

AAUW BILL AND POLICY POSITIONS EXPLANATIONS FOR

THE AAUW VOTER GUIDES

1. **SJ247 HJ 1 Constitutional amendment; fundamental right to reproductive freedom** (first reference). Introduced by: [Jennifer B. Boysko \(Chief Patron\)](#)

Constitutional amendment (first reference); fundamental right to reproductive freedom. Provides that every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom and that such right shall not be denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest, defined within the text of the amendment, and achieved by the least restrictive means. The amendment allows the Commonwealth to regulate the provision of abortion care in the third trimester when it is medically indicated to protect the life or health of the pregnant individual or when the fetus is not viable. The amendment prohibits the Commonwealth from penalizing, prosecuting, or taking adverse action against an individual for exercising the individual's right to reproductive freedom or for aiding another individual in the exercise of such right.

2. **HJ9: Constitutional amendment; marriage between two adult persons.** Introduced by: [Mark D. Sickles \(Chief Patron\)](#)

Constitutional amendment (first reference); marriage between two individuals; repeal of same-sex marriage prohibition; affirmative right to marry. Repeals the constitutional provision defining marriage as only a union between one man and one woman as well as the related provisions that are no longer valid as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015). The amendment provides that the right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of persons and prohibits the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions from denying the issuance of a marriage license to two parties contemplating a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such parties. The Commonwealth and its political subdivisions are required to recognize any lawful marriage between two parties and to treat such marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of such parties. The amendment provides that religious organizations and clergy acting in their religious capacity have the right to refuse to perform any marriage.

3. **SJ248: Constitutional amendment (first reference); qualifications of voters; right to vote; persons not entitled to vote.** Introduced by: [Mamie E. Locke \(Chief Patron\)](#)

Constitutional amendment (first reference); qualifications of voters; right to vote; persons not entitled to vote. Provides that every person who meets the qualifications of voters set forth in the Constitution of Virginia shall have the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth and that such right shall not be abridged by law, except for persons who have been convicted of a felony and persons who have been adjudicated to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting. The amendment provides that a person who has been convicted of a felony shall not be entitled to vote during any period of incarceration for such felony conviction, but upon release

from incarceration for that felony conviction and without further action required of him, such person shall be invested with all political rights, including the right to vote.

4. SB1105: Contraception; establishes right to obtain, applicability, enforcement.

Introduced by: [Ghazala F. Hashmi \(Chief Patron\)](#)

Contraception; right to contraception; applicability; enforcement. Establishes a right to obtain contraceptives and engage in contraception, as defined in the bill. The bill creates a cause of action that may be instituted against anyone who infringes on such right.

5. HB1921Employment; paid sick leave, civil penalties, effective date. Introduced by: [Jeion A. Ward \(Chief Patron\)](#)

Employment; paid sick leave; civil penalties. Expands provisions of the Code that currently require one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked for home health workers to cover all employees of private employers and state and local governments. Employees, in addition to using paid sick leave for their physical or mental illness or to care for a family member, may use paid sick leave for their need for services or relocation due to domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

The bill authorizes the Commissioner, in the case of a knowing violation, to subject an employer to a civil penalty not to exceed \$150 for the first violation, \$300 for the second violation, and \$500 for each successive violation.

6. SB1132: Prospective employees; prohibiting employer seeking wage or salary history. Introduced by: [Jennifer B. Boysko \(Chief Patron\)](#)

Prohibiting employer seeking wage or salary history of prospective employees; wage or salary range transparency; cause of action. Prohibits a prospective employer from (i) seeking the wage or salary history of a prospective employee; (ii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in determining the wages or salary the prospective employee is to be paid upon hire; (iii) relying on the wage or salary history of a prospective employee in considering the prospective employee for employment; (iv) refusing to interview, hire, employ, or promote a prospective employee or otherwise retaliating against a prospective employee for not providing wage or salary history; and (v) failing or refusing to disclose in each public and internal posting for each job, promotion, transfer, or other employment opportunity the wage, salary, or wage or salary range.

7. HB 2196: Restorative Schools in Virginia Pilot Program; Introduced by: [Delores L. McQuinn](#)

Establishes the Restorative Schools in Virginia Pilot Program (the Program), to be administered by the Department of Education (the Department), for the purpose of addressing school discipline issues and promoting evidence-based restorative practices, as that term is defined in

the bill, in public schools in the Commonwealth by awarding grants to a school division in each superintendent's region in the Commonwealth to be used in developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to integrate evidence-based restorative practices in such school divisions in accordance with the provisions of the bill.

8. Policy Position and supporting bills:

Supports adequate and equitable funding for quality K-12 public education as per the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) recommendations. Opposes diversion of public funds for nonpublic schools through “Opportunity Scholarships”, vouchers or tax credits, as that would weaken public education through the diversion of funds and resources.