within the educational system, with no success. HB711<sup>7</sup> would have established a commission on educational parity to ensure equitable outcomes throughout the Commonwealth, but was left in the Rules committee (dominated by Republicans). SB27<sup>8</sup> would have directed the Virginia Community College System ("VCCS") to establish and administer a two-year Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") Scholarship Pilot Program for the purpose of providing access to postsecondary educational opportunities to 200 students living in poverty, but was left in Appropriations. HB1118<sup>9</sup> would have established the SAT School Day Fund,

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/breakthrough-in-virginia-on-metro-funding-lawmakers-approve-154-million/2018/03/10/a115384c-2254-11e8-86f6-54bfff693d2b\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.b82bf904edfd](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/breakthrough-in-virginia-on-metro-funding-lawmakers-approve-154-million/2018/03/10/a115384c-2254-11e8-86f6-54bfff693d2b_story.html?utm_term=.b82bf904edfd)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-felony-threshold-20180117-story.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB711>

<sup>8</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SB27>

<sup>9</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB1118>

which would have enabled each public high school junior in the Commonwealth to participate in the SAT free of charge during a select school day, but was also left in Appropriations with a lack of funding options. Finally, HB372<sup>10</sup> would have allowed school districts in Virginia the option of beginning the school year prior to Labor Day, which they are currently banned from doing so without a waiver, if they concede to a five-day Labor Day weekend. The bill passed the House on a 76-22 vote and was sent to the Senate Committee on Education and Health where it was continued to 2019 (effectively killed for the year) on a 9-6 vote. Opponents of the bill argue that an earlier start to school will dampen tourism in Eastern Virginia, while supporters of the bill have long argued that longer summer vacations are frustrating for parents and detrimental to students, especially the poor.<sup>11</sup> A growing body of research has demonstrated that all students lose knowledge gained throughout the school year over the summer, but that the loss disproportionately affects underprivileged students.<sup>12</sup> This was an instance where legislators from both sides of the aisles made a decision to benefit the economy ahead of Virginian students.

SEE WHERE HB711 DIED: **House Rules Committee**

Those that voted to **kill** the bill: Knight (R), Landes (R), Orrock (R), Habeeb (R)

Those that voted for bill: Plum (D), Ward (D), Torian (D)

SEE WHERE SB27 DIED: **House Appropriations, Health and Human Resources Subcommittee**

Those that voted to **kill** the bill: Garrett (R), Landes (R), Ingram (R), Stolle (R), Pillion (R)

Those that voted for the bill: Sickles (D), James (D), Aird (D)

SEE WHERE HB1118 DIED: **House Appropriations, Elementary & Secondary Education Subcommittee**

Those that voted to **kill** the bill: Peace (R), Landes (R), Knight (R), Rush (R), Pillion (R), McQuinn (D), Aird (D), John J. Bell (D)

Those that voted for the bill: No one.

SEE WHERE HB372 DIED: **Senate Committee on Education and Health**

Those that voted to **kill** the bill until 2019: Saslaw (D), Lucas (D), Barker (D), Black (R), Carrico (R), Cosgrove (R), Lewis (D), Dunnavant (R)

Those that voted for the bill: Howell (D), Locke (D), Petersen (D), Chase (R), Suetterlein (R), Peake (R)

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<sup>10</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB0372>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.economist.com/international/2018/08/11/long-summer-holidays-are-bad-for-children-especially-the-poor>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2018-06-07/summer-exacerbates-the-divide-between-rich-and-poor-students>

**HIGHLIGHT: Although Virginia schools consistently score an “F” on education equality<sup>13</sup>, numerous legislators killed bills that would have begun to address this crisis.**

***Party-dominated subcommittee stifles legislation to bring light to the General Assembly***

HB1591<sup>14</sup> would have required every General Assembly Committee and Subcommittee, in both Houses, to create a report on each and every bill that is heard by them during session and to include the disposition taken on the bill, its resolution, any amendments made to it, and a list of all the organizations that testified in support or opposition of the bill. The bill further requires that the reports be posted on the General Assembly's website for anyone to easily access. The gravity of this bill cannot be understated, as it would have provided a window for the public to view the complete legislative process without having to attend the General Assembly in person. Unsurprisingly, the financial costs of this program, as well as the massive demands it would put on the legislature, led to it being left in the House Committee on Rules, which was dominated by Republican legislators.

Curious about the members of the House Rules Committee? The House Rules Committee has the following 11-6 member breakdown: Cox (R), Gilbert (R), Landes (R), Kilgore (R), Ware (R), Jones, S.C. (R), Orrock (R), Knight (R), Ingram (R), Habeeb (R), Austin (R), Plum (D), Toscano (D), Carr (D), Ward (D), Torian (D), Bagby (D)

**HIGHLIGHT: Virginians could have had access to what happens at the General Assembly, but were denied by a stacked House Committee.**

***Gun control never stood a chance***

Gun reform was one of the most polarizing issues of the 2018 General Assembly. Although Republicans spoke of bipartisanship as the session began and newfound support for gun control rallied around the incoming Governor, any hope of success was obliterated within the first three weeks of session. More than 70 bills were introduced by Democrats to curb gun use in the Commonwealth and were summarily rejected by their Republican counterparts, despite tear-filled testimony by several Virginians.<sup>15</sup> The bills died on party lines and almost entirely in subcommittees or committees. Many bills were suspected of being sent to specific committees, where the majority knew it could easily defeat bills along party lines.

Many bills called for background checks for any firearm transfer: all were rejected.<sup>16</sup> Another set of bills, which were testified to by survivors of the Las Vegas shooting in October

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<sup>13</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BTAjZuqOs8pEGWW6oUBotb6omVw1hUJI/view>

<sup>14</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB1591>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/2018/03/13/virginia-gun-bills-fail/418888002/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20180220/virginia-2018-legislative-session-update>

2017, sought to limit “bump stocks” and other “trigger activators” were also summarily rejected.<sup>17</sup> There was an abnormally high amount of citizen involvement during this testimony, but it appeared to have little effect on the final votes. On the contrary, bills like SB372<sup>18</sup>, which would have allowed weapons in a place of worship, made it through the Senate before being rejected by the House of Delegates. Republicans made it very clear that they would not entertain even the simplest common-sense gun reform measures in the 2018 General Assembly.

**HIGHLIGHT: Republican legislators voted on party lines to defeat more than 70 bills and refused to consider even the most common-sense gun control bills, despite citizens’ pleas.**

***Hard-working Virginians are still expected to live on \$15,080/year***

The American Dream rests upon the notion that a person willing to regularly participate in a hard days work should be able to support themselves and their families. Despite that fundamental notion, Virginia’s minimum wage is denying many Virginians this opportunity. Virginia’s current minimum wage stands at \$7.25 per hour, which amounts to an annual salary of \$15,080 for a person working forty hour each week for 52 weeks of the year. An amount too small to support an individual, let alone an entire family. To remedy this situation, seven bills were proposed in the 2018 General Assembly to increase the minimum wage in Virginia, but all were rejected. The bills called for various increases, with HB518<sup>19</sup> recommending the highest increase to a \$15 per hour minimum wage. Several of the other bills called for lesser increases, like HB715<sup>20</sup> which recommended a minimum wage of \$10.10. A majority of the bills requested a gradual increase, over several years, before the final minimum wage would be implemented. All bills failed.

Virginia is currently one of only fourteen states with a minimum wage that matches the federal minimum wage. Thirty states have opted for minimum wages above the federal level. HB39<sup>21</sup> was an attempted compromise that would have at least allowed localities to implement their own minimum wage, but it too was rejected. 76% of Americans say they would vote to raise the minimum wage to \$9 per hour, but in Virginia the issue was dead on arrival.

SEE WHERE HB518 DIED (\$15/hour by 2022): ***Left in House Committee on Commerce and Labor***

SEE WHERE HB715 DIED (\$10.10/hour by 2019): ***Left in House Committee on Commerce and Labor***

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<sup>17</sup> <https://wvtv.com/2018/01/25/gun-control-bills-die-in-virginia-house-subcommittee/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SB0372>

<sup>19</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB518>

<sup>20</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SB58>

<sup>21</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB39>

## SEE WHERE HB39 DIED: *Left in House Committee on Commerce and Labor*

Notice a trend? The House Committee on Commerce and Labor has the following 12-10 member breakdown: Kilgore (R), Byron (R), Ware (R), Hugo (R), Marshall (R), Cline (R), Bell, Robert B. (R), Habeeb (R), O'Quinn (R), Yancey (R), Ransone (R), Webert (R), Ward (D), Keam (D), Filler-Corn (D), Kory (D), Lindsey (D), Bagby (D), Toscano (D), Heretick (D), Mullin (D), Bourne (D)

**HIGHLIGHT: While Virginia Delegates make \$17,640 for their part-time legislating, they expect hard-working Virginians to support themselves on \$15,080 per year.**

## LOOKING OUT FOR THEMSELVES

### *Republicans vote to make voting more difficult in hopes of defending their seats*

With 65.70% of Virginians voting in the 2016 Presidential election, Virginia ranked 10th in the nation with regards to voter turnout.<sup>22</sup> That is in spite of the fact that Virginia has some of the strictest voter identification laws in the country.<sup>23</sup> These facts are part of an ongoing debate in Virginia - and in most of the United States - about the ease and accessibility of voting. Democrats typically seek to make registration and voting more streamlined in the hopes of increasing voter turnout, while Republicans traditionally seek to make the process more strict to stifle voter turnout. This dichotomy was on full display at the 2018 General Assembly, where many new voting bills were addressed, voted upon, and rejected. Sweeping bills, like HB1079<sup>24</sup> and SB452<sup>25</sup>, attempted to simply eradicate the photo identification requirements altogether, while more incremental bills, like HB191<sup>26</sup> and HB403<sup>27</sup>, would have allowed, respectively, for out-of-state student identification cards as an acceptable form of identification or created an automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicle. Other bills, like HB265<sup>28</sup> and HB568<sup>29</sup>, sought to lengthen election day polling hours by an hour to accommodate voters with family and work responsibilities. All of these bills were rejected. On the other hand, some bills passed, like HB397<sup>30</sup>, which removes the requirement for absentee voters to disclose the last four digits of their social security numbers, and SB379<sup>31</sup>, which requires voting registrar offices

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22 <sup>1</sup>[http://www.fairvote.org/voter\\_turnout#voter\\_turnout\\_101](http://www.fairvote.org/voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101)

23 <sup>1</sup><http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/voter-id.aspx>

24 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB1079>

25 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SB452>

26 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB191>

27 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB403>

28 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB265>

29 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB568>

30 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB397>

31 <sup>1</sup><http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SB379>

to be open a minimum of five days per week (when they had previously been required for only three). All in all, Virginia changed very little about its voting process in 2018 and Virginians still struggle to reach the polls to be heard.

SEE WHERE HB1079 DIED: **House Privileges and Elections Subcommittee #2**

Those that voted to kill the bill: Leftwich (R), Landes (R), O'Quinn (R), Cole (R)

Those that voted against killing the bill: Lindsey (D), Turpin (D)

SEE WHERE HB191 DIED: **House Privileges and Elections Subcommittee #2**

Those that voted to kill the bill: Leftwich (R), Landes (R), Habeeb (R), Cole (R)

Those that voted against killing the bill: Lindsey (D), Turpin (D)

SEE WHERE HB403 DIED: ***Left in* House Privileges and Elections Subcommittee #1**

Committee Breakdown: Ransone (R), Rush (R), Fowler (R), L.R. Adams (R), Cole (R), Sickles (D), VanValkenburg (D)

SEE WHERE HB265 DIED: **House Privileges and Elections Subcommittee #2**

Those that voted to kill the bill: Leftwich (R), Landes (R), Habeeb (R), Cole (R)

Those that voted against killing the bill: Lindsey (D), Turpin (D)

**HIGHLIGHT: Any attempts to ease the voting process for hard-working Virginians were met with resistance from the Republican majority and left to die in subcommittees.**

### ***Politicians refuse to regulate their own campaign spending***

While several bills did successfully address issues within Virginia's political processes, some of the most significant bills failed to make it through the 2018 General Assembly. Bills HB5<sup>32</sup>, HB7<sup>33</sup>, and HB122<sup>34</sup> all proposed changes to the law which would have prevented political candidates, as well as their campaign staff and family, from putting campaign finances to personal use. While the need for this change seemed obvious to onlookers, all three bills were left in committee and no law preventing personal use of campaign funds exists to date in the Commonwealth. These bills were often co-sponsored by members of both party, but could not make it through both houses. The most successful version of the bill, HB122, passed the House of Delegates with a unanimous vote, but was quietly killed in the Senate's Republican-dominated Finance committee.

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<sup>32</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB5>

<sup>33</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB7>

<sup>34</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB122>

Additionally, HB76<sup>35</sup> failed, which was a simple attempt to keep campaign finance laws current by requiring political campaigns to disclose advertisement purchases and activity on social media and internet mediums just as they already do for television, radio, and print. Although the bill failed, it has been continued by the House Privileges and Elections Committee and will be heard again in 2019.

What happened in the Senate? The Senate Committee on Finance has the following 11-5 member breakdown: Norment (R), Hanger (R), Newman (R), Newman (R), Ruff (R), Wagner (R), McDougle (R), Vogel (R), Carrico (R), Obenshain (R), Dunnavant (R), Stuart (R), Dance (D), Barker (D), Howell (D), Saslaw (D), Lucas (D)

**HIGHLIGHT: Multiple common-sense pieces of legislation, which would have kept legislators from using campaign funds for personal use, were defeated in the Republican-held Senate Finance committee.**

*Republicans defend gerrymandering in the hopes of skewing future elections in their favor*

The General Assembly discussed electoral districts, which represent the separation of Virginians into voting bodies. Electoral districts are an extremely complex and politically controversial aspect of our democratic system. Because the shape, location, and composition of a district can have a massive impact on election results, political interests often try to influence and manipulate the drawing of these critical political boundaries. In Virginia, the General Assembly has a great deal of control over the redistricting process, which means that legislation can have a large impact on how these districts are ultimately drawn. This year, the General Assembly attempted to extend their role in the redistricting process by means of HB158<sup>36</sup>, which would have authorized the General Assembly to make technical adjustments to legislative district boundaries “solely for the purpose of causing legislative district boundaries to coincide with local voting precinct boundaries,” but was vetoed by the Governor.

The creation of electoral districts by the very people who are selected by them is a controversial political topic both in Virginia and across the country. This controversy means that the creation of an independent redistricting commission is an annual topic of debate at the General Assembly. A series of bills were proposed this year aimed at creating such a commission, including HB1381<sup>37</sup> (calling for a referendum to demonstrate interest in an Independent Redistricting Commission), HJ71<sup>38</sup> (calling for the creation of a Virginia Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission), SB323<sup>39</sup> (calling for a Virginia Independent

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35 <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB76>

36 <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB158>

37 <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB1381>

38 <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HJ71>

39 <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SB323>

Redistricting Review Commission to review the General Assembly's plan), and SJ25<sup>40</sup> (calling for the creation of a Virginia Redistricting Commission). Unfortunately, all of these bills were left in either the House or the Senate Privileges and Elections Committees, and the debate surrounding an independent redistricting body died.

Although the legislature did very little to address the issue of gerrymandered districts, the court system eventually forced their hands. In June 2018, after the General Assembly had finished its legislative session, a federal court ruled that they had unconstitutionally packed African-American voters into 11 legislative districts and summarily ordered the General Assembly to draw new district lines.<sup>41</sup> Their deadline is October 30, 2018. The Governor reconvened a special legislative session to fix the district lines, but legislators were unable to agree on a new map.<sup>42</sup> Democrats unveiled their own map, which was met with resistance by Republicans. Republicans said that they will appeal the court's decision. The future is currently unknown for these district lines, but may be redrawn by the court, if legislators continue to refuse to work on a compromise.

SEE WHERE HB1381 DIED: **House Privileges and Elections Subcommittee #1**

Those that voted to kill the bill: Ransone (R), Rush (R), Fowler (R), L.R. Adams (R)

Those that voted against killing the bill: Sickles (D), VanValkenburg (D)

SEE WHERE SB323 DIED: *Continued in Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections*

SEE WHERE SJ25 DIED: *Continued in Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections*

SEE WHERE HJ71 DIED: *Left in House Privileges and Elections Committee*

**HIGHLIGHT: Republicans helped draw racially-charged district lines and now refuse to fix them, despite a federal court's order.**

**VIRGINIA NEEDS COMMON-SENSE REFORM FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE**

As these issues demonstrate, the Virginia General Assembly can be a complicated place where the average Virginian is sometimes forgotten. Political partisanship and legislative bartering can lead to legislative outcomes that don't always recognize the needs of everyday citizens. These outcomes often transpire because Virginians do not or cannot actively participate in the process. [www.VaOurWay.org](http://www.VaOurWay.org) hopes to shed light on many of these issues and give

<sup>40</sup> <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SJ25>

<sup>41</sup> [https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/federal-court-rules-against-va-house-in-racial-gerrymandering-case/article\\_f3b4bee1-e243-5da5-abcd-3ce92431cd90.html](https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/federal-court-rules-against-va-house-in-racial-gerrymandering-case/article_f3b4bee1-e243-5da5-abcd-3ce92431cd90.html)

<sup>42</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/redistricting-special-session-kicks-off-in-richmond/2018/08/30/1534c386-ac80-11e8-b1da-ff7faa680710\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.c9ce2ac037fe](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/redistricting-special-session-kicks-off-in-richmond/2018/08/30/1534c386-ac80-11e8-b1da-ff7faa680710_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c9ce2ac037fe)

everyday Virginians a real-time way to monitor legislation that affects them. Whether it comes from the right or left sides of the political spectrum, VaOurWay seeks to support legislation and legislators with common-sense solutions to the real problems that hard-working Virginians have. Sign up today and make sure that you know what's happening in 2019.