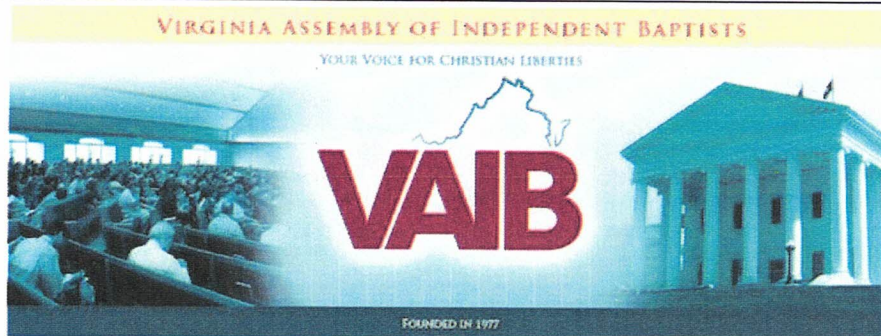


## General Assembly Update #5 (2/19/2022)

From: Eddy Aliff <ealiff@vaib.org>

To: Secretary ValleyView/Buchanan <valleyviewbaptist@verizon.net>

Date: Sat, Feb 19, 2022 8:03 am



### General Assembly Update #5

As predicted, a large number of bills died at crossover. The House of Delegates had a number of bills which were never given an opportunity to be heard. The most important bill which did pass during this time was Senate Bill 739. This bill was introduced by Republican Sen. Dunning and favorably amended by Sen. Petersen, a Democrat. It dealt with public schools requiring in-person education and removing mask mandates allowing parents to make that decision. It was a marvel to see the Senate and the House determined to move this bill forward and get it to the governor's desk due to the urgency of the matter. Here's the timeline:

- Senate Bill 739 passed the Senate on February 9 and was immediately sent to the House.
- The House committee voted on the bill on February 11.
- The full House voted to pass the bill on February 14 and sent the bill to the Governor.
- The Governor amended the bill with an emergency clause so it would go into effect faster, but required approval by the Senate and House.
- The Senate gave its approval on February 15.
- The House gave its approval on February 16.
- The bill was physically taken to the Governor in the early afternoon of February 16 and at about 3 PM he signed the bill.

Sometimes government can act quickly and in a bi-partisan manner to bring about good changes. What a blessing to know that parents now have their rights restored regarding masking for their children! While this bill was patroned in the Senate by a Republican, all nineteen Republicans and three Democrats saw the need which allowed the bill to pass: Sen. Petersen, Sen. Lewis and Sen. Morrissey. And I'm thankful for the twenty-five House Democrats who joined all fifty-two Republicans in voting to pass the bill. So, be sure to thank those delegates and senators that supported the bill.

Don't lose hope! God is still working!

Sincerely,

Eddy Aliff

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