



## **VCC REPORT – 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

The Virginia Catholic Conference, which represents the public-policy interests of the Catholic bishops serving the Arlington and Richmond dioceses, took formal positions on more than 50 policy measures considered by the Virginia General Assembly during this year's prolonged debate. Because the 60-day 2006 Regular Session of the legislature adjourned on March 11<sup>th</sup> without an approved budget, Governor Kaine called a Special Session, which began on March 27<sup>th</sup>. For almost three months, an 11-member "conference committee" remained at an impasse over differences between competing House and Senate budget plans. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the conferees reached an agreement, which the General Assembly approved the following week.

An integral facet of the Conference's mission is to report decisions made in the state capital on issues of concern to Catholics throughout the Commonwealth. At the conclusion of each year's General Assembly session, the Conference compiles the results of votes taken by state legislators on matters of particular interest to many Catholics involved in state advocacy. Appearing below are charts that record floor votes on ten issues considered by the House of Delegates and three issues considered by the Senate, as well as three Senate committee votes relating to legislation that "crossed over" from the House but did not reach the Senate floor. Each vote relates to an issue (described below) that was significantly monitored by the Conference and those participating in its grassroots advocacy efforts. [Readers should note that the two charts record only a small percentage of the thousands of votes cast in 2006 (both on the floor and in committees and subcommittees) by Senate and House members on many issues important to the Commonwealth's citizens. For information about legislation of concern to the Conference that was not debated on the floor of either chamber, please call Conference staff at (804) 225-8565. 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 constituent services.]

# SENATE

√: a vote supported by the VCC

X: a vote opposed by the VCC

NV: The Senator did not vote.

\*: The Senator was not yet elected.

-: The Senator is not on a member of the Education & Health Committee.

Name of Senator	Juvenile Death Penalty – Abolition (1 <sup>st</sup> vote/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> vote)	Marriage Amendment (1 <sup>st</sup> vote/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> vote)	Welfare Benefits – Eligibility	Education & Health Committee Votes		
				Abortion – Clinic Licensing	Abortion – Reporting Complications	Immigrants – Higher Education
Bell, J. Brandon II (R) <i>Dist. 22</i>	√/√	√/√	√	√	√	√
Blevins, Harry B. (R) <i>Dist. 14</i>	√/√	√/√	√	√	√	√
Chichester, John H. (R) <i>Dist. 28</i>	NV/√	√/√	√	-	-	-
Colgan, Charles J., Sr. (D) <i>Dist. 29</i>	√/√	√/√	√	-	-	-
Cuccinelli, Kenneth “Ken” Thomas, II (R) <i>Dist. 37</i>	√/√	√/√	X	-	-	-
Deeds, Robert Creigh (D) <i>Dist. 25</i>	√/√	√/√	√	-	-	-
Davis, Jeannemarie A. Devolites (R) <i>Dist. 34</i>	√/√	√/√	√	-	-	-
Edwards, John S. (D) <i>Dist. 21</i>	√/√	X/X	√	X	X	√
Hanger, Emmett W., Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 24</i>	X/X	√/√	√	-	-	-
Hawkins, Charles R. (R) <i>Dist. 19</i>	√/√	√/√	√	-	-	-
Herring, Mark R. (D) <i>Dist. 33</i>	*/√	*/√	√	-	-	-
Houck, R. Edward “Edd” (D) <i>Dist. 17</i>	√/√	√/√	√	X	X	√
Howell, Janet D. (D) <i>Dist. 32</i>	√/√	X/X	√	X	X	√
Lambert, Benjamin J., III (D) <i>Dist. 9</i>	√/√	X/X	√	X	X	√
Locke, Mamie E. (D) <i>Dist. 2</i>	√/√	X/X	√	-	-	-
Lucas, L. Louise (D) <i>Dist. 18</i>	√/√	X/X	√	X	X	√
Marsh, Henry L., III (D) <i>Dist. 16</i>	√/√	X/X	√	-	-	-
Martin, Stephen H. (R) <i>Dist. 11</i>	√/√	√/√	X	√	√	√
McDougle, Ryan (R) <i>Dist. 4</i>	√/√	√/√	√	-	-	-
Miller, Yvonne B. (D) <i>Dist. 5</i>	√/√	X/X	√	-	-	-
Newman, Stephen D. “Steve” (R) <i>Dist. 23</i>	NV/√	√/√	X	√	√	NV
Norment, Thomas K., Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 3</i>	√/√	√/√	√	-	-	-

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

**Juvenile Death Penalty – Abolition.** The General Assembly enacted legislation making Virginia law consistent with a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision banning use of the death penalty on those under 18 at the time of the offense. Senate votes (both displayed above) on this Conference-backed measure were 34-3 (Senate bill) and 36-4 (identical House bill).

**Marriage Amendment.** For the second straight year, both chambers approved a Conference-backed resolution defining marriage as between one man and one woman and prohibiting the recognition of marriage-like legal statuses for unmarried relationships. Senate floor votes on identical Senate and House resolutions are displayed above; the vote on the Senate resolution appears first. This November, Virginia voters will decide whether the provisions of this resolution will be added to the Constitution of Virginia.

**Welfare Benefits – Eligibility.** The General Assembly considered legislation removing a lifetime ban from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits for those previously convicted of drug-possession felonies, if they comply with court obligations, participate in substance-abuse treatment and periodic drug screenings, and meet all other state requirements. The bill passed the Senate (35-5, displayed above) but failed to win House approval.

**Abortion – Clinic Licensing.** A Conference-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 66-33 (displayed in accompanying House chart). It was subsequently defeated 9-6 in the Senate Education and Health Committee (displayed above).

**Abortion – Reporting Complications.** Conference-supported legislation, which would have required doctors to file a report with the state health department each time they treat a patient who suffered a medical complication resulting from an induced abortion, passed the House 64-34 (displayed in accompanying House chart) but was rejected by the Senate Education and Health Committee, 9-6 (displayed above). [Under the bill’s provisions, the patient’s identity would not be revealed.]

**Immigrants – Higher Education.** The House passed a bill that would have denied access to state colleges and universities, even at out-of-state tuition rates, for undocumented immigrants, including those who entered the U.S. as children with their parents. The 67-33 House vote (displayed in accompanying House chart) in favor of the legislation was negated when the Senate Education and Health Committee voted 12-0 (displayed above) against this Conference-opposed measure.

# HOUSE OF DELEGATES

√: a vote supported by the VCC  
 X: a vote opposed by the VCC  
 NV: The Delegate did not vote.  
 \*: The Delegate was not yet elected.  
 \*\*Now deceased

Name of Delegate	Abortion- Prohibiting Funding	Research -Ethical Standards	Abortion- Clinic Licensing	Abortion- Reporting Complications	Juvenile Death Penalty- Abolition (1 <sup>st</sup> vote / 2 <sup>nd</sup> vote)	Death Penalty- Triggerman Limitation	Marriage Amendment (1 <sup>st</sup> vote / 2 <sup>nd</sup> vote)	Immigrants- Higher Education	School Transportation	Education Tax Credits
Abbitt, Watkins M., Jr. (I) <i>Dist. 59</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Albo, David B. (R) <i>Dist. 42</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Alexander, Kenneth C. (D) <i>Dist. 89</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	X
Amundson, Kristen J. (D) <i>Dist. 44</i>	X	X	X	X	NV/√	X	X/X	√	√	X
Armstrong, Ward L. (D) <i>Dist. 10</i>	√	X	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	X	X
Athey, Clifford L., Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 18</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
BaCote, Mamy E. (D) <i>Dist 95</i>	X	X	√	X	√/√	X	X/√	√	√	X
Barlow, William K. (D) <i>Dist. 64</i>	X	X	X	X	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	X
Bell, Rob B., III (R) <i>Dist. 58</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Bowling, Daniel C. (D) <i>Dist. 3</i>	X	X	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	√	√	X
Brink, Robert H. (D) <i>Dist. 48</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	X	X

Bulova, David L. (D) <i>Dist. 37</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	√	X
Byron, Kathy J. (R) <i>Dist. 22</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Callahan, Vincent F., Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 34</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Caputo, C. Charles (D) <i>Dist. 67</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	X	X
Carrico, Charles "Bill" W., Sr. (R) <i>Dist. 5</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	X
Cline, Ben L. (R) <i>Dist. 24</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Cole, Mark L. (R) <i>Dist. 88</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Cosgrove, John A. (R) <i>Dist. 78</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Cox, M. Kirkland "Kirk" (R) <i>Dist. 66</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Crockett-Stark, Anne (R) <i>Dist. 6</i>	√	√	√	√	√/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Dance, Rosalyn R. (D) <i>Dist. 63</i>	X	X	√	X	√/√	X	√/√	√	√	X
Dudley, Allen W. (R) <i>Dist. 9</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Ebbin, Adam P. (D) <i>Dist. 49</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	X	X
Eisenberg, Albert C. (D) <i>Dist. 47</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	√	X
Englin, David L. (D) <i>Dist. 45</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	X	X
Fralin, William H., Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 17</i>	√	√	√	√	NV/NV	X	√/√	X	√	√
Frederick, Jeffrey M. (R) <i>Dist. 52</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Gear, Thomas D. "Tom" (R) <i>Dist. 91</i>	√	√	√	√	X/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Gilbert, C. Todd (R) <i>Dist. 15</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Griffith, H. Morgan (R) <i>Dist. 8</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	X
Hall, Franklin "Frank" P. (D) <i>Dist. 69</i>	X	X	√	X	√/√	√	√/X	√	√	X
Hamilton, Phillip A. (R) <i>Dist. 93</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Hargrove, Frank D., Sr. (R) <i>Dist. 55</i>	√	√	√	√	√/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Hogan, Clarke N. (R) <i>Dist. 60</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Howell, Algie T., Jr. (D) <i>Dist. 90</i>	√	√	X	X	X/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Howell, William J. (R) <i>Dist. 28</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Hugo, Timothy D. (R) <i>Dist. 40</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	X
Hull, Robert D. "Bob" (D) <i>Dist. 38</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	X	X
Hurt, Robert (R) <i>Dist. 16</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Iaquinto, Salvatore "Sal" R. (R) <i>Dist. 84</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Ingram, Riley E. (R) <i>Dist. 62</i>	√	√	√	√	X/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Janis, Bill (R) <i>Dist. 56</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Joannou, Johnny S. (D) <i>Dist. 79</i>	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Johnson, Joseph P., Jr. (D) <i>Dist. 4</i>	X	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	X	X
Jones, Dwight Clinton (D) <i>Dist. 70</i>	X	X	X	X	NV/√	√	√/√	√	X	NV
Jones, S. Chris (R) <i>Dist. 76</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Kilgore, Terry G. (R) <i>Dist. 1</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	X
Landes, R. Steven "Steve" (R) <i>Dist. 25</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√

Lewis, Lynwood W., Jr. (D) <i>Dist. 100</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	√/√	X	X	X
Lingamfelter, L. Scott (R) <i>Dist. 31</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Lohr, Matthew J. "Matt" (R) <i>Dist. 26</i>	√	√	√	√	√/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Marsden, Dave W. (D) <i>Dist. 41</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	X	X
Marshall, Danny, III (R) <i>Dist. 14</i>	√	√	√	√	X/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Marshall, Robert G. "Bob" (R) <i>Dist. 13</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
May, Joe T. (R) <i>Dist. 33</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/NV	X	√	√
McClellan, Jennifer L. (D) <i>Dist. 71</i>	X	NV	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	√	X
McEachin, A. Donald (D) <i>Dist. 74</i>	X	X	X	√	√/√	√	√/√	√	X	X
McQuigg, Michèle B. (R) <i>Dist. 51</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	√	√/√	X	√	√
Melvin, Kenneth R. "Ken" (D) <i>Dist. 80</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	NV/√	√	X	X
Miller, Paula, J. (D) <i>Dist. 87</i>	X	√	X	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	X	X
Moran, Brian J. (D) <i>Dist. 46</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	√	X
Morgan, Harvey B. (R) <i>Dist. 98</i>	NV	NV	√	X	√/√	X	X/X	X	√	√
Nixon, Samuel A. "Sam", Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 27</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Nutter, Dave (R) <i>Dist. 7</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	X
O'Bannon, John M., III M.D. (R) <i>Dist. 73</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Oder, G. Glenn (R) <i>Dist. 94</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Orrock, Robert "Bobby" Dickson, Sr. (R) <i>Dist. 54</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	NV/√	X	√	√
Parrish, Harry J. ** (R) <i>Dist. 50</i>	√	√	√	√	√/NV	X	√/NV	X	NV	√
Peace, Christopher K. "Chris" (R) <i>Dist. 97</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	*/√	X	√	√
Phillips, Clarence E. "Bud" (D) <i>Dist. 2</i>	√	X	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	√	√	X
Plum, Kenneth R. "Ken" (D) <i>Dist. 36</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	X	X
Poisson, David E. (D) <i>Dist. 32</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	√	X
Purkey, Harry R. "Bob" (R) <i>Dist. 82</i>	√	√	√	NV	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Putney, Lacey E. (I) <i>Dist. 19</i>	√	√	X	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Rapp, Melanie L. (R) <i>Dist. 96</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Reid, John S. "Jack" (R) <i>Dist. 72</i>	√	√	√	√	√/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Rust, Thomas Davis (R) <i>Dist. 86</i>	√	√	√	X	√/√	X	NV/√	X	√	√
Saxman, Chris B. (R) <i>Dist. 20</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Scott, Edward T. (R) <i>Dist. 30</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Scott, James, M. "Jim" (D) <i>Dist. 53</i>	X	√	X	X	√/√	NV	X/X	√	√	X
Shannon, Stephen C. (D) <i>Dist. 35</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	√/√	√	√	X
Sherwood, Beverly J. (R) <i>Dist. 29</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Shuler, James M. (D) <i>Dist. 12</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	√	X
Sickles, Mark D. (D) <i>Dist. 43</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	X	X
Spruill, Lionell Sr. (D) <i>Dist. 77</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	NV/√	√	X	X

Suit, Terrie L. (R) <i>Dist. 81</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Tata, Robert “Bob” (R) <i>Dist. 85</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Toscano, David J. (D) <i>Dist. 57</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	X/X	√	X	X
Tyler, Roslyn C. (D) <i>Dist. 75</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	√	√/√	√	√	X
Valentine, Shannon R. (D) <i>Dist. 23</i>	√	X	√	√	√/√	√	X/X	√	√	X
Waddell, Katherine B. (I) <i>Dist. 68</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	√/√	√	X	X
Ward, Jeion Antonia (D) <i>Dist. 92</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	X	X
Wardrup, Leo C. (R) <i>Dist. 83</i>	√	√	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Ware, Onzlee (D) <i>Dist. 11</i>	X	X	X	√	√/√	X	√/√	√	√	√
Ware, R. Lee (R) <i>Dist. 65</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Watts, Vivian E. (D) <i>Dist. 39</i>	X	X	X	X	√/√	X	X/X	√	X	X
Welch, John J., III (R) <i>Dist. 21</i>	√	√	√	√	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√
Wittman, Robert J. (R) <i>Dist. 99</i>	√	NV	√	√	√/√	X	√/√	X	√	√
Wright, Thomas “Tommy” C., Jr. (R) <i>Dist. 61</i>	√	√	NV	NV	X/X	X	√/√	X	√	√

**Abortion – Prohibiting Funding.** By a 62-37 vote (displayed above), the House of Delegates approved a Conference-supported budget amendment to prevent state funding of Medicaid abortions. During a Senate floor debate, Senator Kenneth Cuccinelli proposed an amendment to add the same provision to the Senate version of the budget, but the Senate rejected his proposal without a recorded vote. Several months later, the House provision was also rejected by the House-Senate conference committee appointed to resolve differences between the two chambers’ respective budget proposals.

**Research – Ethical Standards.** Shortly before Governor Mark Warner left office in January, he submitted to the General Assembly a budget proposal that included \$255 million for research and development at Virginia’s colleges and universities. As originally drafted, this research-and-development initiative provided no ethical standards to prevent use of the proposed funds for research that requires destroying human embryos or fetuses. The Conference pursued budget language prohibiting state investment in such research. The provision was approved by the House of Delegates in a 62-35 vote (displayed above). Although Senator Jay O’Brien pursued a floor amendment to add the same provision to the Senate’s budget plan, the Senate defeated his proposal without a recorded vote. Later in the year, the budget conference committee also rejected the language originally approved by the House.

**Abortion – Clinic Licensing.** A Conference-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 66-33 (displayed above). It was subsequently defeated 9-6 in the Senate Education and Health Committee (displayed in accompanying Senate chart).

**Abortion – Reporting Complications.** Conference-supported legislation, which would have required doctors to file a report with the state health department each time they treat a patient who suffered a medical complication resulting from an induced abortion, passed the House 64-

34 (displayed above) but was rejected by the Senate Education and Health Committee, 9-6 (displayed in accompanying Senate chart). [Under the bill's provisions, the patient's identity would not be revealed.]

**Juvenile Death Penalty – Abolition.** The General Assembly enacted legislation making Virginia law consistent with a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision banning use of the death penalty on those under 18 at the time of the offense. House votes (both displayed above) on this Conference-backed measure were 63-34 (House bill) and 63-34 again on the identical Senate bill.

**Death Penalty – Triggerman Limitation.** The General Assembly considered legislation that would have made those involved in capital murders who were not the actual perpetrators (*i.e.*, not the “triggermen”) eligible for death sentences. Opposed by the Conference because it would have expanded the circumstances under which death sentences could be rendered, the bill passed the House by an 83-16 vote (displayed above) before being sent by the Senate Courts of Justice Committee to a commission on crimes for study following the 2006 legislative session.

**Marriage Amendment.** For the second straight year, both chambers approved a Conference-backed resolution defining marriage as between one man and one woman and prohibiting the recognition of marriage-like legal statuses for unmarried relationships. House floor votes on identical House and Senate resolutions are displayed above; the vote on the House resolution appears first. This November, Virginia voters will decide whether the provisions of this resolution will be added to the Constitution of Virginia.

**Immigrants – Higher Education.** The House passed a bill that would have denied access to state colleges and universities, even at out-of-state tuition rates, for undocumented immigrants, including those who entered the U.S. as children with their parents. The 67-33 House vote (displayed above) in favor of the legislation was negated when the Senate Education and Health Committee voted 12-0 (displayed in accompanying Senate chart) against this Conference-opposed measure.

**School Transportation.** A Conference-supported bill to permit local school districts to provide bus transportation to nonpublic-school students was approved by the House of Delegates (79-20, displayed above). The Senate Education and Health Committee subsequently rejected the proposal without a recorded vote.

**Education Tax Credits.** The General Assembly considered legislation to establish income-tax credits for business entities and individuals who make contributions to public-school foundations or scholarship foundations. Under this measure (supported by the Conference), individual taxpayers could also receive income-tax credits (up to \$800 for an individual filer and up to \$1200 for joint filers) for their children's education-related expenses. The bill won approval in its chamber of origin by a 57-42 vote (displayed above) before stalling in the Senate Finance Committee, which voted unanimously to table it for further consideration in 2007.