



Dear Friend,

Wednesday, April 2, was the Reconvened (or Veto) Session. The purpose was to deal with bills that the Governor had amended or vetoed. He vetoed 158 bills and amended 160 bills. The Governor also sent over 205 Budget amendments.

As an update on my bills, nine of my bills were passed out of the Senate, but only five of them made it out of the House. The Governor signed all five of my bills. It is truly an honor to be able to make such a difference in the Commonwealth. I look forward to seeing these laws come into effect on July 1.

These are my 5 bills the Governor signed!

[SB 750](#): This bipartisan bill prohibits knowingly allowing an unlicensed minor or a minor with a learner's permit to operate a vehicle in violation of permit restrictions. If such a violation results in an accident causing injury or death, it is classified as a Class 1 misdemeanor. It passed out of the Senate 40-0 and the House 91-5. It is always wonderful to see both chambers come together to help keep our communities safer. I would like to extend a very special thank you to Tammy Gweedo McGee with the Gweedo Memorial Foundation for your hard work and tireless efforts in making this a success.

[SB 771](#): This bill reduces from four to one the minimum number of annual meetings that the Christopher Newport University Board of Visitors is required to hold at the University.

[SB 836](#): This bill amends the charter for the City of Poquoson to give the city council authority to remove, by a vote of four-sevenths of the whole city council, any person appointed to a city board or commission by the city council.

[SB 851](#): This bill ensures that local ordinances on rainwater harvesting systems adopted before July 1, 2025, remain in effect, but Board of Health regulations will take precedence unless the local ordinance is more stringent. It also prohibits localities from requiring Tier 4 rainwater harvesting system owners to connect to municipal water supplies or penalizing them for not doing so.

[SB 1327](#): This bill increases by one the maximum number of general district court judges in the Ninth and Thirty-first Judicial Districts. The bill also increases by one the maximum number of juvenile and domestic relations district court judges in the Second Judicial District.

The democrats killed some good recommendations from the Governor.

Standard Deduction: The Governor wanted to permanently keep the increase in the standard deduction in Virginia, which would've meant more money in people's pockets at tax time. For those that don't itemize deductions, this would've lowered the amount of income the state taxes us on. Basically, less taxes owed. It's a simple, across-the-board way to help everyone. It's really disappointing that it didn't pass, because this would've made a real difference for a lot of people, especially those in the lower income range.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): There was also a push to make permanent the increase in Virginia's Earned Income Tax Credit, which helps low and moderate income working people. It's designed to reward work, boost take-home pay, and reduce poverty. More money back in the pockets of people who need it most? That just makes sense. This kind of support can lift up families and help them get ahead. It's a missed opportunity not to move forward with it.

Rainy Day Fund: The Governor wanted to set aside \$300 million into Virginia's

Rainy Day Fund. Basically a savings account for the Commonwealth so we would be ready to handle emergencies or tough economic times without having to wait for federal help. It's like putting money aside just in case things go south. But instead, Democrats pushed to spend that extra money on their preferred programs, overlooking the fact that we might really need that cushion when the unexpected hits.

The Governor reviewed nearly 900 bills and took action on about 300. Among the vetoes were several partisan Democrat proposals, including overreaching green energy mandates and efforts to chip away at Second Amendment rights. Still, there was meaningful progress. We passed commonsense legislation that had broad support like practical environmental measures and much-needed tax relief through a rebate.

Lastly, as we navigate the current government workforce transition in DC, I wanted to take a second to make sure you are aware of the resources you have should you need them.

Unemployment Benefits & Job Search Resources: For information about applying for unemployment benefits, preparing for a job search, exploring Virginia state government career opportunities, and more, please [click here](#).

Virginia Veterans Services: If you are a veteran, the Virginia Veterans Network, offers support for family services, employment and vocational training, healthcare, and much more. You can learn more by [clicking here](#).

I would also encourage you to reach out to my office as well and my team will be there to assist you, regardless of the issue. Whether or you are a Republican, Democrat or Independent, I want to hear about what is important to you. Though we are not in Richmond anymore, do not ever hesitate to email my office at senatordiggs@senate.virginia.gov or call me at (757) 888-7524.

If you are able, will you pitch in whatever you can, \$5, \$25, or even \$100, to help us with operating costs?

Your support will make all the difference. Thank you for being such a crucial part of our team.

[Donate Now](#)

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Senator Danny Diggs
