



CAPITOL ISSUES January 30, 2026

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By David Ellena, Ed.D., VASSP Director of Government Relations

The first full week of the 2026 General Assembly session was very active. The subcommittees and committees had full dockets, and they have taken action on several bills that VASSP has concerns with. Here is a summary of those bills and where they stand in the current session.

BILLS THAT VASSP CANNOT SUPPORT

[HB359](#)-This bill would divert public funds to private schools. It is currently in subcommittee. It should be on the docket for this week. VASSP has consistently opposed any bills that would take public school funds for private education. We believe that this bill will come before the subcommittee this week.

The following bills failed to make it through the first week of subcommittee. While this does not mean they are dead, the likelihood of them returning is low.

[SB234](#)-this bill would have made several changes to the anti-bullying policies and procedures.

[SB295](#), [SB560](#), [SB703](#)-these bills would have required students to participate in school activities based on their biological sex.

[SB561](#)-this is a similar bill to those above, but was directed towards bathrooms and changing areas.

The following bills are ones that we have some concerns with and have made it out of subcommittee. VASSP will continue to monitor these bills in the coming weeks.

[HB138](#)-this bill would require that each high school has to hire a Career Coach. VASSP is concerned over the effect this may have on staffing.

[HB201,SB109](#)-this bill would require a separate communication from each school, within 30 days of school starting, reminding parents of their responsibilities to safely store prescription drugs and firearms. Our concern is that this is an additional duty for school administrators.

[HB410](#)-this bill would require high schools to participate in the SAT Day program. We are concerned with the loss of instruction time and the cost. It has been referred to Appropriations.

[SB108](#)-this bill would change the cell from ban. The bill would prohibit possession of cell phones at school. Our concern is that this would be a burden on school administrators.

[SB265](#)-this bill would create a Class 1 Misdemeanor for “Aggravated Bullying”, which is defined in the bill. It has passed out of committee and been referred to Courts of Justice.

VASSP will update the actions of the General Assembly after each meeting. You can find the current House bills [HERE](#). Senate bills are [HERE](#).

Please try to find some time and peruse the bills listed. Tuesday, February 17th is the last day for bills to be acted upon in their chambers of origin, other than the budget bills. Bills must “cross over” to the opposite chamber by Wednesday, February 18. In reviewing these bills, please do not hesitate to share with me your thoughts or ask any questions about the proposed legislation. I can be contacted at dellena@vassp.org. *Thank you!*



There will be a session dedicated to the actions of the General Assembly and the effects on school administrators during the School Law Clinic at the 98th Annual Virginia Middle and High School Principals Conference & Exposition at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Williamsburg, June 22- 25, 2026.



To register for the annul conference click [HERE](#).