# PHILLIP SCOTT

### FOR DELEGATE

## **Weekly Newsletter**

#### **Edition LXXII**

Friends, the second week of session was hectic. On Tuesday, I had 5 bills to present to various subcommittees.

HB1433-This bill will put Virginia in a licensing compact with several other states for licensed professional counselors. Many are struggling with their mental health. This compact will allow a licensed professional counselor to practice in every state that is part of the compact. It is a significant first step to addressing our mental health problems.

HB1868-This bill will allow for the transfer of various military license plates to the unmarried surviving spouse. I highlighted this bill last week. DMV loved HB40, which focused on disabled veteran tags so much that it was requested to include various military tags. As a result, another delegate, Delegate AC Cordoza, was also approached to carry the bill. HB1868 was "rolled" into his bill. This means that both bills will advance. This is a massive win for military widows and widowers.

HB1872-This bill was drafted with local counselors, including Dr. Bridgette Williams, to create a process to allow experienced counselors in various fields to become licensed professional counselors without examination. There is a lot of hesitation to change course from the regular examination process. But we must keep pushing forward to ensure that we assist those struggling with mental health.

There has been a lot of interest from a variety of other groups. We will be working with these groups to make the bill even better for next year.

HB1877-This bill will shorten early voting from 45 to 14 days. It passed subcommittee and full committee and will be my first bill to be presented on the house floor. We need to ensure our elections are safe and secure while being easy to vote but hard to cheat.

HB2251-This bill was turned into a bill that would create a work group to look at the dental licensure process. There are many issues with the way licenses are granted in Virginia. I promised to reduce the regulatory burdens and streamline the process for people to practice and work in Virginia.

This was just Tuesday. Of all the bills presented, only one failed, the licensure without examination bill.





Throughout the week, I met with various groups, including the Fauquier Sheriff's Department, a group of midwives, and a group of pharmacists. The midwives came from a birthing center in my district.

Recently, they started sending me announcement cards when a baby is born in their care. This has created a great partnership that I look forward to growing in the future.







There was another great win for election integrity on Thursday. Delegate Greenhalgh's bill to require local registrars to update their rolls weekly and remove people who are deceased or disqualified to vote from the rolls. Even some House Democrats see the value in such a bill.



One of the best things we can do while serving on committees is to prevent harmful legislation from moving forward. Delegate Clark has introduced legislation to allow localities to institute rent control. He has done this two years in a row. I asked the delegate if he thinks a locality should be able to tell him how much he can sell his car for, and his response is in the video below.



#### **Legislation Corner**

School Choice has been a top priority of mine since day one. I have not wavered from that commitment. Last year, I submitted the most comprehensive school choice bill ever introduced in Virginia. We did not get any traction with that bill last year. I did not give up. I kept fighting. I submitted the same bill again this year. I have been having conversations with Delegate Glenn Davis about HB1371. There is a good chance that it will be heard in subcommittee this year. This is a huge win. There is progress being made on the School Choice front.

#### Preview of Next Week

This upcoming week, I do not have any other bills to present before committee. But there is time for them to be placed on agendas. My bill to eliminate the income tax has been assigned to the finance subcommittee. I have been working with the Governor's staff to figure out a path forward to get Virginia free of the income tax.

If there are any specific bills you would like more information on, please let me know.





Paid for and Authorized by Friends of Phillip Scott

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