

2024 Virginia General Assembly Session
List of Bills on Our Agenda & Supporting:

ASCV LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ITEMS:

Reestablish the Autism Advisory Council

[SB 389 - Stella Pekarsky](#)

Reestablishes the Autism Advisory Council, which expired July 1, 2022, to promote coordination of services and resources among agencies involved in the delivery of services to Virginians with autism spectrum disorders and to increase public awareness of services and resources.

Disregard SSDI Income for Medicaid Waiver Eligibility

[HB 908 - Delegate Irene Shin](#)

Requires DMAS to amend the financial eligibility standards for certain waivers providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities so that Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) income is disregarded by the Department when calculating such individuals' financial eligibility for such waivers. Maintains responsibility for patient pay amounts.

Autism-Related Training Requirements for Law-Enforcement Officers

[HB 1246 - Delegate Rodney Willett](#)

[SB 547 - Senator Lamont Bagby](#)

Companion House and Senate bills require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish compulsory minimum and in-service training standards for law enforcement officers on communicating with individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The bill requires that such training standards be established in consultation with at least one individual with autism spectrum disorder, one family member of an individual with autism spectrum disorder, one specialist who works with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and one representative from a state or local law enforcement agency.

SUPPORTING:**Amend Requirements for Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs) of Minor Children**[SB 488 - Lashrecse Aird](#)[SB 149 – David Suetterlein](#)[HB 909 - Irene Shin](#)[HB 1282 - Wilt](#)**The Arc of Virginia Agenda Item*

Companion House and Senate bills that protect families by ensuring the regulations regarding their ability to provide care for their children are reasonable and appropriate.

Retention of Waiver Slots[SB 610 - Stella Pekarsky & David R. Suetterlein](#)[HB 577 - Chris Runion](#)**The Arc of Virginia Agenda Item*

Companion House & Senate bills, allowing individuals struggling to find services to retain their waiver slot for up to one year, in response to the ongoing provider shortage.

IEP & Special Education Services[HB 1089- Delegate Carrie Coyner](#)[SB 220- Senator Barbara Favola](#)

Companion House and Senate Bills that address special education services, define IEPs and specially designed instruction, and require record retention for 75 years. Require school boards to provide professional development for instruction in inclusive settings and hire one parent engagement specialist as a resource for parents. The Department of Education is required to establish eight regional special education parent support centers and the State Parent Ombudsman for Special Education to track and report questions raised by parents. The Department of Education must also develop the “Virginia IEP” which is an IEP writing, facilitation, tracking, and transfer system. Any higher education teacher training program for certain certifications shall include a program of coursework and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in instructional practices to support specially designed instruction in inclusive settings.

Remote Participation in Public Body Meetings[HB 1040- Delegate Bennett-Parker](#)[SB 85 - Senator Barbara Favola](#)

Companion bills allowing remote participation in meetings by persons with disabilities and caregivers.

Voting Assistance Outside the Polling Place

[HB 441 - Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker](#)

[HB 43- Delegate Josh Thomas](#)

Provides assistance for voters with disabilities. Requires training for election officers on voting outside the polling place.

Assess Reimbursement Rates for Early Intervention Program

[HB 177 - Debra D. Gardner](#)

Directs DMAS to convene a work group to assess and make recommendations related to reimbursement rates for the federal Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities.

Accommodation Policy at Public Colleges and Universities for Students with Disabilities

[SB21 - Senator Saddam Azlan Salim](#)

[HB509 - Laura Jane Cohen](#)

Standardize disability documentation requirements across public colleges and universities in Virginia by requiring these institutions to accept a variety of documentation as proof of a disability, streamlining the process for students to qualify for accommodations. The bill aims to eliminate the need for an unnecessary, often costly psychological or medical evaluation for students with previously documented disabilities.

Protection for People when calling First Responders

[SB 357 – Senator Jennifer Boysko](#)

Protects people with developmental disabilities from prosecution for assault on an officer when that person is experiencing a crisis and calls for help.