

VCC REPORT – 2005 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

The just-completed, 47-day session of the Virginia General Assembly was the beginning of advocacy involvement for the new Virginia Catholic Conference, established to represent the mutual public-policy interests of the Catholic dioceses of Arlington and Richmond. An integral facet of the Conference’s mission is to keep readers of the *Catholic Virginian/Arlington Catholic Herald* informed of decisions made in the state capital on issues of concern to Catholics throughout the Commonwealth. As part of that mission, the Conference will provide the *Virginian/Herald*, 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 Richmond and Arlington on matters of particular interest to many Catholics involved in state advocacy.

During the 2005 session, the Conference took formal positions on about 30 different policy measures. Although some Conference-tracked items failed to reach the full body of either chamber, others did receive floor votes. [For information about legislation of concern to the Conference 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 eight House floor votes. Each vote relates to an issue (described below) that was significantly monitored by the Conference 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 2005 (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.]

SENATE

A “√” indicates a vote supported by the VCC.
An “X” indicates a vote opposed by the VCC.
“NV” indicates the Senator did not vote.

Name of Senator	Research-Protecting Embryos	Beginning of Life	Legal Justice	Food Stamps	Marriage
Bell, J. Brandon II (R) Dist. 22	√	√	√	√	√
Belvins, Harry B. (R) Dist. 14	√	√	√	√	√
Bolling, William T. “Bill” (R) Dist. 4	√	√	√	NV	√
Chichester, John H. (R) Dist. 28	X	√	√	√	√
Colgan, Charles, J. Sr. (D) Dist. 29	√	√	√	√	√
Cuccinelli, Kenneth “Ken” Thomas, II (R) Dist. 37	√	√	√	√	√
Davis, Jeannemarie A. Devolites (R) Dist. 34	√	√	√	√	√
Deeds, Robert Creigh (D) Dist. 25	X	X	√	√	√
Edwards, John S. (D) Dist. 21	X	X	√	√	X

Hanger, Emmett W., Jr. (R) Dist. 24	√	√	X	√	√
Hawkins, Charles R. (R) Dist. 19	√	√	√	√	√
Houck, R. Edward “Edd” (D) Dist. 17	X	X	√	√	√
Howell, Janet D. (D) Dist. 32	X	X	√	√	X
Lambert, Benjamin J., III (D) Dist. 9	X	X	√	√	X
Locke, Mamie E. (D) Dist. 2	X	X	√	√	X
Lucas, L. Louise (D) Dist. 18	X	X	√	√	X
Marsh, Henry L., III (D) Dist. 16	X	X	√	√	X
Martin, Stephen H. (R) Dist. 11	√	√	√	√	√
Miller, Yvonne B. (D) Dist. 5	X	X	√	√	√
Mims, William C. “Bill” Cleveland (R) Dist. 33	√	√	√	√	√
Newman, Stephen D. “Steve” (R) Dist. 23	√	*	√	√	√
Norment, Thomas K., Jr. (R) Dist. 3	√	√	√	√	√
Obeshain, Mark D. (R) Dist. 26	√	√	X	√	√
O’Brien, Jay (R) Dist. 39	√	√	√	√	√
Potts, H. Russell “Russ” Jr. (R) Dist. 27	X	X	√	√	√
Puckett, Phillip P. (D) Dist. 38	√	X	√	√	√
Puller, Linda T. “Toddy” (D) Dist. 36	X	X	√	√	X
Quayle, Frederick M. (R) Dist. 13	X	X	√	√	√
Rerras, Nick (R) Dist. 6	√	√	√	√	√
Reynolds, W. Roscoe (D) Dist. 20	X	X	NV	√	√
Ruff, Frank M., Jr. (R) Dist. 15	√	√	√	√	√
Saslaw, Richard L. (D) Dist. 35	X	X	√	√	X
Stolle, Kenneth W. “Ken” (R) Dist. 8	√	√	√	√	√
Stosch, Walter A. (R) Dist. 12	√	√	√	√	√
Ticer, Patricia Smith (D) Dist. 30	X	X	√	√	X
Wagner, Frank W. (R) Dist. 7	√	√	√	√	√
Wampler, William C., Jr. (R) Dist. 40	√	√	√	√	√
Watkins, John C. (R) Dist. 10	√	√	√	√	√
Whipple, Mary Margaret (D) Dist. 31	X	X	√	√	X
Williams, Marty E. (R) Dist. 1	√	NV	√	√	√

* Abstained from voting under a conflict-of-interest provision (“Rule 36”).

Research – Protecting Embryos. A bill seeking to create a state-subsidized fund supporting stem-cell research, including research using adult stem cells and research using stem cells obtained by a process that destroys human embryos. The legislation was approved by the Education and Health Committee in a 9-6 vote. It then proceeded to the Senate floor, where a floor amendment to limit funding to research from stem cells that are not derived from the

destruction of human embryos was considered. Twenty-three of the Senate's forty members voted in favor of the amendment (as displayed above). The modified bill, supported by the Conference, then passed the Senate by a unanimous vote and the House by an overwhelming majority.

Beginning of Life. Legislation to redefine "contraception" to include drugs and devices that prevent a newly conceived embryo from implanting in the uterus passed the Senate Education and Health Committee in a 10-4 vote. On the Senate floor, a Conference-endorsed amendment to remove prevention of implantation from the bill's definition of contraception was approved by a 21-17 vote (displayed above). The Senate did not vote on the amended bill, choosing instead to strike it from the calendar.

Legal Justice. Currently, individuals convicted of felonies after pleading "not guilty" are permitted, at most, one subsequent opportunity to present the court that entered the conviction with evidence of innocence that was unknown or unavailable at the time of trial. The Conference backed a bill to remove the so-called "one writ per conviction" limitation and thereby afford such individuals a greater opportunity to demonstrate innocence. The Senate passed the measure by a 37-2 vote (displayed above). However, it subsequently stalled in the House Courts of Justice Committee.

Food Stamps. Currently, federal law imposes a lifetime ban on food stamps for persons convicted of drug felonies, but states are permitted to opt out of that restrictive provision. This year, the General Assembly passed legislation providing that a person in Virginia otherwise eligible for food stamps shall not be barred due to a prior felony-possession offense. Supported by the Conference, the measure succeeded by a vote of 72-24 in the House and 39-0 in the Senate (displayed above).

Marriage: The General Assembly completed the first stage of amending the Virginia Constitution to include the following Conference-supported provision: "That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions. This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage." To complete the state constitutional-amendment process, the legislation –approved this year in both the Senate (30-10, displayed above) and the House (80-17) -- would have to pass the legislature again in 2006, and the matter would then be placed before voters later that year.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

A "√" indicates a vote supported by the VCC.
 An "X" indicates a vote opposed by the VCC.
 "NV" indicates the Delegate did not vote.

Name of Delegate	Abortion-Informed Consent	Abortion-Clinic Licensing	Food Stamps	Immigrant Labor Protections	Marriage	School Transportation	Education Tax Credits	Immigrants-Higher Education
Abbitt, Watkins, Jr. (I) <i>Dist. 59</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Albo, David B. (R) <i>Dist. 42</i>	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Alexander, Kenneth C. (D) <i>Dist. 89</i>	X	X	√	√	√	√	X	√
Amundson, Kristen J. (D) <i>Dist. 44</i>	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√

Armstrong, Ward L. (D) Dist. 10	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	NV
Athey, Clifford L., Jr. (R) Dist. 18	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
BaCote, Mamye E. (D) Dist 95	NV	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Barlow, William K. (D) Dist. 64	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	X
Baskerville, Viola Osborne (D) Dist. 71	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Bell, Rob B. III (R) Dist. 58	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Black, Richard H. “Dick” (R) Dist. 32	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Bland, Fenton L., Jr. (D) Dist. 63	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Brink, Robert H. (D) Dist. 48	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Bryant, L. Preston Jr., (R) Dist. 23	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Byron, Kathy J. (R) Dist. 22	√	NV	√	X	√	√	√	X
Callahan, Vincent F., Jr. (R) Dist. 34	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Carrico, Charles “Bill” W., Sr. (R) Dist. 5	√	√	√	X	√	√	X	X
Cline, Ben L. (R) Dist. 24	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Cole, Mark L. (R) Dist. 88	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Cosgrove, John A. (R) Dist. 78	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Councill, J. Paul, Jr. (D) Dist. 75	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Cox, M. Kirkland “Kirk” (R) Dist. 66	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Dillard, James “Jim” Hardy, II (R) Dist. 41	X	X	√	√	NV	X	√	√
Dudley, Allen W. (R) Dist. 9	√	√	X	X	√	√	X	X
Ebbin, Adam P. (D) Dist. 49	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Eisenberg, Albert C. (D) Dist. 47	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Fralin, William H., Jr. (R) Dist. 17	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Frederick, Jeffrey M. (R) Dist. 52	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Gear, Thomas D. “Tom” (R) Dist. 91	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Griffith, H. Morgan (R) Dist. 8	√	√	√	NV	√	√	X	X
Hall, Franklin “Frank” P. (D) Dist. 69	NV	X	√	√	√	√	X	X
Hamilton, Phillip A. (R) Dist. 93	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Hargrove, Fran, D., Sr. (R) Dist. 55	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Hogan, Clarke N. (R) Dist. 60	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Howell, Algje T., Jr. (D) Dist. 90	√	√	√	√	√	X	NV	√
Howell, William J. (R) Dist. 29	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Hugo, Timothy D., (R) Dist. 40	√	√	X	NV	√	√	X	X

Hull, Robert D. “Bob” (D) Dist. 38	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Hurt, Robert (R) Dist. 16	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Ingram, Riley E. (R) Dist. 62	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Janis, Bill (R) Dist. 56	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Joannou, Johnny S. (D) Dist 79	√	X	√	X	√	√	X	X
Johnson, Joseph P., Jr. (D) Dist. 4	√	√	√	X	√	X	X	X
Jones, Dwight Clinton (D) Dist. 70	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	√
Jones, S. Chris (R) Dist. 76	√	√	√	X	√	X	√	X
Keister, Walter B. “Benny” (D) Dist. 6	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	X
Kilgore, Terry G. (R) Dist. 1	√	√	√	X	√	√	X	X
Landes, R. Steven “Steve” (R) Dist. 25	NV	√	NV	X	√	√	√	X
Lewis, Lynwood W., Jr. (D) Dist. 100	√	X	√	√	√	X	X	X
Lingamfelter, L. Scott (R) Dist. 31	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Louderback, Allen L. (R) Dist. 15	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Marrs, Bradley P. (R) Dist. 68	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Marshall, Danny III (R) Dist. 14	√	√	√	X	√	√	X	X
Marshall, Robert G. “Bob” G. (R) Dist. 13	√	√	NV	X	√	√	√	X
May, Joe T. (R) Dist. 33	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
McDonnell, Robert F. “Bob” (R) Dist. 84	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
McDougle, Ryan Todd (R) Dist. 97	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
McQuigg, Michele B. (R) Dist. 51	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Melvin, Kenneth R. “Ken” (D) Dist. 80	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Miles, Floyd H., Sr. (D) Dist. 74	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	√
Miller, Paula, J. (D) Dist. 87	√	X	√	√	√	√	X	√
Moran, Brian J. (D) Dist. 46	X	X	√	√	X	√	X	√
Morgan, Harvey B. (R) Dist. 98	NV	√	√	√	√	√	√	NV
Nixon, Samuel A. “Sam” A., Jr. (R) Dist. 27	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Nutter, Dave (R) Dist. 7	√	√	√	X	√	√	X	X
O’Bannon, John M., III M.D. (R) Dist. 73	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Oder, G. Glenn (R) Dist. 94	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Orrock, Robert “Bobby” Dickson, Sr. (R) Dist. 54	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X

Parrish, Harry J. (R) <i>Dist. 50</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Petersen, J. Chapman (D) <i>Dist. 37</i>	√	X	√	√	√	√	X	√
Phillips, Clarence E. “Bud” (D) <i>Dist. 2</i>	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√
Plum, Kenneth R. “Ken” (D) <i>Dist. 36</i>	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Pollard, Albert C., Jr. (D) <i>Dist. 99</i>	X	√	√	√	X	√	X	√
Purkey, Harry R. “Bob” (R) <i>Dist. 82</i>	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Putney, Lacey E. (I) <i>Dist. 19</i>	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Rapp, Melanie L. (R) <i>Dist. 96</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Reese, Gary Alan (R) <i>Dist. 67</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	X
Reid, John S. “Jack” (R) <i>Dist. 72</i>	√	√	X	NV	√	X	√	X
Rust, Thomas Davis (R) <i>Dist. 86</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Saxman, Chris B. (R) <i>Dist. 20</i>	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Scott, Edward T. (R) <i>Dist. 30</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Scott, James, M. “Jim” (D) <i>Dist. 53</i>	X	X	√	√	X	√	X	√
Shannon, Stephen C. (D) <i>Dist. 35</i>	√	X	√	√	√	√	X	√
Sherwood, Beverly J. (R) <i>Dist. 29</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Shuler, James M. (D) <i>Dist. 12</i>	X	X	√	√	X	√	X	√
Sickles, Mark D. (D) <i>Dist. 43</i>	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Spruill, Lionell Sr. (D) <i>Dist. 77</i>	X	X	√	√	√	√	X	√
Stump, Jackie T. (D) <i>Dist. 3</i>	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√
Suit, Terrie L. (R) <i>Dist. 81</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Tata, Robert “Bob” (R) <i>Dist. 85</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Van Landingham, Marian (D) <i>Dist. 45</i>	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
Van Yahres, Mitchell (D) <i>Dist. 57</i>	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Ward, Jeion Antonia (D) <i>Dist. 92</i>	NV	X	√	√	X	X	X	√
Wardrup, Leo C. (R) <i>Dist. 83</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Ware, Onzlee (D) <i>Dist. 11</i>	NV	X	√	√	√	X	X	NV
Ware, R. Lee (R) <i>Dist. 65</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Watts, Vivian E. (D) <i>Dist. 39</i>	X	X	√	√	X	X	√	√
Weatherholtz, Glenn M. (R) <i>Dist. 26</i>	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X
Welch, John J., III (R) <i>Dist. 21</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X
Wright, Thomas “Tommy” C., Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 61</i>	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	X

** Resigned January 26, 2005.

Abortion – Informed Consent. By a 72-20 margin (displayed above), the House approved legislation seeking to expand Virginia’s informed-consent law by requiring that, prior to receiving an abortion, a pregnant woman must be given information about an unborn child’s potential ability to experience pain by 20 weeks gestation. The bill, supported by the Conference, was subsequently defeated 9-6 in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

Abortion – Clinic Licensing. A bill to require state licensure of abortion clinics, endorsed by the Conference, cleared the House (69-28, displayed above) but was rejected by the Senate Education and Health Committee, 9-6.

Food Stamps. See description accompanying Senate chart.

Immigrant Labor Protections. By a 53-42 vote (displayed above), the House advanced a VCC-opposed bill to render undocumented laborers ineligible for worker's compensation benefits in the event of workplace injury or death. Although the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee then approved the measure as well, the legislation failed when the full Senate referred it to another committee (Courts of Justice) in the session’s closing days.

Marriage. See description accompanying Senate chart.

School Transportation. A Conference-supported bill to permit local school districts to provide bus transportation to nonpublic-school students was approved by the House Education Committee (17-5) and the full House of Delegates (73-25, displayed above). Ultimately, however, a 9-6 vote against the bill by the Senate Education and Health Committee prevented its enactment.

Education Tax Credits. A proposal that would have created tax credits for businesses contributing to tuition-assistance organizations received House approval by a 56-41 margin (displayed above). The measure, favored by the Conference, was then referred to the Senate Finance Committee, where it stalled without a vote.

Immigrants – Higher Education. The House passed a VCC-opposed bill that would have denied children of undocumented immigrants access to state colleges and universities, even at out-of-state tuition rates. The 67-28 House vote (displayed above) in favor of the legislation was negated when the Senate Education and Health Committee declined to endorse the measure.