

Overview of Choice Related Bills

Scored Votes in the SENATE

SB 18 - License Plate Omnibus Adoption (Includes 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE,' 'Kids Eat Free,' etc.)

SB 18 was an omnibus of license plates that SB 704, the 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE' License Plate proposed by *Senator Howell (D-32)*, was absorbed into. Revenue generated from the plate would go to a special prevention fund at Virginia League of Planned Parenthood. The Senate passed SB 18 (26-8). A "Yes" vote to pass the bill was a pro-choice vote.

HB 472 - License Plate Omnibus Adoption (Includes 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE,' 'Friends of Coal')

HB 472 was an omnibus of special license plates that HB 1108, the 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE' License Plate proposed by *Delegate Brink (D-48)*, was absorbed into. Revenue generated from the plate would go to a special prevention fund at Virginia League of Planned Parenthood. The Senate passed HB 472 (26-11). A "Yes" vote to pass the bill was a pro-choice vote.

SB 18 - 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE' License Plate Conference

SB 18 passed the Conference Committee and was sent to the Senate for approval. SB 18 was an omnibus license plate bill which included the 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE' license plate with funding for Virginia League of Planned Parenthood as well as the 'Kids Eat Free' license plate. The Conference Committee recommendation passed the Senate (22-15). A "Yes" vote to accept the conference recommendation and pass the bill was a pro-choice vote.

HB 472 - 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE' License Plate Conference

HB 472 passed the Conference Committee and was sent to the Senate for approval. HB 472 was an omnibus license plate bill which included the 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE' license plate with funding for Virginia League of Planned Parenthood as well as the 'Friends of Coal' license plate. The Conference Committee recommendation passed the Senate (22-15). A "Yes" vote to accept the conference recommendation and pass the bill was a pro-choice vote.

Amendment 4-5.04 - Limitations on Low-Income Women's Access To Abortion (Medicaid Budget Amdt) Governor McDonnell

Virginia currently prohibits state funding for abortion services for low-income women except in the cases of rape, incest, threat to the life of the mother, and severe, incapacitating fetal anomaly. This amendment removed the exception for a woman's health and limited state funding to only those circumstances required by federal and state law. It passed the House of Delegates (66-31) as a proposed budget amendment during the legislative session, but failed in the Senate. Governor McDonnell then reintroduced it as an amendment to his proposed budget, and it passed. A "No" vote was a pro-choice vote to veto the governor's amendment.

Senate Committee Votes of Interest

HB 393 - Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Delegate Lohr (R-26)

HB 393 would have imposed onerous and medically unnecessary regulations on first-trimester abortion providers. The bill was defeated in the Senate Committee on Education and Health (11-4). A "No" vote was a pro-choice vote.

HB 334 - Biased Consent Counseling Delegate Marshall (R-Prince William)

HB 334 would have required physicians to distribute medically disputed information to women seeking to obtain an abortion. It was defeated in the Senate Committee on Education and Health (11-4). A "Yes" vote, to pass the bill by indefinitely, was a pro-choice vote.

HB 1108 - 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE' License Plate Delegate Brink (D-48)

HB 1108 would have authorized license plates bearing the legend 'TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE.' Revenue from these plates would go to Virginia League of Planned Parenthood. It was defeated in the Senate Transportation Committee (7-6). A "Yes" vote, to pass the bill to the full Senate, was a pro-choice vote.

What Does The Governor's Amendment (4-5.04) Mean for Virginians?

While the amendment was initially defeated by the General Assembly, Governor McDonnell reintroduced it as a budget amendment, denying the state's general or nongeneral fund sources, including Medicaid, from supporting abortion services, even when the woman's health is severely jeopardized.

As the Governor's staff wrote, this amendment will impede any Medicaid funding "for abortions that are performed when there is "substantial endangerment" of the health of the mother." Despite this terrifying qualifier, the House (64-30-1) and Senate (20-19) passed the amendment, curtailing access to choice in Virginia. This amendment goes above and beyond the status quo. And we fear the worst.

Overview of Choice Related Bills

Scored Votes in the HOUSE

HB 393 - Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Delegate Lohr (R-26)

HB 393 would have imposed onerous and medically unnecessary regulations on first-trimester abortion providers. The bill was passed by the House of Delegates (72-25). A “No” vote was a pro-choice vote.

HB 1042 - Mandatory Ultrasound Requirement Delegate Byron (R-Lynchburg)

HB 1042 would have interfered in the doctor-patient relationship by mandating physicians perform a medically unnecessary ultrasound before performing an abortion. It passed the House of Delegates (65-33). A “No” vote was a pro-choice vote.

HB 1108 - ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ License Plate Amendment Delegate Gilbert (R-15)

Delegate Gilbert’s amendment to HB 1108, the ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ license plate, changed the bill so that the revenue from the plate would go to the Virginia Pregnant Woman Support Fund, an empty, government-regulated fund. The amendment passed the House (56-39). A “No” vote to keep the funding with Virginia League of Planned Parenthood was a pro-choice vote.

SB 18 - ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ License Plate Amendment Delegate Gilbert (R-15)

Delegate Gilbert’s amendment to HB 1108 changed the bill so that the revenue from the plate went to the Virginia Pregnant Woman Support Fund, an empty, government-regulated fund, instead of Planned Parenthood. The amendment passed the House (59-40). A “No” vote to keep the funding with Virginia League of Planned Parenthood was a pro-choice vote.

HB 472 - ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ License Plate Conference

HB 472 passed the Conference Committee and was sent to the House for approval. HB 472 was an omnibus license plate bill, which included the ‘Friends of Coal’ license plate and the ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ license plate with funding for Virginia League of Planned Parenthood. The conference recommendation was defeated by the House of Delegates (62-33). A “Yes” vote to accept the conference recommendation was a pro-choice vote.

HB 18 - ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ License Plate Conference

SB 18 passed the Conference Committee and was sent to the House for approval. SB 18 was an omnibus license plate bill, which included the ‘Kids Eat Free’ license plate and the ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ license plate with funding for Virginia League of Planned Parenthood. The conference recommendation was accepted by the House of Delegates (64-30). A “Yes” vote to accept the conference recommendation was pro-choice vote.

Amendment 4-5.04- Limitations on Low-Income Women’s Access To Abortion (Medicaid Budget Amdt) Governor McDonnell

Virginia currently prohibits state funding for abortion services for low-income women except in the cases of rape, incest, threat to the life of the mother, and severe, incapacitating fetal anomaly. This amendment removed the exception for a woman’s health and limited state funding to only those circumstances required by federal and state law. It passed the House of Delegates (66-31) as a proposed budget amendment during the legislative session but failed in the Senate. Governor McDonnell then reintroduced it as an amendment to his proposed budget, and it passed. A “No” vote was a pro-choice vote to veto the governor’s amendment.

The ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ License Plate

HB 1108 & SB 704: ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ License Plate Delegate Brink (D-48) & Senator J. Howell (D-32)

In the Senate, the ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ license plate with Planned Parenthood funding stream (SB 704) was added to an omnibus bill with other special plates (SB 18). Once it reached the House, the bill (SB 18) was amended at the request of Delegate Gilbert to divert the money to the unused and unfunded Virginia Pregnant Woman Support Fund. In the House, the ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ license plate with Planned Parenthood funding stream (HB 1108) passed through the House Transportation Committee. When it reached the floor of the House, Delegate Gilbert introduced the same amendment to divert the funds and the House passed the bill with this amendment.

When the bill was sent to the Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. Deeds proposed an amendment to reroute the funds back to Planned Parenthood. This amendment passed. But the Transportation Committee failed to report the bill out. However, on the Senate floor, Sen. Howell proposed an amendment and added the license plate into the ‘Friends of Coal’ omnibus package (HB 472). This new omnibus bill passed, resulting in two versions of the ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ license plate. As a result, the bills were sent to the Conference Committee. The Conference Committee passed the plate with the original Planned Parenthood funding stream, and it was approved by the House and Senate.

Governor McDonnell signed the ‘TRUST WOMEN/RESPECT CHOICE’ license plate into effect on April 13th, making Virginia one of only four states in the nation to offer consumers a pro-choice license plate.