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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 VICTORIES FOR DEMS



MIKE KROPF, TIMES-DISPATCH

Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger speaks to the press at Highland Springs High School in Richmond on Monday.

Spanberger signs law enforcement masking, paid sick leave bills

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Law enforcement officers — including federal immigration agents — won't be able to hide their identities while on duty, and almost all Virginia employees will be entitled to paid sick leave under legislation Gov. Abigail Spanberger has signed into law.

But Spanberger vetoed measures, House Bill 650 and Senate Bill 351, that would have required federal immigration agents to have a warrant issued by a magistrate or judge to arrest people in courthouses, schools and hospitals.

House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 199 say companies, as well as state and local governments, must provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours an employee works — so that six weeks of 40-hour-a-week working means an employee could take a sick day.

Roughly 1.2 million private-sector employees in Virginia, mainly in low-wage jobs, don't have paid sick leave.

House Bill 1482 and Senate Bill 352 say law enforcement officers must display badges or other IDs with their names or ID numbers and agencies when on duty, and can't mask their faces. The bill does allow officers to wear medical masks and

respirators when exposed to toxins, smoke or similar hazards.

Spanberger signed these bills even though the General Assembly rejected her proposed amendments to them.

In recent days, Spanberger has vetoed other bills after the legislature rejected her amendments, including measures to create a legal retail market for marijuana, peg medication prices to what Medicare pays and allow unions to bargain for government employees' wages and work conditions — all top priorities of Democratic leaders in the General Assembly.

"Virginia is making clear that a fair day's work comes with the dignity of being able to stay home when you are sick or need to care for a sick family member," Spanberger said in announcing she would sign the other bills.

She had earlier signed measures creating a paid family medical leave program that allows Virginians to receive some pay if they take the 12 weeks of time federal law allows to care for a family member or deal with a serious illness. The federal law says people can't lose their jobs when they take leave, but it does not provide for any pay while on leave.

Spanberger said her rejected amendments for the paid sick leave bills were



Favola

aimed at easing implementation. Her rejected changes included eliminating some record-keeping requirements.

"This means being able to take time off to see a doctor when you are sick," said state Sen. Barbara Favola, D-Arlington, who sponsored the Senate bill.

"No worker should be forced to sacrifice their paycheck or risk their job when they or a loved one are sick," said Inimai Chettiar, president of a Better Balance, a workplace rights advocacy organization.

Last year, then-Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed the same measure.

The paid sick leave bills passed on party-line votes.

So did the law enforcement masking bill.

Spanberger said she signed the bill because she feels strongly about public trust in law enforcement as a former law enforcement officer. Prior to her time as a politician, Spanberger served as a case officer in the CIA and as a postal inspector for the U.S. Postal Service.

Please see **SPANBERGER**, Page A2

ALBEMARLE-CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL JAIL

Inmate dead after 'medical emergency'

Harlow, from Charlottesville, had long criminal record of domestic abuse

HAWES SPENCER
The Daily Progress

An inmate at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail has died.

William Anthony Harlow, a 45-year-old Charlottesville resident, was found in the throes of a health emergency this

past Saturday and transported to the University of Virginia Medical Center where he was pronounced dead, according to the jail.

"An inmate discovered Mr. Harlow experiencing a medical emergency and they notified staff who immediately began life saving measures," reads a jailhouse statement. "Emergency Medical Services arrived to the jail within minutes and transported Mr. Harlow to the hospital."

Please see **INMATE**, Page A2

CAL CARY, THE DAILY PROGRESS

The rooftop of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail is seen through barbed wire Aug. 2, 2023.