

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 519, which relates to punishment for unprofessional conduct for providers performing abortions.

The primary mission of the Board of Medicine is to protect the public from incompetent, dangerous, and unprofessional medical providers. This legislation compromises the Board's ability to fulfill that mission.

This bill also opens the door to a resurgence of unsafe, risky abortions occurring outside of clinical settings, and it places any unprofessional behavior during an abortion outside the Board's jurisdiction for disciplinary action.

In the pursuit of mitigating disciplinary actions by the Board of Medicine against physicians performing abortions, this proposal jeopardizes the safety of women and undermines the duty of the Board in providing necessary disciplinary measures against doctors engaging in unsafe practices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 716, which relates to punishment for unprofessional conduct for providers performing abortions.

The primary mission of the Board of Medicine is to protect the public from incompetent, dangerous, and unprofessional medical providers. This legislation compromises the Board's ability to fulfill that mission.

This bill also opens the door to a resurgence of unsafe, risky abortions occurring outside of clinical settings, and it places any unprofessional behavior during an abortion outside the Board's jurisdiction for disciplinary action.

In the pursuit of mitigating disciplinary actions by the Board of Medicine against physicians performing abortions, this proposal jeopardizes the safety of women and undermines the duty of the Board in providing necessary disciplinary measures against doctors engaging in unsafe practices.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1539, which prohibits extradition for certain crimes.

This bill is aimed at medical professionals from other states who may be in Virginia and subject to an extradition.

The extradition process among the states has a long and successful history within an established legal framework required by the U.S. Constitution. This bill would undermine that framework and disrupt the extradition laws in all fifty states. Our cooperative extradition system could collapse if individual states were to carve out crimes for which they would not recognize codified laws because of differing political positions.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 15, which prohibits extradition for certain crimes.

This bill is aimed at medical professionals from other states who may be in Virginia and subject to an extradition.

The extradition process among the states has a long and successful history within an established legal framework required by the U.S. Constitution. This bill would undermine that framework and disrupt the extradition laws in all fifty states. Our cooperative extradition system could collapse if individual states were to carve out crimes for which they would not recognize codified laws because of differing political positions.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 81, which abolishes the common-law crime of suicide.

Over a century ago, the Commonwealth abolished criminal penalties for suicide. In recent years, the Commonwealth has made significant improvements in mental health, including decriminalizing the effects of mental health conditions, and increasing resources for those in crisis.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 4, which distributes revenues collected from the plastic bag tax to towns.

Plastic bag taxes fail to achieve their intended goals and burden Virginians amid escalating inflation. Redirecting tax revenues to towns may further encourage governmental reliance on these taxes, exacerbating the issue.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 373, establishing a state-administered family and medical leave program.

The proposed paid family and medical leave program is a one-size-fits-all solution that removes the incentive for the private sector to provide these benefits. Many businesses in Virginia already have paid family and medical leave policies.

Additionally, the fact that with its multi-billion-dollar budget, the Commonwealth would be exempt from the mandate required for small businesses or nonprofits, is evidence that this proposal is unfair.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 442, which requires housing providers to enter into dictated payment plans with delinquent tenants.

Housing providers and tenants often enter into arrangements supplemental to the rental agreement to address issues, including nonpayment of rent. This bill would insert the government between housing providers and tenants and interfere with these relationships and the parties' freedom to craft an arrangement that fits their needs.

Additionally, the payment plan procedures established by this bill would be burdensome on small businesses and expose housing providers to legal liability. Compliance with Virginia's rental regulations is already complex and cumbersome for these small businesses, and this bill would exacerbate those issues.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.



Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 598, which increases the mandatory waiting period before housing providers can initiate eviction proceedings.

Under current law, tenants have a right of redemption and can pay any amounts due before an eviction to halt the eviction process, making the bill unnecessary.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 817, which pertains to prohibited retaliatory actions by housing providers and protected tenant activities. While this bill commendably seeks to clarify housing providers' and tenants' rights under the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, it contains contradictory and ambiguous language.

This bill would make the Residential Landlord Tenant Act more confusing and compliance more difficult.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto House Bill 1251, which permits tenants to be delinquent on their rent prior to filing a tenant's assertion.

This bill creates an unbalanced legal environment by applying separate standards to providers, who must continue to comply with a rental agreement, and tenants, who would not.

Many small housing providers depend on regular rent payments to satisfy their obligations, including to lenders. By allowing tenants to withhold rent, this bill may make housing providers unable to properly and timely meet those obligations, which could cause cascading negative consequences.

Accordingly, I veto this bill.