



Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)

VFC Winter Board Meeting
January 12-13, 2015

STATE LEGISLATION

**Progress on our 2015 Legislative Issues
Administrative Announcements**



Patti Downs
VFC State Legislation Chair

Progress on our 2015 State Plan



➤ **Senior Absentee Voting**

6 Senate bills; 1 House bill;

1 House co-sponsor for two of the Senate bills

➤ **Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform**

2 Senate bills; 1 House bill; additional House bill expected

➤ **Incapacitated Adult Protection from Financial Exploitation**

1 Senate bill; 2 House bills

➤ **Retiree Health Insurance Premium Tax Relief**

1-2 House bills possible, but tenuous

“No-Excuse” Senior Absentee Voting



Senate

- Sen John Edwards (D/21st Roanoke) – SB 708
- Sen Jeffrey McWaters (R/8th Virginia Beach) – SB 719
- Sen George Barker (D/39th Alexandria) – SB 758
- Sen John Miller (D/1st Newport News) – SB 822
- Sen Jennifer Wexton (D/33rd Leesburg) – SB 910
- Sen Janet Howell (D/32nd Reston) – SB 677 pertains to in-person voting only; not voting by mail

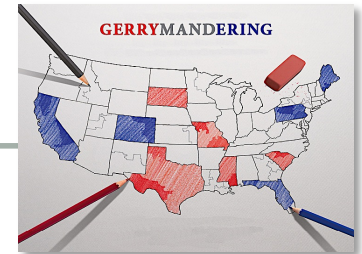
House of Delegates

- Del Kaye Kory (D/38th Falls Church) – House co-sponsor of SB 708 and SB 719
- Del Richard “Rip” Sullivan, Jr. (D/48th Arlington) – HB 1497 applies to all registered voters

Related

- Del Eileen Filler-Corn (D/41st Springfield) – HB 1327 allows voters 75+ years to go to front of voting line

Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform



Senate

- Sen L. Louise Lucas (D/18th Portsmouth) – SJ 224 provides Constitutional amendment (first resolution) creating Virginia Redistricting Commission
- Sen John Miller (D/1st Newport News) – SB 824 provides for statewide referendum (for Nov 2015 general election) on an independent redistricting commission; results intended as advisory only - to demonstrate citizen preference for redistricting reform.

House of Delegates

- Del Richard “Rip” Sullivan (D/48th Arlington) – HB 1485 provides criteria for General Assembly to draw districts based on population, racial/ethnic fairness, contiguity, compactness; use of political data generally prohibited.
- *Del Sam Rasoul (D/11th Roanoke) – expected to submit bill for independent Virginia Redistricting Commission (not filed as of 1/9/15)*
- *Governor or Attorney General may submit bill for independent commission (?)*

Incapacitated Adult Protection from Financial Exploitation



Senate

- Sen George Barker (D/39th Alexandria) – SB 462 broadens definition of incapacitated persons. Carried over from 2014, but may be dead in Senate Courts of Justice Committee.

House of Delegates

- Del Thomas Rust (R/86th Herndon) – HB 1559 increases criminal penalties for abuse/neglect of incapacitated persons.
- Del Vivian Watts (D/39th Annandale) – HB 627 increases protection against fraud/coercion of incapacitated persons. Carried over from 2014, but may be dead in House Courts of Justice Committee.

Related

- Del Patrick Hope (D/47th Arlington) will support if one GOP will sponsor. Efforts by Dulles Chapter 1241/Bill Schmidt and VFC SLC to solicit support from Del Randall Minchew (R/10th Leesburg), but no response to date.

Retiree Health Insurance Premiums - Tax Relief

House of Delegates

- Del Kaye Kory's (D/38th Falls Church) 2014 bill carried over to 2015, but appears dead in House Finance Committee.
- Del Richard "Rip" Sullivan (D/48th Arlington) may support – unclear.



Area VP & Chapter Advocacy Needed (with key House & Senate Finance Committee Members):

Area III: Dell "Buddy" Fowler (R/55th Glen Allen); R. Lee Ware (R/65th Powhatan); Sen Walter Stosch (R/12th Glen Allen)

Area V: Del Ben Cline (R/24th Amherst)

Area VIII: Del Mark Cole (R/88th Fredericksburg)

Area IX: Del Tim Hugo (R/40th Centreville); Sen Charles Colgan (D/29th Manassas)

Update on 2013 VFC State PAC Recipients



- Del Kirk Cox (R/66th Colonial Heights) - not sponsoring/co-sponsoring any of our 2015 issues as of Jan 10
- Del Rosalyn Dance (D/63rd) – now Senator Dance (D/16th Petersburg); co-patron for SB 910 on senior absentee voting
- Del Thomas Rust (R/86th Herndon) – sponsor of HB 1559 to increase criminal penalties for abuse/neglect of incapacitated persons.
- Del Mark Sickles (D/43rd Franconia) – not sponsoring/co-sponsoring any of our 2015 issues as of Jan 10
- Del Lionell Spruill (D/77th Chesapeake) – not sponsoring/co-sponsoring any of our 2015 issues as of Jan 10
- Del Scott Surovell (D/44th Mt Vernon) – not sponsoring/co-sponsoring any of our 2015 issues as of Jan 10
- Del Todd Gilbert * (R/15th Woodstock) – not sponsoring/co-sponsoring any of our 2015 issues as of Jan 10

* Del Gilbert was presented with a check but declined it.

Alliance – League of Women Voters (LWV)

- Area I VP/Pat Taylor liaison efforts are key
- LVW-led “TransparencyVirginia” coalition formed; multiple partners

Promotes “best practices” for the 2015 General Assembly cycle:

Meeting notices: Notice should give the public adequate time to attend and/or give testimony.

Consideration: All of a sub/committee’s assigned bills should be heard before its last meeting, both before crossover and before session adjourns.

Votes: Sub/committee votes should be recorded – by show of hands or roll call – on all votes, including votes not to recommend.

- Area I VP & VFC SLC requested & received Executive Committee approval to join this initiative



OneVirginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting

- Citizen coalition formed in 2013, Charlottesville, for education and advocacy
- Organized thru local, regional, statewide efforts
- Partners with individuals and organizations
- Multi-partisan approach: Organizational structure includes Republicans, Democrats, Independents, & member of Tea Party Executive Committee
- VFC SLC attended September legislative planning conference
- Mission: Advocate for a Virginia Constitutional Amendment to establish an independent, impartial commission to apply a fair and transparent process in drawing political districts after the 2020 US Census.



Administrative Notes

- New State Legislation advocate at NARFE Headquarters – Chris Farrell
- First nationwide NARFE Conference Call on State Legislation
- Parallel “Legislative Action Center” for state legislation under consideration by NARFE Hqs !
- Next State Legislation Newsletter – shorter version with legislative update; later this month
- Draft update of “State Political Account Procedures” and forms initiated (handout)

