

TO: Members, House Transportation Committee FROM: Virginia League of Conservation Voters

DATE: February 6, 2024

RE: 2/6 VaLCV Bill Positions | H Transportation Committee

On February 6, the House Transportation Committee will consider: HB645, HB657, HB1266.

We encourage you to SUPPORT HB645, HB657, HB1266

HB 645 (Reaser) Electric vehicles; signs for parking spaces reserved for charging vehicles.

Reasons to SUPPORT HB645

Currently, signs reserving space for electric vehicle charging are required to read "Penalty, up to \$25"--prescribed by the Code of Virginia (§ 46.2-1219.3). This is unnecessarily specific and could result in costly updates to signage for public EV charging space operators or localities.

• The simple and clear language proposed by HB645 would prevent confusion and future-proofs against costly sign replacement.

HB657 (Sullivan) Pedestrian control signals; applicability to persons riding bicycles and other devices.

Reasons to SUPPORT HB657

Extends safety benefits of Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) to people biking in bike lanes and travel lanes. Improves safety for people biking by allowing them to get ahead of and be more visible to drivers.

Current law allows a person biking in the crosswalk to proceed on a walk signal; this legislation extends applicability to a person biking using a bike lane or travel lane.

HB 1266 (Willet) Bicycles and certain other vehicles; various changes to provisions relating to operation.

Reasons to SUPPORT HB1266

This legislation would improve the safety of people bicycling by allowing them to treat stop signs as yield signs in limited circumstances (Safety Stop), permitting two-abreast bicycling without restriction except on two-lane roads with a speed limit greater than 30 MPH, and clarifying the rules for narrow travel lanes.

If you have any questions about our position, please contact Michael Town, Executive Director of Virginia LCV, at mtown@valcv.org, or Chris Leyen, Policy Director, at cleyen@valcv.org, or 925-354-1433 (mobile).