

# SUPPORT HB2041/SB807

Topic: Improving public access to walking trails on private land/conservation easement by clarifying limited liability of the landowner.

Bill Patron: House: Shin; Senate: Favola

## Overview:

Landowners are reluctant to grant public access across lands without protection of the explicit limits to liability. The current code limits liability to Gross Negligence and applies to hiking, biking, horse riding, etc. These bills clarify that walking is included.

## Reasons to support:

- Encourages development of pedestrian access across private land and conservation easements to improve connectivity and more equitable access to open space.
- Protects landowners who are providing access from more stringent liability.
- Improves access to insurance for landowners and trail managers.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit [www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker](http://www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker). VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.