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Debra D. Gardner

Virginia

State Delegate, HD-076 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

VA Legislative Scorecard 2025

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Allows all local governments in Virginia to adopt ranked-choice voting (RCV) for their elections, including positions such as mayor and school-board members. ✗

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SB1009 · 02/19/2025

2. Proposed establishing the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention within the Department of Criminal Justice Services. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$1.13/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1736 · 02/18/2025

3. Creates the Virginia Sports Tourism Grant Program, administered by the Virginia Tourism Authority. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$2.41/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SB927 · 02/13/2025

4. Restrict the deployment of the Virginia National Guard into active combat situations unless Congress has officially declared war. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB2193 · 02/04/2025

5. Aimed to mandate that health-insurance plans covering outpatient prescription drugs also provide coverage for FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and devices, including over-the-counter options. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$0.75/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB2371 · 02/04/2025

6. Proposed the creation of the Solar Interconnection Grant Program to provide competitive grants to public bodies, such as local governments and school boards, to help offset the costs of connecting solar-energy facilities to the electric grid. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$0.05/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB2113 · 02/04/2025

Scorecard Votes: 17%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Ranked-choice Voting Expansion

SB1009 allows all local governments in Virginia to adopt RCV for their elections, including positions such as mayor and school-board members. Previously, RCV was limited to city-council and county-board elections.

The Virginia State House of Delegates passed SB1009 on February 19, 2025 by a vote of 50 to 46. We have assigned pluses to the nays because RCV undermines election integrity and the electorate's ability to choose the best candidate. By design, RCV favors moderate-to-leftist candidates who often fail to uphold the Constitution. This complex, multi-round system can result in winners who lack true plurality support and imposes ballot-marking requirements that may pressure voters to act against their conscience.

2. Firearm Violence Office

HB1736 proposed establishing the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention. This center would serve as the state's primary resource for "research," "best practices," and "strategies" aimed at reducing firearm violence through "community-based" programs.

The Virginia State House of Delegates passed HB1736 on February 18, 2025 by a vote of 52 to 43. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill unnecessarily expands government by creating a new state office whose underlying purpose appears to be an infringement on the Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms.

3. Sports Tourism Grant

SB927 establishes the Virginia Sports Tourism Grant Program, administered by the Virginia Tourism Authority. The program provides grants to local entities—such as sports commissions, convention and visitors bureaus, and municipal departments—to develop and attract sports-tourism activities across the state.

The Virginia State House of Delegates passed SB927 on February 13, 2025 by a vote of 90 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the nays because it expands the role of government into areas best left to the private sector by using taxpayer dollars to fund sports-tourism projects through grants. This is a clear example of corporate welfare that picks winners and losers, favoring politically connected industries or localities at the expense of others.

4. Defend the Guard

HB2193 restrict the deployment of the Virginia National Guard into active combat situations unless Congress has officially declared war or taken constitutional action to execute U.S. laws, repel invasions, or suppress insurrections.

The Virginia State House of Delegates passed HB2193 on February 4, 2025 by a vote of 99 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this would nullify unconstitutional federal deployments of the National Guard. A congressional declaration of war is constitutionally required to enter into a foreign conflict or for another constitutional reason, in accordance with Article I, Section 8, Clauses 11 and 15, of the U.S. Constitution.

5. Forced Contraceptive Coverage

HB2371 aimed to mandate that health-insurance plans covering outpatient prescription drugs also provide coverage for FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and devices, including over-the-counter options. The bill sought to eliminate cost-sharing requirements—such as copayments, coinsurance, or fees—for these contraceptives, thereby reducing financial barriers to access.

The Virginia State House of Delegates passed HB2371 on February 4, 2025 by a vote of 70 to 27. We have assigned pluses to the nays because no insurer should be forced to cover services that conflict with their principles, particularly contraceptives that may violate deeply held moral or religious beliefs. Mandating such coverage is a clear overreach of government power and undermines both religious liberty and free-market principles. The right to life is a foundational principle protected by the Constitution and affirmed in the Declaration of Independence.

6. Solar Grants

HB2113 proposed the creation of the Solar Interconnection Grant Program to provide competitive grants to public bodies, such as local governments and school boards, to help offset the costs of connecting solar-energy facilities to the electric grid. The program, managed by the Department of Energy's Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, would prioritize projects located on previously developed sites.

The Virginia State House of Delegates passed HB2113 on February 4, 2025 by a vote of 68 to 30. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation creates more government interference in the economy and advances the Globalist and Marxist climate-change agenda. Such bills bloat budgets, expand government, and lead to government picking winners and losers with taxpayer funds.