

Ashley Luck

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Personal statement: A motivated and hardworking journalist with experience in traditional news writing, interviewing and AP style. Published work with VCU Capital News Service, ABC 8NEWS-WRIC and Her Campus at VCU.

Journalism Experience

VCU Capital News Service, Richmond, VA

January-May 2017

Reporter

- Reporting on Virginia General Assembly 2017 for VCU CNS clients. Published work with The Daily Press Newspaper, Daily Progress Newspaper, Virginia Gazette Newspaper and Henrico Citizen Newspaper.

ABC 8NEWS – WRIC, Richmond, VA

February-April 2017

Web Intern

- Helping ABC 8 news station web team with reporting, writing news stories, covering events, turning broadcast scripts into web stories and social media on their website.
- Was an Election Day intern for the news station on Nov 8, 2016, Election Day 2016 before web internship, helped with coverage of the local and presidential election. Managed social media, wrote a news story and helped update website.

Her Campus at VCU, Richmond, VA

September 2015-Present

Writer

- Writer at Her Campus at VCU online magazine. Writing weekly articles and blog posts about topics relating to the lifestyles of college women.
- Seven nationally shared articles Campus and 1 article chosen as one of the 'Picks of the Week' by National Her Campus online magazine.

Beyond Her Blush, Remote Location

January 2016- January 2017

College Ambassador

- Promoting subscription beauty box on social media and on college campus. Managing Twitter account.

Skills

Computer: Can type 70 wpm, Microsoft Office, Google Documents, social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Audition, Adobe Premiere, Adobe InDesign.

Writing: AP Style, traditional news reporting, writing articles, writing blog posts, deadlines, interviewing, writing profiles, copy editing, script writing.

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture, Richmond, VA

Mass Communications Major, Print/Online Journalism Concentration

B.S. in Mass Communications, December 2017

Treasurer/Member of Society Professional Journalists at VCU, September 2015-Present.

Honors: Dean's List- Spring 2016 and Fall 2016

New laws target puppy mills, allow lifetime pet licenses

By **Ashley Luck**
Capital News Service

MARCH 22, 2017

RICHMOND – Virginia soon will have three new laws that will affect its furry residents and their owners. Gov. **Terry McAuliffe** has signed bills that will bar pet stores from buying dogs from unscrupulous sellers, allow local governments to offer lifetime pet licenses and change the legal description of a "dangerous dog."

McAuliffe signed the legislation last week. The bills will take effect July 1.

SB 852, introduced by Sen. William Stanley, R-Franklin, is aimed at brokers and breeders who sell dogs to pet shops. The new statute says the seller must have a valid license from the **U.S. Department of Agriculture**.

Moreover, pet stores may not procure a dog "from a person who has received citations for one critical violation or three or more noncritical violations from the USDA in the two years prior to receiving the dog," according to a summary of the bill by the Legislative Information System.

Violating the law will be a Class 1 misdemeanor for each dog sold or offered for sale. That is punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

Tabitha Treloar, director of communications at the Richmond SPCA, said the organization is grateful for the new law.

"SB 852 closed loopholes in a section of code that became law in 2015, making it clear that pet stores may not acquire pets either directly or indirectly from puppy mills," Treloar said.

McAuliffe also signed HB 1477, sponsored by Del. Robert Orrock, R-Caroline County. It will allow local governments to provide lifetime licenses for cats and dogs for a maximum fee of \$50. (The cost of an annual pet license will remain at up to \$10.)

The lifetime license will be valid if the animal's owner continues to reside in the locality and keeps up the animal's rabies vaccinations. If an animal's tag is lost, destroyed or stolen, the legislation sets a \$1 fee for getting a duplicate tag. The bill also states that local ordinances can require an animal to have an identifying microchip.

Pet owners must get a license for any dog or cat that is 4 months or older. Guide dogs or service dogs that serve disabled people are exempt.

McAuliffe also signed HB 2381, sponsored by Del. Matthew Farris, R-Rustburg. It modifies the legal description of a "dangerous dog." It's a designation with big ramifications: If a dog is officially labeled as dangerous, it is listed in an online registry, and the owner must get insurance and pay a \$150 annual fee.

Farris wanted to give a dog the benefit of the doubt if it bites a person or another animal. The bill will give animal control officers the option of determining whether a dog should be considered dangerous just because it inflicts a nip, scratch or minor injury on someone, or on another pet.

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This article is related to: [Terry McAuliffe, U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)

Senate passes bill to defund Planned Parenthood

 wric.com /2017/02/15/senate-passes-bill-to-defund-planned-parenthood/

Ashley Luck, Capital News Service



PHOTO: VCU CNS

RICHMOND – The Senate on Tuesday narrowly passed a bill to curtail funding for Planned Parenthood and other health centers that perform abortions.

The Senate voted 20-19 along party lines in favor of [HB 2264](#), sponsored by Del. Benjamin Cline, R-Amherst.

The bill states that the Virginia Department of Health “shall not enter into a contract with, or make a grant to, any entity that performs abortions that are not federally qualified abortions or maintains or operates a facility where non-federally qualified abortions are performed.”

That means the state would cut off funds for organizations that offer abortions that are not eligible for matching funds under Medicaid. This would include any abortion outside of cases of rape, incest or “gross fetal anomalies.”

Essentially, the bill would shift funding from the five Planned Parenthood clinics in Virginia to federally funded hospitals and rural clinics.

The House passed the legislation, 60-33, on Feb. 7. With the Senate’s approval, the bill now goes to Gov. Terry McAuliffe. McAuliffe has said he will veto the measure.

Paulette McElwain, CEO of the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood, said the bill represents the state-level version of a national vendetta to defund Planned Parenthood.

“We are, of course, very disheartened that members of the Senate have turned their backs on underserved women of Virginia,” McElwain said. “This bill specifically targets Planned Parenthood and, if passed into law, would undermine the health of thousands of our patients who count on us for comprehensive care.”

McElwain said that as a result of the legislation, “Virginia women would no longer have access to free STI (sexually transmitted infections) testing, a subsidized service utilized by nearly 2,000 of our patients last year.”

“In their single-minded focus on damaging our organization, these Virginia senators are causing direct and possibly lasting damage to the health of Virginia women,” McElwain said.

Sen. Barbara Favola, D-Arlington, agreed. “The clinics our colleagues are targeting help women treat infections like Hepatitis B to make sure these infections are not passed on to newborns through no fault of their own,” she said.

Victoria Cobb, president of the Family Foundation of Virginia, said “apologists for abortion centers” incorrectly blamed Cline’s bill for endangering women’s health.

“Virginia has a duty to steward taxpayer money in a way that ensures funds are distributed by priority to the most effective point-of-service health-care providers,” Cobb said. “This legislation simply ensures that hospitals, federally qualified health clinics and rural health clinics are funded over abortion centers.”

She said that more than 140 federally qualified and rural clinics in Virginia offer comprehensive services to women and that many of them are in areas where Planned Parenthood doesn’t have clinics.

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Virginia house subcommittee tables pet tethering bill

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A House of Delegates panel has blocked a bill to prohibit the tethering of dogs and other animals in Virginia.

HB 1802, filed by Del. John J. Bell, D-Chantilly, would have allowed tethering only if the owner of the animal were outside and within sight of the pet.

The meeting of a subcommittee of the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee Monday brought out both supporters and opponents of the bill. After hearing testimony for and against, the subcommittee voted 7-1 to table it.

Supporters included representatives from the Richmond SPCA and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Daphna Nachminovitch, senior vice president of the cruelty investigations department for PETA, said the organization sees many mistreated dogs tethered on chains.

“We’re in support of the bill because we see thousands and thousands of dogs in the commonwealth who are trapped 24/7 at the end of a chain, without any love, companionship or respect, oftentimes without the very bare minimums of life necessities,” Nachminovitch said. “Man’s best friend deserves better than that.”

Speaking in opposition to the bill, Alice Harrington, a representative of the Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders, said there are plenty of reasons to safely tether an animal, from preventing them from escaping to keeping them in place during shows and competitions.

“It should be tabled—that’s what we wanted,” said Harrington. “Tethering is a tool that has been used for thousands of years to keep animals safe. When these kinds of bills come forward, most of them don’t tie to anything having to do with the condition of the dog.”

HB 1802 stated, “No companion animal shall be tethered outdoors unless the owner is outdoors within sight of the animal.” An initial violation would have been a Class 4 misdemeanor, subject to a fine of up to \$250. A second offense would have been a Class 3 misdemeanor, with a fine up to \$500.

The provisions of HB 1802 would have applied to anyone who owns or provides foster care to a companion animal, including animal shelters, dealers, pet shops, exhibitors, kennels, groomers and boarding establishments.