

# Engaging in State Policy

*VCU Office of  
Government  
Relations*

March 26, 2026



**WE ARE THE UNCOMMON.**

# Players

- General Assembly
  - Speaker
  - Majority and Minority Leaders
  - Committee Chairs
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- Attorney General
- Supreme Court
  - Office of the Executive Secretary
- State agencies and staff
- Local governments
- Business
- Nonprofits
- Lobbyists
- “Special interests”
- Advocates/Citizens
- You!

*The federal government's impact has grown significantly.*

# Legislative Process

1. Bill ideas
2. Introduction by legislator patron/sponsor
3. Committee (subcommittee)
4. Floor
5. Crossover
6. Conference Committee (if applicable)
7. Governor
  - a. Sign
  - b. Amend
  - c. Veto
  - d. No action
8. Reconvened (“Veto”) Session
9. Law

*A bill can be killed in many ways, amended, or sent to a study!*



# Budget Process

*The Budget Bill is a unique piece of legislation with its own process.*

1. Biennial Budget Bill submitted by Governor
2. Introduction by money committee chairs of House and Senate
3. Member budget amendment requests
4. Budget Sunday
5. Floor
6. Conference Committee
7. Floor
8. Governor
  - a. Amend
  - b. Line Item Veto
  - c. Veto
9. Law - supersedes all other legislation while in effect



# 2026 General Assembly Session Legislation

- Medical malpractice disclosures - PASSED
- VCUHS Board of Directors reform - PASSED
- Health insurance site neutral payment - PASSED (as amended)
  - As introduced, limited health carrier payment to 150% of Medicare nonhospital rate
  - Amended to require an evaluation of the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD); report due 12/1/26
- Hospital price transparency - FAILED
  - Required a hospital public price-comparison tool using existing hospital data and the APCD
  - Required hospitals to honor posted prices and cancel debt when no standard charge was publicly available



# 2026 General Assembly Session Legislation

- Sickle cell disease - PASSED
- Ban on noncompete agreements - PASSED
- Ban on “stay or pay” contracts - FAILED
- Collective bargaining for public employees – PASSED

*Note: Passed bills are awaiting Governor's actions.*

# 2026 General Assembly Session Budget

## Capital Projects & VCU Specific Requests

- Altria Center for Research & Technology
- School of Dentistry
- Medicaid and Type 1 hospitals
- Rehabilitation hospital Medicaid reimbursement



# 2026 General Assembly Session Budget

## Industry-Wide Budget Issues

- 340B pharmacy program savings for Medicaid enrollees
- Sickle cell and gene therapy treatment
- Individual health insurance marketplace
- State employee salaries

*A Special Session is expected on April 23 to complete the budget.*

# 2026-2027 Outlook / Expected Issues

- Final SFY 27-28 state budget
  - Expected April 23 (special session)
- Medical malpractice cap
- 340B pharmacy program
- Medicaid and individual health insurance marketplace
  - HR1/OBBBA impacts forthcoming
- Redistricting and federal midterm elections
- Governor Spanberger's first full year and biennial budget

# How to Engage

- Learn about state government and the issues
  - Know who your representatives are
  - Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)
  - General Assembly website and Legislative Information System (LIS)
  - Watch or attend legislative and regulatory meetings
- Connect with policymakers
  - Sign up for newsletters
  - Attend events
- Get involved in an advocacy organization
- Know VCU Policy
- Contact VCU Government Relations
- Tell your story, share your experience and expertise, offer to be a resource, and express gratitude!

# Questions?

## Thank you!



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