

Virginia Federation of Chapters

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*Protecting Earned Benefits of Active & Retired
Federal Employees for more than 95 years!*

Virginia Federation of Chapters

16,500 Members Strong

53 Local Chapters & VA National Division

10 Area Vice Presidents



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VFC State Convention- April 2-5, 2017

Williamsburg, VA

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National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

Virginia Federation of Chapters

2017

State Legislative Plan

*We support State Legislation that Strengthens
Fair & Efficient Governance and Protects the
Rights, Safety, and Assets of Virginia Residents*

Absentee Voting

Most states now permit some form of no-excuse absentee voting for their citizens. We recommend that the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation that would allow no-excuse absentee voting.

Enhanced Protection of Adults from Financial Exploitation

As we age beyond our 40's, cognition slips, affecting our ability to manage personal finances, may leave us eventually vulnerable to serious missteps, or outright abuse by others. We support legislation that would authorize the Virginia Department of Health's *Advance Health Care Directives Registry* to allow individuals, on a gratis basis, to post a "Letter of Diminished Personal Finances Capability."

Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums

Health care costs continue to rise and most retirees are on fixed incomes. Therefore, we support legislation that would amend VA58.1-322(C) to allow retirees to subtract their health insurance premiums from federal adjusted gross income, thereby lowering Virginia taxable income by the same amount, with no income restrictions.

Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction to Inflation

When taxpayers reach age 65, they are eligible for a state income tax deduction of \$12,000 if their single-filer income is less than \$50,000 or joint-filer income is less than \$75,000. If their income exceeds these fixed limits, their deduction is reduced \$1 for every \$1 over the limit. There has been no adjustment for inflation since this means testing was passed in 2004. We support an inflation-indexed age deduction to alleviate the long-term cost of living increases.

Minimum Nursing Home Standards

Nursing home residents need more certified staff to improve the physical and emotional quality of life of residents. Current federal regulations require "sufficient" staffing to meet the needs of residents. While many states have adopted minimum staffing levels, Virginia has yet to do so. We urge the General Assembly to act during this legislative cycle to address this critical need.

Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform

Gerrymandering reduces political competition and fosters a climate of partisan gridlock. We urge the General Assembly to pass legislation ensuring that future redistricting is undertaken in a nonpartisan and transparent manner, conducted through impartial means, such as by an independent commission.

Transparency

As a member of the all-volunteer *Transparency Virginia* coalition, we ask General Assembly committees and subcommittees to use best practices for accountability and public participation by ensuring that: hearing notices give the public adequate time to attend; every bill is given due consideration; and, all final votes are recorded.
