



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTION ALLIANCE

ADDITIONAL PRIORITY BILLS

SUPPORT

✓ Increase access to forensic nurse examiners

HJ 614 (Del. Delaney): Directs the Virginia State Crime Commission to study current access to forensic nursing programs across the Commonwealth, determine the costs associated with establishing additional programs in regions that lack coverage, identify funding sources for forensic nursing programs to assist with the costs of recovering evidence and providing expert testimony, identify opportunities to increase availability of forensic nursing certifications, evaluate existing forensic nursing programs in other states, and identify best practices for Virginia.

✓ Recognize cruelty to animals in the context of domestic violence

SB 1276 (Sen. Ebbin & Sen. Stanley): Makes any violation relating to cruelty to an animal a Class 6 felony when such violation is carried out with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member.

OPPOSE

X Reject the criminalization of survival

HB 1808 (Del. Gooditis): Creates new set of charges for any person who commits assault and battery while in the physical presence of a minor or knowing that such minor may see or hear. Also creates a harsher penalties for those who commit felony acts of violence in the presence of a minor. The Action Alliance opposes bills that may have the unintended consequence of being used by judges, prosecutors, and abusive partners to criminalize acts of violence committed in the context of survival and defense.

X Oppose traumatizing disciplinary practices on college campuses

HB 1830/1831 (Del. Lindsey): These bills would force campuses to abandon trauma-informed disciplinary practices for victims in campus sexual assault cases, therefore making it less likely that victims will report crimes or seek justice. Allows for direct cross-examination of a victim by their abuser, and other adversarial tactics common to criminal courtroom proceedings, that deeply retraumatize victims of violence. These bills also force campus police to turn over materials from open and ongoing investigations which may jeopardize victim and witness confidentiality and the impartiality of proceedings.