

Bills introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts in 2014 passed and signed into law.

HB 567 – Defines repeated, unwanted, sexual touching as **groping** and applies to recurring sexual harassment against one person as well as multiple attacks like those that plagued Springfield.

HB 972 – Allows the owner to get possession of her/his pet from anyone restrained by a **protective order**.

HB 933 – Updates Virginia's **Child Support** Guidelines which were based on family incomes and the cost of raising children in the 1960s.

HB 1222 – Expands the training of law enforcement, emergency room, and school personnel in how to respond to people in **mental health** crisis.



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HB 1455 – Makes it a crime to **financially exploit an elderly or intellectually disabled person** through using the person's reduced mental ability to understand what is going on.*

HB 1540 – Makes **texting while driving** a crime with penalties comparable to drunk driving, including \$125 for the first offense, \$250 for any further offenses, and points on the driver's record.*

HB 1595 – Clarifies condo and **homeowner associations** may charge up to a 5% late fee for payments more than 60 days late even if the association doesn't have written authorization.

HB 1643 – If a **protective order** is challenged, keeps a potential victim from losing protection until a court has decided whether the appeal is legitimate.

**2013 Alliance
Transportation Leadership Award
"For never, never, never
giving up"**

HB 2333 – Provides the first increase in Virginia **transportation funding** in 27 years! Vivian had introduced funding bills every year since 2001 and the provisions for Northern Virginia that finally passed used the work she was central in developing.*

Bills introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts in 2012 passed and signed into law.

HB 408 – Protects low income elderly and disabled from losing **real estate and car tax relief** due to one time events such as receiving life insurance or workers' compensation benefits.

HB 409 – Requires owners of multiple properties or who repeatedly don't pay **condo or property association** fees until legal action is taken to pay collection costs.

HB 417 – When poll workers have been allowed inside, directs election officials to mark a line 40-feet inside the building's entrance to prohibit **electioneering** beyond that point.

HB 922 – Restored real estate tax relief for all 100% disabled **veterans** after an Attorney General's ruling that denied relief to those whose property was in a revocable trust or who have a life estate. In Fairfax alone, more than 50 veterans had been denied.

HB 1188 – Provides materials for all local schools on **human trafficking**, including strategies to prevent trafficking of children and the local, state, and national resources that students, parents, school resource officers, counselors, and school personnel can use.

Bills introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts in 2011 passed and signed into law.

HB 1629 Requires the Department of **Game and Inland Fisheries** to enforce no parking violations as a parking violation not as a criminal trespass.

HB 1747 Clarifies that **law-enforcement** agencies can possess child pornography as evidence.

HB 1893 Brings **human trafficking** fully under Virginia's abduction and kidnaping laws. (Anyone who participates in any way to bring about an abduction is as guilty as the person who actually holds the person and – as it relates to most human trafficking – the penalty is 20 years to life. Abduction of anyone under 18 for the purpose of manufacturing child pornography was added to Virginia law. In addition, where a connection to an abduction can't be proven, anyone who benefits from making anyone engage in forced labor or services, concubinage, prostitution, or the manufacture of any obscene material or child pornography can be sentenced to 2 to 10 years in prison.) *



Bills introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts in 2010 passed and signed into law.

HB 220 Clarifies definition of a **polling place** entrance so that volunteers can stand under most overhangs in bad weather and Greenspring volunteers can stand inside the building.

HB 222 Allows Springfield Mall and Tysons Corner to be developed using **urban road standards** that are pedestrian-friendly and increase access to the Metro Station.

HB 227 Puts the school – not the court – in control of establishing the conditions under which a person on the **sex offender registry** may be on school grounds.

HB 228 Removes the problem that couples had in getting annual **car tax relief** if they had transferred their car to a revocable living trust so it wouldn't be tied-up in probate after they died.

HB 346 Comprehensively revises the **Small Estate Act** to allow many to avoid the cost and delay of probate. (An heir can get immediate access to an account un \$2,400 in addition to being able to pay funeral expenses of up to \$3,500. After 60 days, an heir can gain access to assets of up to \$15,000 and no financial institution can deny access to assets of up to \$50,000 if all heirs agree in writing.)

HB 349 Allows the vice chairs as well as the chairs of the Board of **Veteran Services**, the Joint Leadership Council, and the Veteran Services Foundation to represent their organizations on each others boards.



HB 468 Removes the prohibition on paying a community resident to handle **homeowner association** financial records; eliminates volunteers having to be certified as if they were professionals; and ensures there will be a representative of volunteer-run HOAs on the state regulatory board.

HB 1232 Creates a special license plate for supporters of the Washington Capitals **hockey** team.

Bills introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts in 2009 passed and signed into law.

HB 1899 – Allows the **circuit court** of Fairfax County to delay appointing commissioners until after the Virginia Supreme Court gets back the questionnaires sent to potential jurors.

HB 2197 – Protects ballot confidentiality if election officials provide **language assistance** and allows party representatives to be available as interpreters.

HB 2199 – Allows authorities appointing certain members of the Board of **Veteran Services** to remove their appointee rather than the Governor controlling the removal.

HJ 788 – Designates the internationally recognized date for **Holocaust Remembrance** Day, or Yom Hashoah, as the Day of Remembrance in Virginia.

Bills introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts in 2008 passed and signed into law.

HB 277 – Allows for **neighborhood traffic** calming controls on Highland Ave even though it is the sole access to the industrial park.

HB 278 – Requires that probable **next of kin** be able to view a body without delay to confirm the identification.

HB 466 – If legal action for **zoning violations** has started against a property owner who then sells the property, provides that the County Attorney does not have to start the case all over.

HB 467 – Allows poll workers to report **election results** to the electoral board using the internet.*

HB 468 – Creates special license plates for Gold Star **military families**.*

HB 469 – Waives the fee for a duplicate driver's license if the person is on **active military** duty outside the United States.

HB 470 – Prohibits **loitering** in any highway right-of-way where it presents a public safety hazard.

HB 575 – Puts suits against **un-licensed contractors** under the Consumer Protection Act which allows history of offenses to come into evidence and provides for triple damage, court costs and attorney fees for willful violations.

HB 576 – Provides for sharing **mental health** records necessary for treatment or monitoring between and among mental health professionals, educational employees, healthcare providers, and law enforcement.*

HB 1043 – Provides that an alleged **rape victim** cannot be required to submit to a lie detector exam as a condition of proceeding with the investigation of the offense.

HB 1044 – Extends the Virginia's Sex Offender Registry to include the use of computers in certain **sex offenses involving children** and makes it clear that any out-of-state conviction has the same status as a Virginia conviction.

HB 1051 – Provides that the cap on medical malpractice suits applies only to healthcare services provided in **nursing homes** and not to injury or death caused by business decisions such as staffing, security, maintenance, or food preparation.*

Bills introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts in 2007 passed and signed into law.

HB 2282 – Clarifies that qualified **military survivors** and their children will receive free board and room, required fees and institutional charges, books and supplies, as well as tuition at any public institution of higher education.*

HB 2284 – Eliminates different dates for submitting **employer** withholding tax returns by making it the 25th day of the following month for every monthly filing.

HB 2287 – Expedites counting absentee ballots for timely reporting of **election results**.

HB 2290 – Establishes a **Nursing Facility** Quality Improvement Program to provide on-site training and quality improvement assistance at nursing homes that are not in compliance with state regulations, funded from fines paid for violations.

HB 2610 – Increases the **fees for heavy truck** registrations and makes the registration fees for trailers and semitrailers the same as for passenger vehicles.*

HB 2636 – Establishes a pilot program to provide **geriatric mental health** services to people over age 65 with serious mental illness and provide psychiatric consultation and staff training to the staff of long-term care facilities.*

* Indicates Delegate Watts' bill was rolled into another bill and passed.

Future website updates will cover earlier years. For all bills introduced by Delegate Watts go to <http://leg1.state.va.us> , chose the year, click on "General Assembly Members" and scroll down to her name.