



## **VOTE CHARTS – 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

At the conclusion of each year's Virginia General Assembly session, the Virginia Catholic Conference compiles a report of votes taken by members of the Senate and House of Delegates on bills of particular interest to the Conference.

During this year's 60-day General Assembly session (January 8 to March 8), the Conference took formal positions on more than 80 bills and budget amendments. The two charts that follow record the eight Senate floor and committee votes and eight House floor and committee votes that were focal points of Conference advocacy.

*The Virginia Catholic Conference is the public-policy agency representing Virginia's Catholic bishops and their two dioceses. To sign up for Conference email alerts and updates, please visit [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org).*

# Senate

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

NV: Senator did not vote

■: Senator not on Committee

Name of Senator (Party, District)	Floor Votes					Committee Votes		
	Abortion Opt-Out	Informed Consent	Conscience Protections – Genetic Counselors	Minimum Wage Increase	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth	Preserving Current Adoption Law
Alexander, Kenneth C. (D-5)	X	X	X	√	X	√	■	X
Barker, George L. (D-39)	X	X	X	√	X	√	√	X
Black, Richard H. (R-13)	√	√	√	X	√	NV	X	√
Carrico, Charles W., Sr. (R-40)	√	√	√	X	√	■	X	■
Colgan, Charles J. (D-29) <sup>1</sup>	√	*	√	√	√	■	■	■
Cosgrove, John A., Jr. (R-14)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	■
Deeds, R. Creigh (D-25)	X	X	X	√	X	■	■	■
Ebbin, Adam P. (D-30)	X	X	X	√	X	■	■	■
Edwards, John S. (D-21)	X	X	X	√	X	■	■	■
Favola, Barbara A. (D-31)	X	X	X	√	X	√	■	X
Garrett, Thomas A., Jr. (R-22)	√	√	√	X	√	■	X	■
Hanger, Emmett W., Jr. (R-24)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	√
Howell, Janet D. (D-32)	X	X	X	√	X	■	√	■
Lewis, Lynwood W., Jr. (D-6) <sup>2</sup>	X	X	X	√		√	■	■
Locke, Mamie E. (D-2)	X	X	X	√	X	■	√	X

<sup>1</sup> Senator Colgan accidentally voted in favor of the bill eliminating the ultrasound requirement of the informed consent law. However, he filed a notice with the Senate Clerk stating that he intended to vote nay. (A nay vote supports the Virginia Catholic Conference’s position.) Unfortunately, Senator Colgan’s inadvertent vote created a 20-20 tie, and the President of the Senate (Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam) voted yea, in favor of eliminating the ultrasound requirement. With Lt. Gov. Northam’s tie-breaking vote, the bill passed the Senate. It was ultimately defeated in a House subcommittee.

<sup>2</sup> Lynwood Lewis served in the House of Delegates until he was elected to the Senate in a special election to fill the seat vacated by Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam. Lewis was sworn into the Senate on January 28, 2014. One of the votes reported in the Senate chart occurred before Lewis became a Senate member.

# Senate

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

NV: Senator did not vote

■: Senator not on Committee

Name of Senator (Party, District)	Floor Votes					Committee Votes		
	Abortion Opt-Out	Informed Consent	Conscience Protections – Genetic Counselors	Minimum Wage Increase	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth	Preserving Current Adoption Law
Lucas, L. Louise (D-18)	X	X	X	√	X	■	√	■
Marsden, David W. (D-37)	X	X	X	√	X	■	■	■
Marsh, Henry L., III (D-16)	X	X	X	√	X	■	■	■
Martin, Stephen H. (R-11)	√	√	√	X	√	■	X	■
McDougle, Ryan T. (R-4)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	√
McEachin, A. Donald (D-9)	X	X	X	√	X	■	■	■
McWaters, Jeffrey L. (R-8)	√	√	√	X	√	■	X	■
Miller, John C. (D-1)	X	X	X	√	X	■	√	X
Newman, Stephen D. (R-23)	√	√	√	X	√	■	X	■
Northam, Ralph S. (D) – Lt. Gov. <sup>3</sup>		X		√		■	■	■
Norment, Thomas K., Jr. (R-3)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	NV
Obenshain, Mark D. (R-26)	√	√	√	X	√	■	■	■
Petersen, J. Chapman (D-34)	X	X	√	√	X	■	■	■
Puckett, Phillip P. (D-38)	√	√	√	√	X	■	■	■
Puller, Linda T. “Toddy” (D-36)	X	X	X	√	X	√	■	X
Reeves, Bryce E. (R-17)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	√
Ruff, Frank M., Jr. (R-15)	√	√	√	X	√	■	■	■
Saslaw, Richard L. (D-35)	X	X	X	√	X	■	√	■

<sup>3</sup> In cases in which a Senate vote results in a tie, the Lieutenant Governor, in his capacity as President of the Senate, casts the deciding vote.

# Senate

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Name of Senator (Party, District)	Floor Votes					Committee Votes		
	Abortion Opt-Out	Informed Consent	Conscience Protections – Genetic Counselors	Minimum Wage Increase	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth	Preserving Current Adoption Law
Smith, Ralph K. (R-19)	√	√	√	X	√	■	X	■
Stanley, William M., Jr. (R-20)	√	√	√	X	√	■	■	■
Stosch, Walter A. (R-12)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	√
Stuart, Richard H. (R-28)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	■
Vogel, Jill Holtzman (R-27)	√	√	√	X	√	■	■	■
Wagner, Frank W. (R-7)	√	√	√	X	√	X	■	√
Watkins, John C. (R-10)	√	X	√	X	√	■	■	■
Wexton, Jennifer T. (D-33) <sup>4</sup>	X	X	X	√		√	■	■

## Descriptions of Senate Floor Votes

**Abortion Opt-Out**-The Senate defeated Conference-opposed legislation that would have repealed the General Assembly’s decision last year to opt-out of abortion-on-demand coverage in health plans offered on the federal health exchange in Virginia (22-18; see Senate chart). Under Virginia’s opt-out law, health plans cannot participate in the exchange if they cover abortions outside the federal Hyde Amendment cases (danger to life of the mother, rape and incest).

**Informed Consent**-Virginia’s informed-consent law requires a transabdominal ultrasound prior to an abortion. It allows mothers the opportunity to view the ultrasound, receive a printed copy and hear fetal heart tones. Conference-opposed legislation that would have repealed the ultrasound informed-consent law passed the Senate (20-20 with Lt. Gov. Northam casting the tie-breaking vote; see Senate chart). It was then defeated in a House subcommittee.

<sup>4</sup> Jennifer Wexton was elected to the Senate in a special election to fill the seat vacated by Attorney General Mark Herring. Wexton was sworn into the Senate on January 24, 2014. One of the votes reported in the Senate chart occurred before Wexton became a Senate member.

**Conscience Protections – Genetic Counselors**-Legislation that provided licensing procedures for genetic counselors passed the General Assembly and included strong Conference-supported conscience protections. These protections ensure that no counselor will be forced to be involved in counseling that conflicts with his or her religious or moral beliefs. Governor McAuliffe, however, proposed an amendment to weaken the conscience language. The Conference opposed the amendment, and the Senate rejected it (23-17; see Senate Chart).

**Minimum Wage Increase**-Conference-supported legislation to raise Virginia’s minimum wage to \$8.25/hour by July 1, 2014 and to \$9.25/hour by July 1, 2015 passed the Senate (20-20 with Lt. Gov. Northam casting the tie-breaking vote; see Senate chart). The bill was then defeated in a House committee.

**School-Choice Program Enhancement**-Conference-supported legislation enacted by the House (68-31; see House chart) and Senate (21-17; see Senate chart) removes the one-year delay between the tax year in which a scholarship donation is made and the tax year for which the donor can claim a state tax credit. Governor McAuliffe signed the bill.

## Descriptions of Senate Committee Votes

**Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use**-Conference-opposed legislation that would have mandated execution by the electric chair if the Department of Corrections certifies that lethal injection drugs are not available passed the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee (8-6; see Senate chart). Ultimately, the bill was referred to the Senate Courts of Justice Committee, where it was carried over until 2015 — effectively defeating the bill for the year.

**Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth**-The Senate Education and Health Committee defeated Conference-supported legislation to grant in-state tuition status to immigrant children who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status by the federal government, have attended a Virginia high school for three years, and provide proof that they or their parent/legal guardian filed Virginia income tax returns for three years (7-6; see Senate chart). DACA allows children who entered the United States before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and have never committed a crime to remain lawfully present in the United States for a renewable period of two years.

**Preserving Current Adoption Law**-The Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee defeated Conference-opposed legislation that would have allowed same-sex partners and other unmarried partners to adopt children (6-6; see Senate chart).

# House of Delegates

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

NV: Delegate did not vote

■: Delegate not on Committee

Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Floor Votes							Committee Vote
	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Ensuring Defense of State Constitution	Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies	Housing Trust Fund	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth
Adams, Leslie R. (R-16)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Albo, David B. (R-42)	X	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Anderson, Richard L. (R-51)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Austin, Terry L. (R-19)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
BaCote, Mamyé E. (D-95)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	■
Bell, Richard P. (R-20)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	X
Bell, Robert B. (R-58)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Berg, Mark J. (R-29)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Brink, Robert H. (D-48)	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	√
Bulova, David L. (D-37)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	√
Byron, Kathy J. (R-22)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Campbell, Jeffrey L. (R-6)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Carr, Betsy B. (D-69)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Chafin, A. Benton, Jr. (R-4)	√	√	X	√	√	X	X	■
Cline, Benjamin L. (R-24)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Cole, Mark L. (R-88)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	X

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Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Floor Votes							Committee Vote
	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Ensuring Defense of State Constitution	Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies	Housing Trust Fund	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth
Comstock, Barbara J. (R-34)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Cox, M. Kirkland (R-66)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Dance, Rosalyn R. (D-63)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Davis, Glenn R., Jr. (R-84)	√	√	NV	√	X	√	X	√
DeSteph, William R., Jr. (R-82)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Edmunds, James E., II (R-60)	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	■
Fariss, C. Matthew (R-59)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Farrell, Peter F. (R-56)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√
Filler-Corn, Eileen (D-41)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Fowler, Hyland F., Jr. (R-55)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Futrell, Michael T. (D-2)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Garrett, T. Scott (R-23)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Gilbert, C. Todd (R-15)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Greason, Thomas A. (R-32)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√
Habeeb, Gregory D. (R-8)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Head, Christopher T. (R-17)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■

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	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Ensuring Defense of State Constitution	Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies	Housing Trust Fund	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth
Helsel, Gordon C., Jr. (R-91)	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	■
Herring, Charmiele L. (D-46)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Hester, Daun Sessoms (D-89)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	√
Hodges, M. Keith (R-98)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Hope, Patrick A. (D-47)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Howell, Algie T., Jr. (D-90)	X	X	√	√	X	√	X	■
Howell, William J. (R-28)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Hugo, Timothy D. (R-40)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Ingram, Riley E. (R-62)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
James, Matthew (D-80)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Joannou, Johnny S. (D-79)	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	■
Jones, S. Chris (R-76)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Keam, Mark L. (D-35)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	√
Kilgore, Terry G. (R-1)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Knight, Barry D. (R-81)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Kory, Kaye (D-38)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■



# House of Delegates

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■: Delegate not on Committee

Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Floor Votes							Committee Vote
	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Ensuring Defense of State Constitution	Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies	Housing Trust Fund	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth
Krupicka, K. Robert, Jr. (D-45)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Landes, R. Steven (R-25)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	X
LaRock, David A. (R-33)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Leftwich, James A., Jr. (R-78)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√
LeMunyon, James M. (R-67)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√
Lewis, Lynwood W., Jr. (D-100) <sup>5</sup>			√					■
Lingamfelter, L. Scott (R-31)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√
Lopez, Alfonso H. (D-49)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Loupassi, G. M. (Manoli) (R-68)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Marshall, Daniel W., III (R-14)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Marshall, Robert G. (R-13)	√	√	NV	√	√	√	X	■
Mason, T. Montgomery (D-93)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Massie, James P. (Jimmie), III (R-72)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√

<sup>5</sup> Lynwood Lewis served in the House of Delegates until he was elected to the Senate in a special election to fill the seat vacated by Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam. Lewis was sworn into the Senate on January 28, 2014. Lewis cast a vote on one of the bills reported in the House chart, but he vacated his House seat before votes on the other bills occurred. Robert Bloxom was elected to the House in a special election to fill Lewis's vacated seat. Bloxom was sworn into the House of Delegates on February 26, 2014, after the votes listed above had already been cast.

# House of Delegates

√: Vote supported by the VCC

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■: Delegate not on Committee

Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Floor Votes							Committee Vote
	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Ensuring Defense of State Constitution	Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies	Housing Trust Fund	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D-71)	X	X	NV	X	X	X	√	√
McQuinn, Delores L. (D-70)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Miller, Jackson H. (R-50)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Minchew, J. Randall (R-10)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Morefield, James W. (Will) (R-3)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Morris, Richard L. (R-64)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Morrissey, Joseph D. (D-74)	X	NV	√	√	X	X	√	√
O'Bannon, John M., III (R-73)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
O'Quinn, Israel D. (R-5)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Orrock, Robert D., Sr. (R-54)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Peace, Christopher K. (R-97)	NV	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Plum, Kenneth R. (D-36)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Pogge, Brenda L. (R-96)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√
Poindexter, Charles D. (R-9)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Ramadan, David I. (R-87)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Ransone, Margaret B. (R-99)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Rasoul, Sam (D-11)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■

# House of Delegates

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Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Floor Votes							Committee Vote
	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Ensuring Defense of State Constitution	Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies	Housing Trust Fund	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth
Robinson, Roxann L. (R-27)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√
Rush, L. Nick (R-7)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Rust, Thomas Davis (R-86)	X	√	X	X	√	√	X	√
Scott, Edward T. (R-30)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Sickles, Mark D. (D-43)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Simon, Marcus B. (D-53)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Spruill, Lionell, Sr. (D-77)	X	X	√	√	X	X	√	■
Stolle, Christopher P. (R-83)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Surovell, Scott A. (D-44)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Taylor, Scott W. (R-85)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Torian, Luke E. (D-52)	X	X	√	X	X	√	√	■
Toscano, David J. (D-57)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Tyler, Roslyn C. (D-75)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	√
Villanueva, Ronald A. (R-21)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Ward, Jeion A. (D-92)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■
Ware, R. Lee, Jr. (R-65)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Watts, Vivian E. (D-39)	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	■

# House of Delegates

√: Vote supported by the VCC

X: Vote opposed by the VCC

NV: Delegate did not vote

■: Delegate not on Committee

Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Floor Votes							Committee Vote
	Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children	Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations	Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use	School-Choice Program Enhancement	Ensuring Defense of State Constitution	Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies	Housing Trust Fund	Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth
Webert, Michael J. (R-18)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Wilt, Tony O. (R-26)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Wright, Thomas C., Jr. (R-61)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	■
Yancey, David E. (R-94)	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√
Yost, Joseph R. (R-12)	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	√

## Descriptions of House Floor Votes

**Defunding Abortion of Disabled Children**-A Conference-supported budget amendment to prohibit state funding of Medicaid abortions in cases of the fetus’ “physical deformity” or “mental deficiency” passed the House of Delegates (64-33; see House chart). The Senate, however, did not adopt this amendment. Currently, Virginia is in the minority of states that use state funds to pay for Medicaid abortions beyond those funded under the federal Hyde Amendment (danger to life of the mother, rape and incest.)

**Preserving Abortion-Clinic Regulations**-A Conference-supported budget amendment prohibiting the use of state funds to suspend the abortion-clinic safety regulations certified by the Board of Health last year passed the House (67-31; see House chart). The Senate did not adopt this amendment.

**Preventing Mandated Electric-Chair Use**-Conference-opposed legislation that would have mandated execution by the electric chair if the Department of Corrections certifies that lethal injection drugs are not available passed the House (64-32; see House chart). This bill was later carried over until 2015 in a Senate committee, effectively defeating it for the year.

**School-Choice Program Enhancement**-Conference-supported legislation enacted by the House (68-31; see House chart) and Senate (21-17; see Senate chart) removes the one-year delay between the tax year in which a scholarship donation is made and the tax year for which the donor can claim a state tax credit. Governor McAuliffe signed the bill.

**Ensuring Defense of State Constitution**-The House passed a Conference-supported budget amendment instructing the Speaker of the House to appoint special counsel to represent the Commonwealth in pending litigation surrounding state marriage laws, as well as all future cases in which the Attorney General declines to defend state law (66-32; see House chart). The Senate did not adopt this amendment.

**Conscience Protections – Child-Placing Agencies**-The House defeated (69-30; see House chart) a Conference-opposed budget amendment to undermine conscience protections for faith-based child-placing agencies enacted two years ago.

**Housing Trust Fund**-The House approved a Conference-opposed amendment to defund the Housing Trust Fund, which provides money for loans to organizations providing housing to low-income people and homelessness services (70-29; see House chart). The Senate version of the budget, however, included an appropriation for the Housing Trust Fund.

## **Description of House Committee Vote**

**Tuition Equity for Immigrant Youth**-The House Education Committee approved Conference-supported legislation to grant in-state tuition status to immigrant children who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status by the federal government, have attended a Virginia high school for three years, and provide proof that they or their parent/legal guardian filed Virginia income tax returns for three years (19-3; see House chart). DACA allows children who entered the United States before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and have never committed a crime to remain lawfully present in the United States for a renewable period of two years. The Education Committee also referred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee, which defeated the measure by declining to schedule a hearing on it.