

2024 Virginia General Assembly: End of Session Update by Latina Institute Virginia



End of Session Bill Updates

On March 9, the Virginia General Assembly adjourned its 2024 legislative session “sine die.” This session, the Latina Institute Virginia team along with the Virginia Reproductive Equity Alliance (VREA) and partners worked hard to advocate for a number of proactive policies that would protect sexual and reproductive health and rights in the state. Ultimately, all priority bills made it out of both the House and Senate and were sent to Governor Glenn Youngkin for him to sign, veto, or amend by April 8. In total, the Governor was given over one thousand pieces of legislation. This report provides a brief update on the status of the Latina Institute’s priority bills, as of March 20.

1. Contraceptive Equity Act

Senator Hashmi (SB238) & Delegate Mundon King (HB819)

SB238 &
HB819

The Contraceptive Equity Act passed in both the Senate (24 Y; 15 N / 23 Y; 16 N) and the House (65 Y; 31 N / 69 Y; 29 N) with bipartisan support. The Senate version of the bill was sent back by the Governor with an amendment allowing for religious or ethical exemptions.

Senator Hashmi’s version of the Contraceptive Equity Act (SB238) passed in the Senate (24 Y; 14 N) and the House (69 Y; 29 N) with bipartisan support. Since the bill made it through both chambers before the end of session, it was sent to the Governor with a 7-day action deadline – and on March 8, the Governor introduced an amendment that would allow employers an exemption due to religious or ethical beliefs:

“The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted or construed to apply to any nongovernmental plan sponsor that is exempt under federal or state law based on sincerely held religious or ethical beliefs.”

The Latina Institute Virginia was deeply disappointed by the Governor’s proposed amendment and began working with partners to strategize and determine next steps. On March 20, a memo was drafted by the Latina Institute, Birth in Color, National Health Law Program, National Women’s Law Center, and ReproRising Virginia and sent to legislators. The memo recommended that the Governor’s amendment to SB238 be rejected entirely, as the proposed language goes beyond the existing refusals law in Virginia and could open the door to further rollbacks of reproductive health care. See an excerpt from the memo below.

“Everyone deserves access to the birth control method that works for them without cost barriers. Virginia SB238 is a promising bill that could meaningfully expand birth control access, but the proposed amendment language would curtail that expansion. The amendment should be rejected to expand access to birth control for Virginians.”

2024 Virginia General Assembly: End-of-Session Update by Latina Institute Virginia



2. Menstrual Data Privacy

Senator Favola (SB16) & Delegate Watts (HB78)

SB16 &
HB78

The bills passed in both the Senate (22 Y; 18 N / 22 Y; 17 N) and the House (51 Y; 48 N / 51 Y; 49 N) with bipartisan support and are awaiting the Governor's decision (deadline of April 8).

3. Extradition Prohibition, Reproductive Health Services

Senator Favola (SB15) & Delegate Simon (HB1539)

SB15 &
HB1539

The bills passed in both the Senate (21 Y; 19 N / 21 Y; 19 N) and the House (53 Y; 45 N / 54 Y; 46 N) on party lines and are awaiting the Governor's decision (deadline of April 8).

4. Protect Virginia's Health Workers, Board of Medicine Bill

Senator Carroll Foy (SB716) & Delegate Mundon King (HB519)

SB716 &
HB519

The bills passed in both the Senate (21 Y; 18 N / 21 Y; 19 N) and the House (54 Y; 45 N / 54 Y; 45 N) on party lines and are awaiting the Governor's decision (deadline of April 8).

Latina Institute Virginia Advocacy

On February 14, Gabby joined Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia (PPAV) for their annual Lobby Day and met with legislators, including Senator Jennifer Carroll Foy, Senator Danica Roem, and Delegate Josh Thomas. And just ahead of the end of session, on March 6, Khenia and Gabby attended a breakfast hosted by ReproRising VA to celebrate legislators, partners, and advocates for their work over the past several months.



The Latina Institute Virginia team with partners from ReproRising Virginia, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, ACLU-VA, and the National Institutes for Reproductive Health.