

# HB982 • Virginia

## Political campaign advertisements; synthetic media, penalty.

Introduced

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Last Action (Feb 18, 2026): Left in Committee Privileges and Elections

## Summary

This bill prohibits political advertisements containing synthetic media without a disclosure statement and allows registered voters to seek injunctions for violations.

## Business Impact

If you sponsor political advertisements in Virginia, you must disclose the use of synthetic media or face penalties up to \$25,000.

## Key Provisions

- Prohibits electioneering communications with synthetic media without a disclosure statement.
- Imposes a civil penalty up to \$25,000 for violations.
- Classifies willful violations as a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Allows registered voters to seek injunctions against non-compliant communications.
- Defines synthetic media in detail, focusing on altered or artificially generated content.
- Requires conspicuous disclosure of synthetic media in political advertisements.

## Compliance Checklist

- Include a conspicuous disclosure statement in political advertisements containing synthetic media. | Who: Political committees and sponsors of electioneering communications. | Penalty: Up to \$25,000 for violations.
- Ensure all electioneering communications comply with the synthetic media regulations. | Who: All sponsors of political advertisements. | Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor for willful violations.

## Industries Affected

Media

Political Advertising

General

# Topics

AI Deepfakes

AI in Political Advertising

## Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Glenn R. Davis		Primary
Kathy K.L. Tran	Democratic	Primary
Kannan Srinivasan	Democratic	Cosponsor
Michael J. Webert		Primary
Schuyler T. VanValkenburg	Democratic	Cosponsor
Phillip A. Scott		Primary
G. "John" Avoli		Cosponsor
Dave A. LaRock		Cosponsor
Marie E. March		Cosponsor
Bill D. Wiley	Republican	Cosponsor
Wren M. Williams	Republican	Cosponsor
Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.		Primary

## Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2026-02-03	Subcommittee recommends laying on the table	7	1	Passed

## Related Bills

- [HB868 \(VA\)](#)
- [SB775 \(VA\)](#)
- [HB2479 \(VA\)](#)
- [SB141 \(VA\)](#)

## Official Source

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB982>

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