



## VCC REPORT – 2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

The 46-day 2007 session of the Virginia General Assembly began on January 10<sup>th</sup> and adjourned on February 24<sup>th</sup>. During this year's legislative deliberations, the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) monitored more than 50 policy measures. An integral facet of the VCC's mission is to keep readers of the Arlington Catholic Herald and The Catholic Virginian informed of decisions made in the state capital on issues of concern to Catholics throughout the Commonwealth. As part of that mission, the VCC provides the Arlington Catholic Herald and The Catholic Virginian, at the conclusion of each year's General Assembly session, the results of votes taken by members of the Senate and House of Delegates whose districts are within the Dioceses of Arlington and Richmond on matters of particular interest to many Catholics involved in state advocacy. Although some VCC-tracked items failed to reach the full body of either chamber, others did receive floor votes. [For information about legislation of concern to the VCC that was not debated on the floor of either chamber, please call 804-225-8565.] Appearing below are two charts that record five Senate and 12 House floor votes, as well as four Senate committee votes relating to legislation that "crossed over" from the House. Each vote relates to an issue (described below) that was significantly monitored by the VCC and those participating in diocesan-sponsored grassroots advocacy. [Readers should note that the two charts record only a small percentage of the hundreds of votes cast in 2007 (both on the floor and in committees) by Senate and House members on many other issues important to the Commonwealth's citizens. For information on other votes taken by state legislators, consult the website of the Virginia General Assembly (<http://legis.state.va.us>). In addition to the large number of votes not included, this report is also limited in that it contains no information about such unrecorded matters as performance on subcommittees and constituent services.]



Norment, Thomas K., Jr. (R-3)	X	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
Obenshain, Mark D. (R-26)	X	√	X	X	√	-	-	-	-
O'Brien, Jay (R-39)	X	√	√	X	√	-	-	-	√
Potts, H. Russell "Russ" Jr. (R-27)	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	X	-
Puckett, Phillip P. (D-38)	X	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
Puller, Linda T. "Toddy" (D-36)	√	X	√	√	X	-	-	-	√
Quayle, Frederick M. (R-13)	X	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	-
Rerras, Nick (R-6)	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-
Reynolds, W. Roscoe (D-20)	X	X	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
Ruff, Frank M., Jr. (R-15)	X	√	X	X	√	√	√	√	-
Saslaw, Richard L. (D-35)	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	X	-
Stolle, Kenneth W. "Ken" (R-8)	X	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
Stosch, Walter A. (R-12)	X	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
Ticer, Patricia Smith (D-30)	√	X	√	√	X	-	-	-	√
Wagner, Frank W. (R-7)	X	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	X
Wampler, William C., Jr. (R-40)	X	X	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
Watkins, John C. (R-10)	X	X	√	√	√	-	-	-	-
Whipple, Mary Margaret (D-31)	√	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	-
Williams, Marty E. (R-1)	X	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	X

## Descriptions of Senate Votes

**Death Penalty – Triggerman Limitation.** The General Assembly enacted legislation making those involved in capital murders who are not the actual perpetrators (*i.e.*, accomplices) eligible for death sentences. Opposed by the VCC because of its potential to increase Virginia’s use of the death penalty, this measure (eliminating the current “triggerman limitation”) passed the Senate by a 28-12 vote (displayed above) and the House by an 83-13 vote (displayed in House chart).

**School Transportation.** The General Assembly enacted a VCC-supported bill to permit local school districts to provide bus transportation to nonpublic-school students. The legislation passed the House by a 72-26 vote (displayed in House chart) and the Senate by a 20-19 vote (displayed above).

**Minimum Wage Increase.** Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. A VCC-supported bill to establish a state minimum wage of \$6.50 an hour (until the federal rate exceeds that level) passed the Senate by a vote of 32-7 (displayed above). It was then approved by the House Committee on Commerce and Labor, but was subsequently defeated on the House floor when a majority of Delegates (53-43 vote, displayed in House chart) voted on February 20<sup>th</sup> to send the bill to another committee, which was not scheduled to meet for the remainder of the General Assembly session.

**Immigrants – Higher Education.** The Senate approved a VCC-supported bill (32-8 vote, displayed above) that would have permitted undocumented immigrant children to receive in-state tuition at public higher-education institutions if they graduate from a Virginia high school, sign an affidavit affirming their pursuit of (or commitment to pursue) permanent U.S. residency, and have parents who have filed Virginia income-tax returns for at least three years prior to enrollment. The House Committee on Education, however, rejected the Senate approach by adopting alternative provisions making all undocumented immigrant children ineligible for in-state tuition at Virginia’s public institutions. [Ultimately, the competing Senate and House versions both failed because an appointed conference committee was unable to reconcile differences between the two approaches.]

**Child Protection – Internet Filtering.** Both chambers approved VCC-endorsed legislation requiring state libraries to install Internet filtering technology to receive state funding. That technology is designed to ensure that children are protected from viewing pornographic, obscene, and otherwise harmful materials on the Internet. The 31-9 Senate vote is displayed above.

**Prohibiting Coerced Abortions.** VCC-supported legislation that would have made it a crime to use force, threats, or intimidation to coerce a pregnant woman or girl to have an abortion against her will passed the House by a 68-30 vote before being rejected by the Senate Committee on Education and Health, 9-6 (displayed above).

**Abortion – Clinic Licensing.** A VCC-endorsed measure that would have required abortion clinics to be licensed by the state and subject to regulations applicable to other ambulatory surgery centers passed the House by a vote of 60-36 (displayed in House chart). It was subsequently defeated 8-7 in the Senate Committee on Education and Health (displayed above).

**Abortion – Informed Consent.** A VCC-supported bill designed to improve Virginia’s “informed consent” law, by requiring that every pregnant woman considering an abortion first be given the opportunity to view an ultrasound image of her unborn child, passed the House (60-38 vote, displayed in House chart). The Senate Committee on Education and Health subsequently amended the bill to require only that a doctor perform an ultrasound prior to an abortion (to determine the gestational age of the child), without requiring that the pregnant woman be permitted to see it. Even the amended bill (still supported by VCC as an improvement over existing law), however, failed by a vote of 9-6 (displayed above).

**Immigrants – Protecting Charities.** Legislation stating (in part) that “no organization receiving state or local funds shall use the funds to provide the type of benefits or assistance to those persons who are otherwise ineligible [for state or local benefits]” passed the House (70-29 vote, displayed in House chart) before meeting defeat in the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services (11-4 vote, displayed above). The VCC opposed the bill because it threatened the ability of charities receiving government funding to provide emergency services to individuals in immediate need without first checking their immigration status.

# House of Delegates

√: a vote supported by the VCC  
 X: a vote opposed by the VCC  
 NV: The Delegate did not vote.

Name of Delegate (Party, District)	Abortion – Right to Life	Abortion – Prohibiting Funding	Abortion – Clinic Licensing	Abortion – Informed Consent	Research – Ethical Standards (Budget Item/Research Bill)	Death Penalty – Triggerman Limitation	School Transportation	Minimum Wage Increase	Payday Lending – Rate Cap	Immigrants – Higher Education	Immigrants – Labor Protections	Immigrants – Protecting Charities
Abbitt, Watkins M., Jr. (I-59)	NV	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Albo, David B. (R-42)	X	√	√	√	NV/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Alexander, Kenneth C. (D-89)	X	√	X	X	X/X	NV	√	√	√	X	√	X
Amundson, Kristen J. (D-44)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√
Armstrong, Ward L. (D-10)	X	√	√	X	X/X	X	X	√	X	X	√	X
Athey, Clifford L., Jr. (R-18)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
BaCote, Mamy E. (D-95)	X	X	X	X	X/X	√	X	√	√	X	√	√
Barlow, William K. (D-64)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	X	√	X
Bell, Rob B., III (R-58)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Bowling, Daniel C. (D-3)	√	√	√	√	√/X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Brink, Robert H. (D-48)	X	X	X	X	X/X	√	X	√	√	√	√	√
Bulova, David L. (D-37)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	√	X	X	√
Byron, Kathy J. (R-22)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Callahan, Vincent F., Jr. (R-34)	X	√	√	√	√/√	√	√	√	X	X	√	X
Caputo, C. Charles (D-67)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√
Carrico, Charles “Bill” W., Sr. (R-5)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Cline, Ben L. (R-24)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Cole, Mark L. (R-88)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Cosgrove, John A. (R-78)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Cox, M. Kirkland “Kirk” (R-66)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X

Crockett-Stark, Anne (R-6)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	NV	X	X	X	X
Dance, Rosalyn R. (D-63)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	X	X	√	X
Dudley, Allen W. (R-9)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Ebbin, Adam P. (D-49)	X	X	X	X	X/X	√	X	√	√	√	√	√
Eisenberg, Albert C. (D-47)	X	X	X	X	X/X	√	X	√	√	√	√	√
Englin, David L. (D-45)	X	X	X	X	X/X	√	X	√	NV	√	√	√
Fralin, William H., Jr. (R-17)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	√	X
Frederick, Jeffrey M. (R-52)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	NV	X	X	X
Gear, Thomas D. "Tom" (R-91)	√	√	√	√	NV/√	X	√	X	√	NV	X	X
Gilbert, C. Todd (R-15)	√	√	NV	√	√/√	X	NV	X	X	X	X	NV
Griffith, H. Morgan (R-8)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Hall, Franklin "Frank" P. (D-69)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	NV	X	√	√
Hamilton, Phillip A. (R-93)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Hargrove, Frank D., Sr. (R-55)	√	√	√	√	√/NV	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Hogan, Clarke N. (R-60)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Howell, Algie T., Jr. (D-90)	X	√	X	X	X/NV	X	√	√	√	X	X	X
Howell, William J. (R-28)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	√	X
Hugo, Timothy D. (R-40)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	NV	X	NV	X
Hull, Robert D. "Bob" (D-38)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√
Hurt, Robert (R-16)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	√	X
Iaquinto, Salvatore "Sal" R. (R-84)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Ingram, Riley E. (R-62)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	√	X	X	X	X
Janis, Bill (R-56)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Joannou, Johnny S. (D-79)	X	√	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	√	X	X	X
Johnson, Joseph P., Jr. (D-4)	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV/√	NV	√	NV	√	X	NV	X
Jones, Dwight Clinton (D-70)	X	X	X	NV	X/X	√	X	√	√	√	√	√
Jones, S. Chris (R-76)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Kilgore, Terry G. (R-1)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Landes, R. Steven "Steve" (R-25)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Lewis, Lynwood W., Jr. (D-100)	X	NV	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	X	√	X
Lingamfelter, L. Scott (R-31)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	NV	X	X	X
Lohr, Matthew J. "Matt" (R-26)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Marsden, Dave W. (D-41)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	X	√	√	√
Marshall, Danny, III (R-14)	X	NV	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	√	X
Marshall, Robert G. "Bob" (R-13)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	NV	NV	X	X	X
May, Joe T. (R-33)	X	√	√	X	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D-71)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	√	√	√	X
McEachin, A. Donald (D-74)	X	X	X	X	X/X	√	X	√	√	√	√	√
McQuigg, Michèle B. (R-51)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Melvin, Kenneth R. "Ken" (D-80)	X	NV	NV	X	NV/X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√

Miller, Jackson H. (R-50)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Miller, Paula, J. (D-87)	X	√	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	√	X	√	X
Moran, Brian J. (D-46)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	√	X	√	√
Morgan, Harvey B. (R-98)	X	NV	√	√	NV/√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Nixon, Samuel A. "Sam", Jr. (R-27)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Nutter, Dave (R-7)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	X	X	√	X	√	X
O'Bannon, John M., III M.D. (R-73)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Oder, G. Glenn (R-94)	√	√	NV	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Orrock, Robert "Bobby" Dickson, Sr. (R-54)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Peace, Christopher K. "Chris" (R-97)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Phillips, Clarence E. "Bud" (D-2)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	X	√	X	X	X	X
Plum, Kenneth R. "Ken" (D-36)	X	√	X	X	X/X	√	X	√	√	√	√	√
Poisson, David E. (D-32)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	X	X	√	√
Purkey, Harry R. "Bob" (R-82)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	√	X
Putney, Lacey E. (I-19)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Rapp, Melanie L. (R-96)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Reid, John S. "Jack" (R-72)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rust, Thomas Davis (R-86)	X	√	√	X	√/√	X	√	√	√	X	X	X
Saxman, Chris B. (R-20)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	√	X
Scott, Edward T. (R-30)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	√	X
Scott, James, M. "Jim" (D-53)	X	X	X	X	X/X	NV	NV	√	√	√	√	√
Shannon, Stephen C. (D-35)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	√	X	√	√
Sherwood, Beverly J. (R-29)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Shuler, James M. (D-12)	X	X	X	X	X/X	NV	X	√	X	NV	√	√
Sickles, Mark D. (D-43)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	X	X	√	√
Spruill, Lionell Sr. (D-77)	X	√	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	NV	NV	√
Suit, Terrie L. (R-81)	X	NV	√	√	NV/X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Tata, Robert "Bob" (R-85)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Toscano, David J. (D-57)	X	X	X	X	X/X	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Tyler, Roslyn C. (D-75)	NV	X	X	X	X/X	√	√	√	√	X	√	√
Valentine, Shannon R. (D-23)	X	X	X	√	X/X	√	√	√	√	X	X	√
Waddell, Katherine B. (I-68)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√	√	√	X	√	X
Ward, Jeion Antonia (D-92)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√
Wardrup, Leo C. (R-83)	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Ware, Onzlee (D-11)	X	√	X	X	√/NV	X	√	√	X	X	√	√
Ware, R. Lee (R-65)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Watts, Vivian E. (D-39)	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√
Welch, John J., III (R-21)	√	√	√	√	√/NV	X	√	X	√	X	X	X
Wittman, Robert J. (R-99)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	NV	√	X	X	X
Wright, Thomas "Tommy" C., Jr. (R-61)	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√	X	X	X	√	X

## Descriptions of House Votes

**Abortion – Right to Life.** VCC-supported legislation providing that life begins at the moment of fertilization, and that the right to enjoyment of life guaranteed by the Constitution of Virginia is vested in each human being from the moment of fertilization, was defeated in a 52-45 House floor vote (displayed above). This proposed law would have gone into effect only after a U.S. Supreme Court overturn of *Roe v. Wade*.

**Abortion – Prohibiting Funding.** By a 66-28 vote (displayed above), the House approved a VCC-supported budget amendment to prevent state funding of Medicaid abortions. Not included in the Senate’s budget package, the amendment was eventually rejected by the House-Senate conference committee appointed to resolve differences between the two chambers’ respective budget proposals.

**Abortion – Clinic Licensing.** A VCC-endorsed measure that would have required abortion clinics to be licensed by the state and subject to regulations applicable to other ambulatory surgery centers passed the House by a vote of 60-36 (displayed above). It was subsequently defeated 8-7 in the Senate Committee on Education and Health (displayed in Senate chart).

**Abortion – Informed Consent.** A VCC-supported bill designed to improve Virginia’s “informed consent” law, by requiring that every pregnant woman considering an abortion first be given the opportunity to view an ultrasound image of her unborn child, passed the House (60-38 vote, displayed above). The Senate Committee on Education and Health subsequently amended the bill to require only that a doctor perform an ultrasound prior to an abortion (to determine the gestational age of the child), without requiring that the pregnant woman be permitted to see it. Even the amended bill (still supported by VCC as an improvement over existing law), however, failed by a vote of 9-6 (displayed in Senate chart).

**Research – Ethical Standards.** The current state budget contains no ethical standards to prevent use of state funds for research that requires destroying human embryos or fetuses. The VCC pursued budget language prohibiting state investment in such research. The provision was approved by the House in a 58-36 vote (displayed above, first in a series of two). Not included in the Senate’s budget package, the amendment was eventually rejected by the House-Senate conference committee appointed to resolve differences between the two chambers’ respective budget proposals. Similar language (pursued by VCC) was also added by the House Committee on Education to legislation designed to stimulate academic research. Debate on the committee-added language ensued on the House floor, but the full House eventually adopted the language by a 58-38 vote (displayed above, second in a series of two).

**Death Penalty – Triggerman Limitation.** The General Assembly enacted legislation making those involved in capital murders who are not the actual perpetrators (*i.e.*, accomplices) eligible for death sentences. Opposed by the VCC because of its potential to increase Virginia’s use of the death penalty, this measure (eliminating the current “triggerman limitation”) passed the House by an 83-13 vote (displayed above) and the Senate by a 28-12 vote (displayed in Senate chart).

**School Transportation.** The General Assembly enacted a VCC-supported bill to permit local school districts to provide bus transportation to nonpublic-school students. The legislation passed the House by a 72-26 vote (displayed above) and the Senate by a 20-19 vote (displayed in Senate chart).

**Minimum Wage Increase.** Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. A VCC-supported bill to establish a state minimum wage of \$6.50 an hour (until the federal rate exceeds that level) passed the Senate by a vote of 32-7 (displayed in Senate chart). It was then approved by the House Committee on Commerce and Labor, but was subsequently defeated on the House floor when a majority of Delegates (53-43 vote, displayed above) voted on February 20<sup>th</sup> to send the bill to another committee, which was not scheduled to meet for the remainder of the General Assembly session.

**Payday Lending – Rate Cap.** VCC-endorsed legislation to require “payday lenders” to operate under the same annual-percentage-rate cap (36 percent) as other small-loan lenders operating in Virginia failed to advance beyond the committee level. [As a result, payday lenders can still charge APRs of 390 percent or more.] However, a bill supported by the payday-lending industry (and not by VCC) was amended on the House floor (by a 54-40 vote, displayed above) to cap the APR applicable to payday loans at 72 percent. The VCC supported the amendment as an improvement over existing law. Ultimately, however, the full General Assembly did not enact any changes to the Commonwealth’s payday-lending laws.

**Immigrants – Higher Education.** After the Senate approved a VCC-supported bill (32-8 vote, displayed in Senate chart) that would have permitted undocumented immigrant children to receive in-state tuition at public higher-education institutions under certain conditions, the House Committee on Education amended the bill to make all undocumented immigrant children ineligible for in-state tuition at Virginia’s public institutions. The amended version, opposed by the VCC, was then approved on the House floor by an 80-17 vote (displayed above). [Ultimately, the competing Senate and House versions both failed because an appointed conference committee was unable to reconcile differences between the two approaches.]

**Immigrants – Labor Protections.** A VCC-opposed measure that would have required undocumented workers to go to “a bank or financial institution located within a foreign country” to receive workers’ compensation if injured while working for a U.S. employer, or to send a legal representative if his or her disability made such an appearance impossible, passed the House 52-45 (displayed above) before failing to win approval in the Senate Committee on Courts of Justice.

**Immigrants – Protecting Charities.** Legislation stating (in part) that “no organization receiving state or local funds shall use the funds to provide the type of benefits or assistance to those persons who are otherwise ineligible [for state or local benefits]” passed the House (70-29 vote, displayed above) before meeting defeat in the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services (11-4 vote, displayed in Senate chart). The VCC opposed the bill because it threatened the ability of charities receiving government funding to provide emergency services to individuals in immediate need without first checking their immigration status.