

Co-Patrons Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the different types of co-patronage?

Chief Patron – The Legislator who is the primary sponsor of the legislation is the chief patron. Their name will appear first on the list of patrons.

Second Chief Patrons – This type of patronage is rare. Second chief patrons must sign onto the legislation electronically before it is submitted to the Clerk. Only Senators may be second chief patrons. There is no limit on the number of second chief patrons, but if there are more than two second chiefs the order of the names must be indicated in the comment box when you send the legislation to the Clerk.

Chief Co-patrons – Only 3 chief co-patrons are allowed on each piece of legislation. Senators and Delegates may be chief co-patrons. House chief co-patrons must be confirmed by the Senate chief patron.

Co-patrons – Senators and Delegates may be co-patrons of Senate bills and joint resolutions. Only Senators may be co-patrons of Senate resolutions. For Senate legislation, permission of the chief patron is not needed to add on. (This is different from the House.) Chiefs, second chiefs, chief co-patrons, and incorporated chief co-patrons by default cannot also be co-patrons. A Legislator can only be listed in one category of patronage.

Incorporated Chief Co-patrons – A patronage opportunity is created when two bills are merged by a Senate committee (incorporated). Incorporated chief co-patrons can only be Senators. Patronage is not automatically transferred from one bill to another when merged. A form to add on will only be distributed by the Senate committee clerk.

2. How do I add on as a co-patron electronically?

You may add on through the e-filing system or through your patron page on LIS. If you have any questions before introduction of legislation, please contact Stephanie Kerns with DLS at (804) 698-1828. If you have any questions after introduction of legislation, please contact Corinne Sloan at csloan@senate.virginia.gov.

3. *When is the deadline for adding or removing a Legislator as a co-patron?*

Currently the add deadline is before the final vote on passage in the house of origin. If the bill or joint resolution is not reported from committee, then the deadline is prior to the last action on such legislation (normally treated as the crossover deadline).

The deadline for removing co-patrons is not yet known but we'll let you know once that information becomes available. (The deadline date is usually towards the end of Session.)

For commending and memorial resolutions, the deadline to add on is an hour after adjournment in the second house that passes the legislation.

4. *Where are the co-patron forms located online?*

On the Senate Portal scroll all the way down to **Forms and Manuals**, the links to the printable forms are listed under **Co-Patron Forms**

- Co-patron Forms (Listing of Senators). These are the forms for Senators to sign onto Senate legislation.
- Co-patron Forms (Listing of Delegates). These are the forms for Delegates to sign onto Senate legislation.
- Co-patron Form (House Form with a listing of Senators). This is the form for Senators to sign onto House legislation. This form must be delivered to the House Chamber.

5. *Who may turn in a hard copy of a Senate co-patron form?*

A Legislator, legislative assistant, intern, or page may turn in a hard copy as long as the form has been signed by the Legislator.

6. *Where do I turn in hard copies of Senate co-patron forms?*

Forms adding or removing Senators and Delegates to Senate legislation are to be delivered to the Senate Chamber.

Forms adding or removing Senators to House legislation are to be delivered to the House Chamber.

7. *May I email a co-patron form?*

No, co-patron forms must be delivered with an original signature.

8. Is co-patron status automatically assigned when my legislation is incorporated into another Senator's legislation by a committee?

No. A form to add on will be distributed to the Senators by the Senate committee clerk.

Please contact Corinne Sloan at csloan@senate.virginia.gov or the Senate Journal Office at (804) 698-7440 with any additional questions.