

VIRGINIA HEALTH CATALYST LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Virginia’s General Assembly ended its session on March 9th, passing over 2,000 bills, including the state budget. Virginia Health Catalyst supported several bills and budget proposals to improve access to health care that includes oral health. This resource summarizes those proposals and indicates which ones passed.

After the session ended Governor Youngkin reviewed every bill the legislature sent him, signing some into law, rejecting (vetoing) some, and suggesting changes on others.

Priority Bills at Adjournment

This table displays the bills that were passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. It also includes bills that failed to pass the legislature and were not submitted to the Governor for review. These decisions are final, and the bills that have been approved will come into effect on July 1, 2024.

Bill	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
HB 225 / SB 22 : Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact	YES	YES
HB 605 : Remote Supervision	YES	YES
HB 1499 / SB 155 : Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority	YES	YES
HB 594 : Community Health Worker Medicaid Benefit Workgroup	NO	N/A
HB 970 / SB 231 : Cover All Kids	NO	N/A

Priority Budget Proposals

This table presents the budget proposals included in the final budget as well as those that were not included. It also indicates whether the Governor included the budget proposal in his budget.

Budget Proposal	Governor's Budget	Legislature's Budget	Final Budget
Community Health Workers at Local Health Districts	Not Included	Includes \$6.4 million in general funds to support Community Health Worker positions at Virginia's local health districts.	Includes \$6.4 million in general funds to support Community Health Worker positions at Virginia's local health districts.
Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority	\$0.6 million in general funds for health workforce initiatives.	\$3.2 million in general funds for health workforce initiatives, including a state match for federal Area Health Education Centers program funding.	\$3.2 million in general funds for health workforce initiatives, including a state match for federal Area Health Education Centers program funding.
Increase in Medicaid Dental Reimbursement Rates	No increase	\$11.3 million in general funds to increase Medicaid and FAMIS dental reimbursement rates by three percent.	\$11.3 million in general funds to increase Medicaid and FAMIS dental reimbursement rates by three percent.
VCU School of Dentistry New Building	\$5.2 million in non-general funds to plan the construction of a new VCU School of Dentistry Building	\$5.2 million in general funds to plan the construction of a new VCU School of Dentistry Building	\$5.2 million in general funds to plan the construction of a new VCU School of Dentistry Building
Free and Charitable Clinics	\$11 million in general funds to support free and charitable clinics	\$15.6 million in general funds to support support free and charitable clinics.	\$15.6 million in general funds to support support free and charitable clinics.
Federally Qualified Health Centers	\$6 million in general funds to support federally qualified health centers	\$9 million in general funds to support federally qualified health centers	\$9 million in general funds to support federally qualified health centers
Care Coordination	Language only ¹	Language only ¹	Language only ¹
Maternal & Child Health	Language only ²	Language only ²	Language only ²
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$13 million in general funds to draw down \$183 million in federal DWSRF infrastructure funds.	\$13 million in general funds to draw down \$183 million in federal DWSRF infrastructure funds.	\$13 million in general funds to draw down \$183 million in federal DWSRF infrastructure funds.
DMAS Workgroup to Design Community Health Worker Medicaid Benefit	Not Included	Not Included	Not Included
Cover All Kids	Not Included	Not Included	Not Included

¹Authorizes Virginia's Medicaid agency to require Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to submit an annual plan on how they will coordinate with the Medicaid program's Dental Benefits Administrator.

²Authorizes Virginia's Medicaid agency to require MCOs to implement the federal Maternal Core Quality Measure Set and increase maternal and child health value-based payment targets.

Detailed Summary of Priority Bills and Budget Proposals

Bills and Budget Amendments (BA)

Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

Bills: [HB 1499 \(Willett\)](#) & [SB 155 \(Head\)](#)

BA: [279 #5c](#)

These bills, as approved by the legislature, will create the Virginia Health Care Career and Technical Training and Education Fund (the Fund), to be administered by the Director of the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement. The Fund may only support the mission of the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority (VHWDA). Earlier versions of these bills included language directing VHWDA to develop an employer-led collective impact program to strengthen the health and health sciences workforce. The final version does not include this language.

Cover All Kids

Bills: [HB 970 \(Tran\)](#) & [SB 231 \(Hashmi\)](#)

BA: [289 #1s](#)

These bills would have extended comprehensive health care coverage to low-income children regardless of their immigration status.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Medicaid Benefit

Bills: [HB 594 \(Sickles\)](#) & [SB 615 \(Pillion\)](#)

BA: [292 #3s](#)

These bills would have directed Virginia's Medicaid agency to design a Medicaid benefit for CHW services.

Bills (No BA)

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact

Bills: [HB 225 \(Sickles\)](#) & [SB 22 \(Locke\)](#)

These bills will authorize Virginia to become a signatory to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The Compact increases public access to dental services by permitting eligible licensed dentists and dental hygienists to practice in Compact participating states provided that they are licensed in at least one participating state.

Remote Supervision

Bills: [HB 605 \(Price\)](#)

This bill will increase the number of days dentists have to examine a patient who was seen by a hygienist working under remote supervision from 90 days to 180 days. This will allow more time for a dentist to integrate a patient first seen under remote supervision into his or her practice. Remote supervision makes oral health care more accessible to underserved populations by allowing dental hygienists to treat patients in safety net and community-based settings.

Detailed Summary of Priority Bills and Budget Proposals

Budget Amendments (No Bills)

VCU School of Dentistry New Building

BA: [C-14 #1c](#)

This budget amendment will provide \$5.2 million in general funds to plan the construction of a new VCU School of Dentistry building.

CHW at Local Health Districts

BA: [278 #1c](#)

This budget amendment will provide \$6.4 million in general funds to support CHW positions in Virginia’s local health districts, provided federal funds are not available.

Medicaid Dental Reimbursement Rates

BA: [288 #7c](#)

This budget amendment will provide \$11.3 million in general funds and \$21.3 million in non-general funds to increase Medicaid and FAMIS dental reimbursement rates by three percent. Rates for dental services were increased by 30 percent in FY 2023.

Federally Qualified Health Centers

BA: [279 #1c](#)

This budget amendment will provide \$3 million in general funds to support federally qualified health centers. The additional funding would be used to continue providing comprehensive medical, dental, and mental health services to uninsured Virginians.

Free and Charitable Clinics

BA: [279 #2c](#)

This budget amendment will provide \$3 million in general funds to support the operating costs of free clinics that are members of the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics. The funding will be used to provide uninsured and underinsured patients with medical, dental, vision, speech, hearing, and behavioral health care, prescription medications, and substance use disorder services.

Included in Governor’s Budget (No Bills or BA)

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

The Governor’s budget includes \$13 million in general funds as a state match for additional federal awards under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.