



VAIPL General Assembly 2022 Action Toolkit

Thank you for joining with Virginia Interfaith Power & Light (VAIPL) to take action during this General Assembly (GA) session. Please check out the below links and resources to learn how you and your faith community can make sure your voices are heard by our Virginia legislators to support justice. Together, we will grow healthy communities and advance climate justice!

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Important Information: Finding and Contacting Your Legislator

Find out who your representatives are here:

<https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov>

Find contact information for elected officials here:

[2022 Virginia Elected Official Contact Info](#)

Quick Links

[VAIPL \[Updating\] Legislative Priorities 2022](#)

- Check out the VAIPL Legislative Priorities document for a quick overview of all VAIPL supported legislations. This document will be updated as bills receive their numbers, are assigned to committees, and make their way through the legislative process.

[GA 2022 Preview Workshop Slides](#)

- These slides are a quick resource for you to learn how participating in the GA process is a little different this year because of COVID-19. One of the new processes requires you



to register and fill out a form to make comments during some virtual committee meetings.

[GA 2022 Preview Workshop Video](#)

- This training video explains the new GA political landscape and offers a run down on how you can take action virtually. It breaks down how to participate in a virtual session and the actions you can take with VAIPL.

[Legislative Information Systems](#)

- You can look up bills by bill number and by patron on Virginia's Legislative Information Systems (LIS) website [here](#). You can also find when different committees meet [here](#).

Subject-Specific Fact Sheets and Talking Points

- [Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Extreme Weather Fact Sheet](#)
- [Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Extreme Weather Talking Points](#)
- [Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Protecting Our Neighbors Fact sheet](#)
- [Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Protecting Our Neighbors Talking Points](#)
- [Incorporating Community Health in Locality Comprehensive Planning Fact Sheet](#)
- [Incorporating Community Health in Locality Comprehensive Planning Talking Points](#)

Take Action Now

There are still many ways to get involved. Check out the many resources to help you take action

Petitions

VAIPL sends out action alerts when bills are about to be read by committee members. We alert our supporters whose legislators are in those committees. Please be sure you are signed up for VAIPL emails, you can sign up [here](#). Once you join the list, you will receive action alerts that give you updates on what's happening and easy ways to get involved. Some petitions available to sign now are listed below:

- If you're a faith leader or congregation lead, sign on to our [Faith Leaders Sign-On Letter in Supporting Utility Protections here](#)

Submit a Written Comment

This year you can also use the [House of Delegates SPEAK Website](#) to provide written testimony for bills in the House. Simply click on the committee links below for the bill for which you would like to provide written comments. Using the links below, you can submit written comments to the committees that will be reviewing our bills. Scroll down until you find the bill number, choose the bill(s) you'd like to comment on, and **click "Next"** to complete your comment.

Support Bills

- [HB 1054 Disaster or emergency; weather extremes; disconnection prohibitions for certain utilities](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 1276 Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 250 Mining and processing of certain minerals and elements; work group to study](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 588 Ratepayer Protection Act](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 71 Utility Monopoly Political Contribution Ban](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))

Oppose Bills/Defending Our Progress

- [HB 5 Flood Relief Fund; established](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 73 Electric utilities; definitions, aggregate capacity requirements for renewable energy facilities](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 74 Va. Clean Economy Act; non-bypassable charges, energy-intensive trade-exposed \(EITE\) industries \(coming soon\)](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 118 Electric utilities; regulation, development of renewable energy facilities](#) ([Talking points for comments](#))
- [HB 1204 Renewable energy certificates; authority to issue](#) ([Talking points for comments](#)) (coming soon)
- [HB 1261 State environmental boards](#) ([Talking points for comments](#)- COMING SOON)

Make a Public Comment at a Committee Meeting

As a member of the public, you have the right to speak in committee meetings. Normally, these meetings are held in Richmond and you must go in person to speak up on behalf of yourself or an organization. With much being virtual this year, you can check the calendar [here](#) for the committee meeting schedule and you can sign up to speak at least one hour prior to a committee meeting. To find which committee a bill has been assigned to, go to LIS [here](#) and enter the bill number.

Emails and Phone Calls

You can also email or call your state representatives and encourage them to support legislation that is important to you. Call and email your State Senator, State Delegate, as well as these key decision-makers, such as committee chairs, to ask them to [support priority bills and resolutions here](#). You can find the talking points for our bills under the submit a written comment section.

As you email, call your representative or leave written comments for the committee, make sure to cc Kidest Gebre (kgebre@vaippl.org) or email Kidest (kgebre@vaippl.org) afterward so that we know you've taken action to support climate justice.



Sample Email Language/Phone Call Scripts

Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Extreme Weather Ask: I urge you to support the Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Extreme Weather (HB 1054). As a person of conscience, I believe we have a moral obligation to protect I encourage you to pass this resolution because every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitation purposes.

Please feel free to use some of our [Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Extreme Weather Talking Points](#) when contacting your local representatives.

Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Protecting Our Neighbors Ask: I urge you to support the Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Protecting Our Neighbors Bill (HB 664). As a person of faith, I encourage you to support the

Please feel free to use some of these [Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Protecting Our Neighbors Talking Points](#) when contacting your local representatives.

Incorporating Community Health in Locality Comprehensive Planning Ask: I urge you to support the Comprehensive Plan; healthy communities strategy bill HB 1276. We need environmental justice because....

Please feel free to use some of these [Incorporating Community Health in Locality Comprehensive Planning Talking Points](#) when contacting your local representatives.

Social Media

Many legislators have a social media presence. You can ask them to take action or thank them for taking action via Twitter or Facebook by including their handles or sending a direct message.

Social Media Sample Posts

Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Extreme Weather

"We need HB1054 because Virginia currently has among the weakest utility disconnection protections for customers of any state in the south and southeast even during times of crisis or extreme weather events @ireneshintweets @VAIPL"

"Stand in solidarity with the many Virginians experiencing utility disconnections this winter by supporting HB1054 & HB664! These bills will impact many of our neighbors impacted by Covid-19 & the worsening effects of climate change @ireneshintweets @VAIPL @KayeKory"

"Covid-19 remains a threat for VA communities, passing HB1054 & HB664 will expand protections to ensure access to power & water services can help people manage symptoms



when infected reduce infection rates & maintain health in a pandemic @ireneshintweets @VAIPL @KayeKory”

“Some of our neighbors most impacted and financially burdened by utility bills are those in low-income families and communities of color. HB 1054 & HB664 expand protections for families financially burdened by utility bills in times of crisis. @VAIPL @KayeKory @ireneshintweets”

Expanding Protections from Utility Disconnections: Protecting Our Neighbors

“Stand in solidarity with the many Virginians experiencing utility disconnections this winter by supporting HB1054 & HB664! These bills will impact many of our neighbors impacted by Covid-19 & the worsening effects of climate change @ireneshintweets @VAIPL @KayeKory”

“Covid-19 remains a threat for VA communities, passing HB1054 & HB664 will expand protections to ensure access to power & water services can help people manage symptoms when infected reduce infection rates & maintain health in a pandemic @ireneshintweets @VAIPL @KayeKory”

“We need life-saving support for community members like the elderly, infants, & those who have medical conditions and/or disabilities. HB664 protects access to essential utility services for people who are socially & medically vulnerable @VAIPL @KayeKory”

Incorporating Community Health in Locality Comprehensive Planning

“HB1276 is a helpful nudge for localities to include a healthy communities strategy in their comprehensive planning process. Localities already do planning every five years & this is an opportunity to delve into and address health risks families are facing @VAIPL @shelly_simonds”

“Virginia needs to ask local planning commissions to include a healthy communities strategy in every planning. HB1276 helps localities to think more deeply about community health and health issues #healthycommunities @VAIPL @shelly_simonds”

“Let’s create healthy communities for ALL of our neighbors in VA. Support HB 1276 to strengthen local efforts to decrease community health burdens such as reducing pollution exposure, improving air a water quality, and more throughout VA @VAIPL @shelly_simonds”