

The Virginia Integrity Bill

Strengthening the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council

Patron: Delegate Irene Shin, [HB911](#)

KEY PROVISIONS:

- The bill **strengthens Virginia's commitment to ethical government** by providing the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (Council) with authority to meaningfully evaluate compliance with the Virginia General Assembly Conflicts of Interest Act.
- The Council **will have increased responsibility to review legislators' financial disclosures for material accuracy, completeness, and timeliness**, including carrying out annual audits.
- **Civil fines for failing to file timely, materially accurate, and complete disclosures have been increased.**
- The Council will be authorized to hire the staff necessary to carry out its new responsibilities.



WHY VIRGINIA NEEDS THIS BILL:

- The [Coalition for Integrity's 2020 S.W.A.M.P Index](#) ranked Virginia 46 out of 51 jurisdictions in terms of **transparency and accountability**. This ranking was awarded, in part, due to Virginia's almost non-existent ethics accountability, as the Council currently does not have the authority or staff to review legislator ethics filings for timeliness, accuracy, or completeness.
- In a 2021 survey, **88 percent of Virginians, irrespective of party, indicated that they support enhanced public disclosure and accountability** for legislators' use of campaign funds and lobbyist influence through campaign donations.
- **Most other states like Connecticut, Washington State, and New York have robust independent ethics enforcement mechanisms** that have led to increased transparency and accountability in state government.



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