



February 16, 2018

We have now passed crossover and are looking to the end of this session on March 10. This **2018 VMA Legislative Crossover Report** focuses on 94 priority and defensive priority bills. All 398 bills and budget items that the VMA is monitoring and managing are available for review on our website at <http://vamanufacturers.com/advocacy/key-virginia-legislation/>. The focus for the remaining 30 days of the 2018 legislative session will be on the remaining bills we are monitoring and managing.

This session has presented tangible evidence that elections have consequences. Regardless of the Republican controlled legislature, the 1 seat majority in both bodies has resulted in tighter votes on environmental regulation, local taxation, energy regulation, workplace regulation, product bans, Medicaid expansion and related issues more than ever before.

This session was dominated by SB966 and HB1558 to re-regulate electric utilities and end “frozen rates.” The VMA’s top budget priority is the \$30 million in funding for the New Economy Workforce Credentials program to cover 2/3 of the cost for individuals successfully completing industry credential training and certification. The program has exceeded all expectations with a 90% job placement rate and increase in pre to post training wages of 25-50%. However, two years ago we successfully advocated for the creation of the [Virginia International Trade Corporation](#) (VITC) but the legislature has yet to fund the office, instead, leaving international trade services at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership with no new funding.

Finally, one of the most effective methods of communicating the importance of specific legislation is to score it. Earlier this year, the VMA published the [VA MFG Competitiveness Index](#) and shared it with members of the General Assembly. The purpose of this report is to document how Virginia ranks in 52 metrics against the other 49 states. To expand on the work outlined in this report, and draw a correlation between the performance indicators that drive a state’s overall competitiveness and the bills from this legislative session, the VMA has added a rating to all bills tracked in the *VMA Legislative Crossover Report* as improving, harming or neutral to Virginia’s manufacturing competitiveness.

As *Industry’s Advocate*™ since 1922, the VMA is working aggressively to make Virginia the most competitive business climate with the most competitive workforce in the United States for world-class advanced technology companies to manufacture and headquarter their businesses for maximum productivity and profitability. Your voice matters, so join us today in letting the Virginia General Assembly know that Manufacturing Makes Virginia!

Sincerely,

Brett A. Vassey

President & CEO



VMA | 2018 VMA Legislative Crossover Report

Advanced technology industries, such as manufacturing, are essential to the United States of America and Virginia economies. Due to the global nature of manufacturing, industry is susceptible to the increasing costs of worker training, taxation, energy, and regulation. Because of our pro-business climate, Virginia has an opportunity to reinforce its position as a national leader in manufacturing. We must advocate for common sense legislation which supports industry to strengthen Virginia's competitive standing. The U.S. and individual states must be vigilant in continually adopting competitive regulations in comparison to competing trading partners because of the mobility of the industry. Priorities include:

- **Close the Skills and Career Planning Gaps by 2020**
- **Stop Taxing Technology**
- **Expand MFG Exports 50% by 2025 and Restructure Economic Development**
- **Keep Energy Costs Affordable and Reliable**
- **Invest in Productive Infrastructure**
- **Maintain Regulatory Balance**

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VMA LEGISLATIVE CROSSOVER REPORT OVERVIEW

The 2018 Session of the General Assembly convened on January 10th and adjourns March 10th. This year is a 60-day General Assembly session. “**Crossover**” marks the halfway point of the session; this deadline dictates that each chamber must complete work on its own bills, except for the budget, and begin to consider only those bills “crossing over” from the other chamber. That milestone was reached on Tuesday, February 13.

The *VMA Legislative Crossover Report* only provides details on those “Priority and Defensive Priority” bills that are still active. However, members should still review all the “Priority and Defensive Priority” bills by going to

<http://www.cgstatetrack.com/texis/statetrack/insession/viewrpt/main.html?event=52f1427a230>. It is a political snapshot of the future as Virginia’s legislature continues to change. Some of our bedrock public policy principles, such as maintaining regulatory balance and restraining local tax authority, are clearly being challenged.

The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) continues to advance its proactive [Virginia Industrial Innovation Strategy](#) in the General Assembly. **The VMA is monitoring and managing 398 bills this session. Of that total, the VMA has prioritized 94 “Priority & Defensive Priority Bills” that will help us build the most competitive manufacturing business climate in the United States.**

“Priority” bills are those introduced on our behalf, as part of a coalition to which the VMA belongs and/or directly address key priorities outlined in our [2018 Legislative Agenda](#). “Defensive priority” bills are those bills that required amendment or opposition in order to preserve the VMA’s legislative agenda or industrial competitiveness in the Commonwealth.

To provide some context, there have been 3,125 total bills and resolutions introduced in the Senate and House – a 20% increase over 2017 and a 10% increase over 2016. 54% of all bills considered prior to crossover have passed. By comparison, the 2017 session ended with 62% of all bills passing and the 2016 legislative session ended with 55% of all bills respectively. We have indexed, by topic, the 2018 bills as “Key Legislation” for your review at <http://vamanufacturers.com/advocacy/key-virginia-legislation/>.

A new element of this year’s *VMA Legislative Crossover Report* is the [MFG Competitiveness Designation](#). This designation will help draw a correlation between the performance indicators that drive a state’s overall competitiveness and the bills from this legislative session. A rating has been assigned to each bill tracked in this report as improving, harming or neutral to Virginia’s manufacturing competitiveness.

As with any organization, team work is critical. The VMA Board of Directors, VMA Committees, VMA Government Affairs Council and key allies make up our team and contribute to our overall success. The VMA is particularly thankful for the Delegates and Senators that are patrons of our legislative proposals as well as several peer organizations, such as the Virginia Retail Federation, Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Virginia Agribusiness Council and the American Chemistry Council, that have been instrumental in helping to shape our legislative agenda.

For assistance on how to make the most of grass roots advocacy or for more details about VMA’s legislative resources, please contact Kimberly Noonan, VMA Member Services Director, at 804-528-4482 or by email at knoonan@vamanufacturers.com.

2018 VMA LEGISLATIVE CROSSOVER REPORT



COMPETITIVENESS DESIGNATIONS:



Harms MFG Competitiveness



Neutral



Improves MFG Competitiveness

BUDGET BILLS



Number: VA [R] HB 29 - Updated (Status 01/19/2018)

Sponsor: Del. S. Chris Jones (REP-VA)

Title: [Budget Bill.](#)

Abstract: Budget Bill. Amending Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly.

Status: [House: Budget amendments available - 01/18/2018](#)

Position: Amend
Monitor

Priority: High

Notes: This bill will help close the skills gap by 2020. At least 60% of current manufacturing jobs now require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree - middle-skills jobs with industry-credentials. The VCCS has requested \$3 million for the remainder of this fiscal year, ending in July 2018, to fund the New Economy Workforce Industry Credential Grant program that will provide industry-credential training and certification for 1,500 people in MFG, IT, Healthcare and Logistics high-demand occupations.



Number: VA [R] HB 30 - Updated (Status 01/19/2018)

Sponsor: Del. S. Chris Jones (REP-VA)

Title: [Budget Bill.](#)

Abstract: Budget Bill. Appropriations of the Budget submitted by the Governor of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509, Code of Virginia, and to provide a portion of revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June, 2019, and the thirtieth day of June, 2020.

Status: [House: Budget amendments available - 01/18/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Issues that require amendment:
NEW Workforce Credential Grant. This funding is critical to closing the skills gap by

2020. At least 60% of current manufacturing jobs now require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree - middle-skills jobs with industry-credentials. The VCCS has requested \$30 million for the biennium to provide industry-credential training and certification for 16,000 people in MFG, IT, Healthcare and Logistics high-demand occupations. MFG alone will need 13,200 training individuals, so this funding will serve only a fraction of the need for all sectors of the economy.

Initial data for the program exceeds all other higher education results:

- Demand is significantly outpacing supply
- 4,595 credentials earned in program since inception
- Job placement of 90% or higher in some fields
- 3,400 more Virginians earned a high-demand workforce credential in the last year compared to year prior to the Workforce Credentials Grant
- Early wage data reveal strong gains for grant recipients – typically increasing take-home pay by 25% to 50%

There should be no additional constraints on this program - it is market-based, data-driven, and business led. Amendments to reduce or remove the VCCS Board and VA Board of Workforce Development from the exclusive advisory role with these resources should be opposed - government redundancy will impede this program's effectiveness.

WQIF funding must remain in full to assure productive infrastructure for MFG growth and environmental protection.

Virginia International Trade Corporation (VITC). § 2.2-2738 created the Virginia International Trade Corporation in 2016. The budget still has no funding for the VITC. Further, there is no new funding to expand international trade. VMA led a coalition to codify the VITC and argued that if the international trade services of VEDP remained at the agency, they would be diminished and lost over the attention focused on "buffalo hunting" economic development recruiting program funding. This has turned out to be a providential statement. Without new funding and VITC autonomy, the Commonwealth will not reach the goal of increasing MFG exports 50% by 2025 (\$8 billion in output).

Employment Screening Electronic Records Access. Last year, the General Assembly approved HB1713 and SB1044, which permit a narrow exception to the prohibition in existing law for electronic access to complete dates of birth for the sole purpose of allowing someone who already has the date of birth of an individual to enter that person's name, Social Security Number and date of birth in the OES case management system to determine whether that person has pending criminal charges. The applicant for a job, apartment unit or a mortgage has authorized a background screening to be done so the background screening company already has the applicant's confidential information.

The Federal Trade Commission increased the requirements for a background screening report to require checking the complete date of birth, which resulted in background screening companies having to manually check with each clerk's office (general district, J&DR for adults and circuit court) in 120 jurisdictions in the Commonwealth to determine if a particular person has a pending criminal case. Convictions in criminal cases that are finally appealed would be reflected in the VSP criminal record check that is available through the existing process.

Background screening reports are necessary for many applications for employment, rental of real property, home mortgages and lots of other situations. This is a significant business issue in the Commonwealth and everybody needs a better solution than the

current time-consuming and difficult process.

To address this impediment to hiring employees, approving mortgages and apartment rentals, the 2017 General Assembly provided \$137,000 in last year's budget. Those funds covered the cost of the needed technology improvements by OES for general district courts. The \$160,000 in funding requested this year, in either HB 29 or HB 30, would allow OES to complete the technology upgrades for the circuit courts.



Number: VA [R] HB 154 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. R. Lee Ware (REP-VA)

Title: [Commonwealth's tax system; conformity with federal law, emergency.](#)

Abstract: Advances conformity of the Commonwealth's tax code with the federal tax code to December 31, 2017; however, the bill conforms only to certain provisions of Public Law 115-97, known as the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," that affect taxable years prior to 2018. The bill conforms to provisions creating an incentive for taxpayers to make contributions to 2017 hurricane relief efforts and certain other provisions. The bill contains an emergency clause. The bill is identical to SB 230.

Status: [Governor: Governor's Action Deadline Midnight, February 19, 2018 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: VMA Priority Bill.



Number: VA [R] SB 30 - Updated (Status 01/19/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Thomas Norment (REP-VA)

Title: [Budget Bill.](#)

Abstract: Budget Bill. Appropriations of the Budget submitted by the Governor of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509, Code of Virginia, and to provide a portion of revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June, 2019, and the thirtieth day of June, 2020.

Status: [Senate: Budget amendments available - 01/18/2018](#)

Position: Monitor

Priority: High

Notes: VMA Priority Bill. Issues that require amendment:
NEW Workforce Credential Grant. This funding is critical to closing the skills gap by 2020. At least 60% of current manufacturing jobs now require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree - middle-skills jobs with industry-credentials. The VCCS has requested \$30 million for the biennium to provide industry-credential training and certification for 16,000 people in MFG, IT, Healthcare and Logistics high-demand occupations. MFG alone will need 13,200 training individuals, so this funding will serve only a fraction of the need for all sectors of the economy.
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The Federal Trade Commission increased the requirements for a background screening report to require checking the complete date of birth, which resulted in background screening companies having to manually check with each clerk's office (general district, J&DR for adults and circuit court) in 120 jurisdictions in the Commonwealth to determine if a particular person has a pending criminal case. Convictions in criminal cases that are finally appealed would be reflected in the VSP criminal record check that is available through the existing process.

Background screening reports are necessary for many applications for employment, rental of real property, home mortgages and lots of other situations. This is a significant business issue in the Commonwealth and everybody needs a better solution than the current time-consuming and difficult process.

To address this impediment to hiring employees, approving mortgages and apartment rentals, the 2017 General Assembly provided \$137,000 in last year's budget. Those funds covered the cost of the needed technology improvements by OES for general district courts. The \$160,000 in funding requested this year, in either HB 29 or HB 30, would allow OES to complete the technology upgrades for the circuit courts.

PRIORITY BILLS



Number: VA [R] HB 129 - Updated (Text, Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. David Yancey (REP-VA)

Title: [Worker retraining tax credit; manufacturing instruction for students.](#)

Abstract: Worker retraining tax credit; manufacturing instruction for students. Modifies the worker retraining tax credit by allowing credit to manufacturers conducting a manufacturing orientation, instruction, and training program that is (i) provided to students in grades six through 12, (ii) coordinated with the local school division and certified as qualified for tax credit by the Virginia Economic Partnership Development Authority, and (iii) conducted either at a plant or facility used by the manufacturer or at a public middle or high school in Virginia. The credit would equal 35 percent of the manufacturer's direct costs in providing the program, not to exceed \$2,000 for any year.

Status: [House: Printed as engrossed 18102417D-E - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Medium

Notes: VMA Priority Bill.



Number: VA [R] HB 211 - Updated (Text 02/06/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Thomas Wright (REP-VA)

Title: [Ground water withdrawal permit term; lengthening to 15 years, permit fee.](#)

Abstract: Ground water withdrawal permit term; lengthening to 15 years; permit fee. Lengthens from 10 years to 15 years the maximum term of a ground water withdrawal permit issued by the State Water Control Board. The bill also lengthens from 10 years to 15 years the maximum term of a ground water withdrawal special exception and directs the Board to raise the applicable permit fee from \$6,000 to \$9,000. The bill contains technical amendments.

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources - 01/31/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: VMA Priority Bill. Work product of Eastern VA Groundwater Management Advisory Commission. VMA served on the Commission. This will protect the eastern Virginia aquifer and allow for infrastructure solutions to improve the aquifer.



Number: VA [R] HB 508 - Updated (Status 02/03/2018)

Sponsor: Del. M. Keith Hodges (REP-VA)

Title: [Solar facilities; local regulation.](#)

Abstract: Local regulation of solar facilities. Local regulation of solar facilities. Provides that a property owner may install a solar facility on the roof of a dwelling or other building to serve the electricity or thermal needs of that dwelling or building, provided that such installation is in compliance with any height and setback requirements in the zoning district where such property is located as well as any provisions pertaining to any local historic or architectural preservation district. Unless a local ordinance provides otherwise, a ground-mounted solar energy generation facility shall also be permitted, provided that such installation is in compliance with any height and setback requirements in the zoning district where such property is located as well as any provision pertaining to ...

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Local Government - 02/02/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Low

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Coalition bill from Rubin Solar Working Group. VMA is a member.



Number: VA [R] HB 509 - Updated (Status 02/10/2018)

Sponsor: Del. M. Keith Hodges (REP-VA)

Title: [Comprehensive plan; solar facilities.](#)

Abstract: Comprehensive plan; solar facilities. Provides that a solar facility subject to provisions requiring the facility to be substantially in accord with a locality's comprehensive plan shall be deemed to be substantially in accord with the comprehensive plan if (i) such proposed solar facility is located in a zoning district that allows such solar facilities by right or (ii) such proposed solar facility is designed to serve the electricity or thermal needs of the property upon which such facility is located, or will be owned or operated by an eligible customer-generator or eligible agricultural customer-generator under § 56-594 or by a small agricultural generator under § 56-594.2. The bill authorizes a locality to allow for a substantial accord review for other solar facilities to ...

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Local Government - 02/09/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Low

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Coalition bill from Rubin Solar Working Group. VMA is a member.



Number: VA [R] HB 632 - Updated (Text, Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. David Bulova (DEM-VA)

Title: [Career investigation courses and programs of instruction; Board of Education to establish.](#)

Abstract: Career investigation courses and programs of instruction. Requires the Board of Education (Board) to (i) establish content standards and curriculum guidelines for courses in career investigation in elementary school, middle school, and high school; (ii) develop, in consultation with representatives of career and technical education, trade, and contractor organizations, career investigation resource materials that are designed to ensure that students have the ability to further explore interest in career and technical education opportunities in middle and high school; and (iii) disseminate such career investigation resource materials to each school board. The bill directs each school board to require each middle school student to take at least one course or alternative program.

Status: [House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB632H1 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Medium

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** HB632 enhances K-12 career planning focus and the VMA supports the bill.

VMA supported the institution of the VDOE Academic & Career Plans - http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/academic_career_plan/index.shtml, http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2013/087-13.shtml and http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2012/168-12.shtml. Beginning in middle school, all students must have an Academic and Career Plan that is reviewed before a student enters the ninth and eleventh grades per [8 VAC-20-131-5 et seq.](#)

This bill was enhanced with VMA recommended language in the form of an enactment clause that required the VDOE to convene a working group with the Virginia Board of Workforce Development to evaluate standardizing the Academic & Career Plan for all students, teachers and parents to monitor and manage in accordance with <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000 req 8VAC20-131-140>.



Number: VA [R] HB 751 - Updated (Status 02/09/2018)

Sponsor: Del. James Leftwich (REP-VA)

Title: [Motorboats; means of propulsion, wakesurfing.](#)

Abstract: Allows a motorboat that is propelled by a means that is below the water line and forward of either the transom or an integrated swim platform to be accompanied by a person in the water. Current law allows a motorboat to be accompanied by such a wakesurfer only if the motorboat is propelled by an inboard motor.

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources - 02/08/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: VMA Priority Bill.



Number: VA [R] HB 772 - Updated (Text 02/06/2018)

Sponsor: Del. S. Chris Jones (REP-VA)

Title: [Ground water withdrawal permit term; lengthening to 15 years.](#)

Abstract: Ground water withdrawal permit term; lengthening to 15 years. Lengthens from 10 years to 15 years the maximum term of a ground water withdrawal permit issued by the State Water Control Board and lengthens the maximum term of a ground water withdrawal special exception from 10 years to 15 years. The bill also directs the State Water Control Board to adopt a regulation effective January 1, 2019, raising from \$6,000 to \$9,000 the permit fee applicable to new or reissued individual ground water withdrawal permits. The bill contains technical amendments.

Status: [House: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources - 01/09/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Medium

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Work product of Eastern VA Groundwater Management Advisory Commission. VMA served on the Commission. This will protect the eastern Virginia aquifer and allow for infrastructure solutions to improve the aquifer.



Number: VA [R] HB 925 - Updated (Text, Status 02/08/2018)

Sponsor: Del. David Bulova (DEM-VA)

Title: [Industrial & high-risk programs; locality to adopt, etc., runoff programs.](#)

Abstract: Municipal separate storm sewer systems; industrial and high-risk programs. Authorizes any locality that owns or operates a permitted municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) to adopt and administer an industrial and high-risk runoff program. The bill authorizes any such locality to include in its industrial and high-risk program an industrial or commercial facility notwithstanding the fact that the facility is also subject to certain permits or the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The bill limits the ability of the State Water Control Board (the Board), unless it is required to do so by federal law, to impose certain regulatory conditions on any locality that administers such a program, and it prohibits the Board from modifying existing MS4 permits to avoid ...

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources - 02/07/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Medium

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** This is a cooperative bill with VAMWA. The bill eliminates duplicative regulations on industrial permit holders in MS4 regions.



Number: VA [R] HB 1006 - Updated (Text 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Kathy Byron (REP-VA)

Title: [Labor market information; transfer of administration from Virginia Employment Commission.](#)

Abstract: Labor market information; Virginia Board of Workforce Development. Requires the Virginia Board of Workforce Development (Board) to advise and oversee the development of a strategic workforce dashboard and tools that will provide information on issues state and regional labor market conditions, the relationship between the supply and demand for workers, workforce program outcomes, and projected employment growth or decline. The measure also directs the Board, with support from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), to determine and publish a list of jobs, trades, and professions for which high demand for qualified workers exists or is projected. The measure deletes a provision requiring the VEC to determine and publish such a list of jobs, trades, and professions.

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology - 02/06/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Product of Virginia Board of Workforce Development. Labor Market Information group is necessary for the Board to fulfill its performance and accountability mission in tracking and maintaining occupational and workforce data as well as reducing

local/regional overlapping/duplicative services.



Number: VA [R] HB 1276 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. T. Scott Garrett (REP-VA)

Title: [Highways, Commissioner of; authorized to enroll in or withdraw from any federal pilot programs.](#)

Abstract: Commissioner of Highways; federal pilot programs. Authorizes the Commissioner of Highways to enroll in or withdraw from any federal pilot program or project for the collection and study of data for the review of truck weights and the impact of such vehicles on federal or state roadway safety, infrastructure sustainability, congestion mitigation, transportation system efficiency, or capacity challenges.

Status: [House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1276H1 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Medium

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Improved transportation efficiency is critical to MFG competitiveness, fuel reduction and carbon reduction. This initiative may result in moving truck weights from 80,000 lbs. to 91,000 lbs.



Number: VA [R] HB 1475 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Charles Poindexter (REP-VA)

Title: [Sewerage systems; state adoption of federal criteria.](#)

Abstract: Sewerage systems; state adoption of federal criteria. Directs the State Water Control Board (the Board) not to adopt certain U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) freshwater ammonia water quality criteria (the Criteria) unless the Board includes in such adoption a phased implementation program consistent with the federal Clean Water Act that includes consideration of infrastructure needs of the local community and several other factors. The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Quality to (i) identify any other states that have adopted the Criteria as of July 1, 2018; (ii) identify those procedures for the implementation of the Criteria that will minimize the impact of such implementation on Virginia sewerage systems while complying with the Clean Water Act; and (iii) ...

Status: [House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1475H1 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.**



Number: VA [R] HB 1608 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Charles Poindexter (REP-VA)

Title: [Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund; publicly owned treatment works, nutrient reduction.](#)

Abstract: The Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund; publicly owned treatment works; nutrient reduction. Authorizes the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) to issue grants from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund for water quality improvements, including cost effective technologies to reduce loads of total phosphorus, total nitrogen, or nitrogen-containing ammonia, in order to meet certain requirements of ammonia-related regulations that are more stringent than those adopted by the State Water Control Board (the Board). The bill also requires the Department to prepare a preliminary estimate of the amount and timing of Water Quality Improvement Grants required to fund projects to reduce loads of nitrogen-containing ammonia at certain levels based on an ...

Status: [House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1608H1 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.**



Number: VA [R] HB 1530 - Updated (Text, Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Glenn Davis (REP-VA)

Title: [High schools; awarding student a diploma of achievement, etc.](#)

Abstract: High school diplomas; options. Provides that, except in the case of high school students who are eligible for the Applied Studies diploma, each high school student who has met the requirements for graduation prescribed by the Board of Education and the local school board shall be awarded a diploma of achievement or a diploma of achievement with a foreign language endorsement. Under current law and Board of Education regulations, each high school student who has met the requirements for graduation is required to be awarded a standard diploma or an advanced studies diploma.

Status: [House: Engrossed by House - floor substitute HB1530H2 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Bill directs Board of Education in cooperation with the VA Board of Workforce Development to develop a plan for reducing the stigma of CTE education and degrees.



Number: VA [R] HB 1552 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Matthew James (DEM-VA)

Title: [Workforce Development, Virginia Board of; establishes two-year pilot program.](#)

Abstract: Virginia Board of Workforce Development; pilot program. Directs the Virginia Board of Workforce Development to establish a two-year workforce training pilot program designed to enhance the ability of underserved populations of fiscally stressed localities in the Commonwealth to enter or reenter the workforce.

Status: [House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1552H1 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Low

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Directs the VA Board of Workforce Development to *measurably*

improve the performance of federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (P.L. [113-128](#)) Title 1 Youth programs so they lead to improved employability and the development of skills to enter the workforce in a high-demand field.



Number: VA [R] HJ 98 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)
Sponsor: Del. Kathy Byron (REP-VA)
Title: [Business property; Department of Taxation to study appeals concerning valuation.](#)
Abstract: Department of Taxation; appeals concerning valuation of business property; report. Directs the Department of Taxation to study and make recommendations on the appeals process for valuation of real and personal property of businesses.
Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Rules - 02/12/2018](#)
Position: Support
Priority: High
Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Over 9 jurisdictions have now forced manufacturers to circuit court and the VA Supreme Court to seek relief in disputes involving the valuation of real and tangible personal property. This costs millions of wasted private and public dollars. There should be an administrative appeals process within the Virginia Department of Taxation or an alternative that would expedite cooperation among all parties. Virginia ranks 36 in the US for capital investments from the manufacturing sector. It is a direct correlation to Virginia's anti-competitive tax policies involving capital investment.



Number: VA [R] SB 218 - Updated (Status 01/23/2018)
Sponsor: Sen. Lynwood Lewis (DEM-VA)
Title: [Recycling; clarifies definitions of beneficial use and recycling center, etc.](#)
Abstract: Defines "beneficial use," "beneficiation facility," and "recycling center" and provides that a beneficiation facility or recycling center shall be considered a manufacturer for the purpose of any state or local economic development incentive grant. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) to encourage and support beneficial use; current law requires the Department to encourage and support litter control and recycling. The bill also directs the Department to provide to the General Assembly by November 1, 2019, an evaluation of Virginia's solid waste recycling rates and a set of recommendations for improving the reliability of the supply of recycled materials during the next 10 years in order to provide for beneficial use.
Status: [House: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources - 01/23/2018](#)
Position: Support
Priority: High
Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Recycle VA! coalition bill to codify beneficial use for industrial uses and treat beneficiation facilities and recycling centers as manufacturers for economic development purposes. DEQ will conduct an assessment by 2019 that will identify how to improve recycling rates over the next 10 years.



Number: VA [R] SB 340 - Updated (Text, Status 01/23/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Mark Peake (REP-VA)

Title: [Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund; publicly owned treatment works, nutrient reduction.](#)

Abstract: Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund; publicly owned treatment works; nutrient reduction. Authorizes the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality to distribute grants from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund for cost effective technologies to reduce nutrient loads of total phosphorus, total nitrogen, or nitrogen-containing ammonia subsequent to satisfaction of nutrient reductions of regulations, permits, or the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality to prepare a preliminary estimate of the amount and timing of Water Quality Improvement Grants required to fund projects to reduce loads of nitrogen-containing ammonia at certain levels based on an estimate of the anticipated range of costs for all ...

Status: [House: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources - 01/23/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Cooperative effort with VMWA. Important to Chesapeake Bay water quality and cost-affordable ammonia regulation wastewater treatment facilities (public and private). This is part of the VMA's long-term commitment to affordable water quality regulation and infrastructure.



Number: VA [R] SB 344 - Updated (Status 02/02/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Mark Peake (REP-VA)

Title: [Sewerage systems; state adoption of federal criteria, ammonia.](#)

Abstract: Sewerage systems; state adoption of federal criteria. Directs the State Water Control Board not to adopt certain U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) freshwater ammonia water quality criteria (the Criteria) unless the Board includes in such adoption a phased implementation program consistent with the federal Clean Water Act with certain funding and timing considerations. The bill also directs the Department of Environmental Quality to (i) identify any other states that have adopted the Criteria as of July 1, 2018; (ii) identify those procedures for the implementation of the Criteria that will minimize the impact of such implementation on Virginia sewerage systems while complying with the Clean Water Act; and (iii) report its findings to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee...

Status: [House: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources - 01/23/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Cooperative effort with VMWA. Part of the long-term commitment to affordable water quality improvements.



VA [R] SB 401 - Updated (Status 02/14/2018)

Number:

Sponsor: Sen. Lynwood Lewis (DEM-VA)

Title: [Sixth grade science; Department of Education, et al., shall update curriculum.](#)

Abstract: Department of Environmental Quality; Department of Education; grade six science curriculum. Directs the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Education to update the ""Window into a Green Virginia"" curriculum developed by the Departments for sixth grade science to include a unit on the benefits, including the energy benefits, of recycling and reuse.

Status: [Senate: Passed Senate \(38-Y 2-N\) - 02/13/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Companion bill to SB218 and work product of VMA and VA Retail Federation's Recycle VA! initiative.



Number: VA [R] SB 504 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Charles Carrico (REP-VA)

Title: [Highways, Commissioner of; authorized to enroll in or withdraw from any federal pilot programs.](#)

Abstract: Commissioner of Highways; federal pilot programs. Authorizes the Commissioner of Highways to enroll in or withdraw from any federal pilot program or project for the collection and study of data for the review of truck weights and the impact of such vehicles on federal or state roadway safety, infrastructure sustainability, congestion mitigation, transportation system efficiency, or capacity challenges.

Status: [Senate: Passed by for the day - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Medium

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** Improved transportation efficiency is critical to MFG competitiveness, fuel reduction and carbon reduction. Pilot may allow for truck weights to be increased from 80,000 lbs. to 91,000 lbs.



Number: VA [R] SB 637 - Updated (Text, Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (REP-VA)

Title: [Virginia Longitudinal Data System; workforce data.](#)

Abstract: Virginia Longitudinal Data System; workforce data. Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), through the Virginia Longitudinal Data System, to report additional information regarding the alignment of postsecondary education and workforce in the Commonwealth. The bill also directs the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia Employment Commission, and the Department of Taxation to cooperate with SCHEV to further assist in the collection and sharing of data regarding workforce analysis.

Status: [Senate: Printed as engrossed 18103236D-E - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Priority Bill.** This will enable Virginia to demonstrate the pre and post wage

benefits of industry credential attainment in the community college system and compare and contrast it to degree attainment in the higher education system in general. The resulting data will substantiate greater investments or realignment of resources into industry credential attainment.



Number: VA [R] SB 936 - Updated (Status 02/10/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Frank Wagner (REP-VA)

Title: [Standards of Achievement Career and Technical Education Committee; established.](#)

Abstract: Standards of Achievement Career and Technical Education Committee; established. Directs the Board of Education to establish the Standards of Achievement Career and Technical Education Committee (Committee) to make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Board of Education to facilitate the development of career and technical education Standards of Achievement, including accreditation standards, assessment testing, and course content and curriculum for participating schools, with a focus on (i) rigorous standards and course content and curriculum that align workforce skills with industry-recognized standards; (ii) robust business and industry engagement and responsiveness to labor market needs; (iii) strategies to remove the stigma from career and technical education, including ...

Status: [Senate: Continued to 2019 in Education and Health \(15-Y 0-N\) - 02/08/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: VMA Priority Bill.



Number: VA [R] SB 960 - Updated (Status 02/08/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. David Suetterlein (REP-VA)

Title: [High School to Work Partnerships; establishment, exemptions.](#)

Abstract: High School to Work Partnerships; establishment; exemptions. Permits each local school board to (i) establish High School to Work Partnerships (Partnerships) between public high schools and local businesses to create opportunities for high school students to (a) participate in an apprenticeship, internship, or job shadow program in a variety of trades and skilled labor positions or (b) tour local businesses and meet with owners and employees or (ii) delegate the authority to establish Partnerships to the local school division's career and technical education administrator or his designee, in collaboration with the guidance counselor office of each public high school in the school division. The bill requires such local school boards to educate high school students about opportunities ...

Status: [House: Referred to Committee on Education - 02/08/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: Medium

Notes: VMA Priority Bill.

DEFENSIVE PRIORITY BILLS



Number: VA [R] HB 770 - Updated (Status 02/06/2018)

Sponsor: Del. S. Chris Jones (REP-VA)

Title: [Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority; members of Authority are voting members.](#)

Abstract: Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority. Clarifies (i) that the members of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) Authority appointed by the Governor and the Joint Rules Committee are voting members of the Authority, and (ii) the authority of VEDP to direct the Attorney General to enforce contracts related to the award of economic incentives. The bill increases the number of members on: (i) VEDP's Committee on Business Development and Marketing from nine to 10, and (ii) the Committee on International Trade from eight to nine. The bill also extends to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) the existing closed meeting exemption for discussion of portions of the VEDP strategic, marketing, and operational plans that are exempt from public ...

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance - 02/05/2018](#)

Position: Monitor

Priority: Low

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** Bill expands the VEDP Board's authority to add a member to the Virginia International Trade Committee. The legislature has stalled the formation of the Virginia International Trade Corporation.



Number: VA [R] HB 1087 - Updated (Status 02/09/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Jennifer Boysko (DEM-VA)

Title: [Animal research; alternative test methods, civil penalty.](#)

Abstract: Animal research; alternative test methods; civil penalty. Requires a manufacturer or contract testing facility to use an alternative test method when available. An alternative test method is defined as one which (i) provides information of equivalent or better scientific quality and relevance than animal test methods, (ii) has been identified by a validation body and adopted by the relevant federal agency or program within an agency responsible for regulating the specific product or activity for which the test is being conducted, and (iii) does not use animals, or, when there is no test method available that does not use animals, uses the fewest animals possible and reduces the level of suffering or stress, to the greatest extent possible, of an animal used for testing.

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources - 02/08/2018](#)

Position: Amend

Priority: Medium

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** FDA regulated facilities utilizing approved animal test methods should be exempt.



Number: VA [R] HB 1206 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Benjamin Cline (REP-VA)

Title: [Va. Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; to provide online notice system, Water Control Board.](#)

Abstract: State Water Control Board; Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; online notice system. Directs the State Water Control Board to provide an online system for public notice related to Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits.

Status: [House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1206H1 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Amend
Monitor

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** Bill amended to provide for optional limited content public notice.



Number: VA [R] HB 1270 - Updated (Status 02/10/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Charles Poindexter (REP-VA)

Title: [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; prohibition on participation by Commonwealth.](#)

Abstract: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; prohibition on participation by Commonwealth. Prohibits the Governor or any state agency from adopting any regulation establishing a carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program or bringing about the participation by the Commonwealth in a regional market for the trading of carbon dioxide allowances. The bill provides that the Commonwealth shall be allowed to participate in such a cap-and-trade program if the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia each adopt a resolution that specifically references and approves the regulatory text proposed for adoption by a state agency.

Status: [Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor - 02/08/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** Virginia's CO2 emissions have been dropping for over a decade from 38.4 million tons to 33.9 million tons of CO2 from electric power plants in VA (https://solutions.virginia.gov/pbreports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=vp_OneMeasure&MeasureID=440.0017). VA ranks 13th lowest in the US for Greenhouse Gas emissions. Virginia's emissions are already lower than several RGGI states. Also, RGGI state industrial electricity prices are nearly double those of Virginia. RGGI also returns none of the CO2 auction sales to the ratepayers - it is used to redistribute money through political means. At its core, RGGI is a tax scheme different than any other trading program in the Commonwealth because the funds are not returned to the ratepayer or utility, they are put into a Fund and distributed among various government and non-government programs. RGGI is Northeast tax model legislation that does not recognize past, current or future carbon reductions in the Commonwealth as a percentage of GDP or the Commonwealth's ability to achieve meaningful goals without RGGI.



Number: VA [R] HB 1558 - Updated (Text, Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Del. Terry Kilgore (REP-VA)

Title: [Electric utility regulation; grid modernization, energy efficiency programs.](#)

Abstract: Electric utility regulation. Provides that, in lieu of the biennial review proceedings previously required, Dominion Energy Virginia (DEV) and Appalachian Power (AEP) will be subject to triennial reviews of their rates, terms, and conditions for generation, distribution, and transmission services. The measure advances the termination of the Transitional Rate Period for DEV by two years, to December 31, 2017. The termination of the Transitional Rate Period for AEP remains December 31, 2017. For DEV, the first review after its Transitional Rate Period will be held in 2021, which is one year earlier than currently scheduled. For AEP, the first review after its Transitional Rate Period will be held in 2020, which is unchanged.

Status: [House: Printed as engrossed 18106949D-EH1 - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** VMA Energy Resources Committee, Government Affairs Council, ERC Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors negotiated terms in a revised version of this bill.

Concerns prior to the amendment were:

1. **Frozen Rates.** End electric utility “frozen rates” effective 1/1/18.
2. **Triennial SCC Review.** Amend § 56-585.1. of the Code of Virginia to provide for a fully litigated rate review case before the State Corporation Commission, for both investor owned utilities, on a triennial basis only. Appalachian Power should be allowed to begin its SCC proceeding for test years 2018-2019 in 2020 and every three years thereafter. Dominion Energy’s triennial review should be 2021 with test years being 2018-2020. Further, there should be assurances, legislative or otherwise, that this section of the Code of Virginia is not amended before 2022 by the Virginia General Assembly.
3. **Customer Credits.** Based upon the SCC’s estimates for 2015-2016 and independent estimates of 2017 utility over-earnings, customers in Dominion Energy’s service territory should receive \$176 million in one-time bill credits and \$25 million in an ongoing “industrial retention” bill credit for GS3 & GS4 industrial customers in Dominion Energy’s service territory. In both cases, the VMA prefers the bill credits to be issued through the fuel factor, but would support the “industrial retention” bill credit only being applied through demand.
4. **Federal Tax Savings Pass-Through.** At least \$100 million in annual tax savings should be credited to Dominion Energy customers and at least \$40 million should be credited to Appalachian Power customers subject to future SCC “tax true-up” proceedings that will ensure that 100% of the savings are passed onto customers. This is in response to the reduction in the utilities’ Federal tax liability due to the new federal tax laws.
5. **State Corporation Commission (SCC).** Assuring SCC reviews before and after utility grid transformation investments are undertaken is acceptable assuming that the SCC retains its ability to determine what are “reasonable and prudent” costs. This will protect utilities and ratepayers equally.
6. **Energy Efficiency Program Benefit Cost Tests.** GS3 and GS4 customers, all manufacturers, should be excluded from all energy efficiency program costs. Currently, only GS4 customer are exempt and all others must apply to the utility for exemption. Now that the benefit cost tests have been substantially amended

to widen the aperture for additional programs, all industrials should be entirely excluded.

7. **New Underground Facilities.** These transmission facilities cannot be deemed to provide “system-wide” benefits or to be “cost beneficial” and their associated costs cannot be deemed “reasonable and prudent” without unrestricted SCC oversight. At a minimum, the beneficiaries or customer class served by these facilities should be required to pay the marginal price differential as compared to traditional distribution facilities.
8. **Environmental Costs.** The Rate Impact Model (RIM) benefit cost test should be required of the SCC for approval of “costs associated with projects necessary to comply with state or federal environmental laws, regulations or judicial or administrative orders relating to coal combustion by-product management which the utility does not petition to recover through a rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision 5 e.”
9. **Biomass Riders/Rate Adjustment Clause (RAC).** Moving the current Biomass RAC into base rates will have the practical effect of reducing the effective electricity rate by \$25 million per year through 2021, by virtue of the fact that Dominion Energy’s base rates will not be adjusted until 2021 (after the proposed triennial review). This would be an estimated \$100 million savings to customers. Beyond 2021, it cannot be assumed that base rates will be adjusted down or these costs ignored in the SCC’s triennial review of Dominion Energy’s earnings – these will be regulatory assets earning a Return on Equity established by the SCC.
10. **Customer Credit Reinvestment Offset.** There are serious concerns about this element of the legislation and how it will affect future rate reviews and base rates. It appears to allow for “new utility-owned generation facilities utilizing energy derived from sunlight, or from onshore or offshore wind, or electric distribution grid transformation projects,” as approved by the SCC, to be credited against the utility’s future overearnings, if not approved as a RAC, instead of assuring a refund to customers for overearnings as ordered by the SCC during the triennial review. If overearnings (and refunds) are withheld as a credit against a new asset, then the value of that asset has to be written down by the amount of the credit. Specifically, by adding assets to Base Rates, as proscribed in these bills, one will increase the utility’s earnings, thus, when the SCC finally conducts a review, the allowed earnings will be higher, resulting in lower refunds to customers and a new Base Rate that will be higher than it would have been without the asset added. The solution could be to require that the utility write down an asset and reduce its earnings so that it does not show excess earnings during a triennial review. In other words, it keeps what should have been refunded to customers but it also reduces the value of the asset/costs that were written down.
11. **Aggregation and Competition.** § 56-577 A.3 (a) of the Code of Virginia should allow for individual customers of electric energy, regardless of customer class, whose demand in the most recent calendar year exceeded 5 MW, to purchase competitive electric energy, in accordance with the current statute, without having to provide 5 years’ advance written notice in order to return to the incumbent utility.
12. **Integrated Resource Planning (IRP).** It is recommended that the IRP be filed every two years rather than annually in order to help utilities and the SCC save money.

VMA is satisfied with the compromise and has requested that the VA General Assembly monitor the price of electricity per kWh by rate class and compared to 50 states including the primary sources of fuel.



Number: VA [R] SB 755 - Updated (Text 02/13/2018)
Sponsor: Sen. Glen Sturtevant (REP-VA)
Title: [Pension de-risking; limits subsequent transfers of group annuity contracts.](#)
Abstract: Pension de-risking; annuities. Limits the subsequent transfers of group annuity contracts that are purchased to fund retirement benefits pursuant to a pension de-risking transfer. The measure prohibits such transfers without the prior written approval of the State Corporation Commission. Such approval shall not be granted unless it makes certain findings regarding whether the annuity benefits will continue to be protected under ERISA or by the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and whether the transfer or assignment is made to an insurer that has the financial strength to fulfill its obligations under the annuity contract. The measure also provides that amounts payable to a participant of or beneficiary under such an annuity contract are exempt from the claims of creditors of the ...
Status: [House: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor - 01/31/2018](#)
Position: Oppose
Amend
Priority: High
Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.**



Number: VA [R] SB 807 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)
Sponsor: Sen. Scott Surovell (DEM-VA)
Title: [Electric utilities; rate adjustment clause costs of coal ash beneficiation facility.](#)
Abstract: Electric utilities; rate adjustment clause costs of coal ash beneficiation facility. Authorizes an investor-owned electric utility to petition the State Corporation Commission for approval of rate adjustment clauses for the timely and current recovery from customers of reasonable and prudently incurred costs of constructing coal ash beneficiation facilities capable of processing coal ash to specifications appropriate for cementitious products. The measure provides that a utility that constructs such a facility shall have the right to recover the costs of no more than three such facilities. Construction costs of not more than \$60 million shall be presumed to be reasonable and prudently incurred. The measure bars recovery of such costs prior to the date the facility begins commercial ...
Status: [Senate: Engrossed by Senate - committee substitute SB807S1 - 02/12/2018](#)
Position: Oppose
Amend
Priority: High
Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** The bill is properly amended to require analysis and reporting before construction of such beneficiation facilities and does not impede the SCC's authority to regulate prudent and reasonable costs.



Number: VA [R] SB 922 - Updated (Status 02/10/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Benton Chafin (REP-VA)

Title: [Electric utilities; rates and tariffs.](#)

Abstract: Electric utilities; rates and tariffs. Directs the State Corporation Commission to exclude any debt associated with an electric utility's securitized bonds that are the obligation of non-Virginia jurisdictional customers from the capital structure and cost of capital of the utility when regulating its rates, terms, and conditions of service. The measure also authorizes a utility to request an adjustment to a tariff that is revenue neutral to the utility during a biennial filing that does not result in an overall rate change.

Status: [Senate: Read third time and passed Senate \(39-Y 0-N\) - 02/09/2018](#)

Position: Amend
Monitor

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** This is part of the overall re-regulation of electric utilities to end "frozen rates" and return to a normalized rate-making process.



Number: VA [R] SB 935 - Updated (Status 02/08/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Siobhan Dunnavant (REP-VA)

Title: [Group health benefit plans; bona fide associations.](#)

Abstract: Group health benefit plans; bona fide associations. Replaces references to "'bona fide association,'" as used in provisions applicable to health care plans in the small employer market, with the term "'sponsoring association.'" The measure defines "'sponsoring association'" as a nonstock corporation that, among other conditions, has been actively in existence for 10 years, has at least five members, has been formed for purposes other than obtaining or providing health benefits, and operates as a nonprofit entity.

Status: [House: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor - 02/08/2018](#)

Position: Monitor

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.**



Number: VA [R] SB 966 - Updated (Status 02/10/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Frank Wagner (REP-VA)

Title: [Electric utility regulation; grid modernization, energy efficiency.](#)

Abstract: Electric utility regulation. Provides that, in lieu of the biennial review proceedings previously required, Dominion Energy Virginia (DEV) and Appalachian Power (APCo) will be subject to triennial reviews of their rates, terms, and conditions for generation, distribution, and transmission services. The measure advances the termination of the Transitional Rate Period for DEV by three years, to December 31, 2016. The termination of the Transitional Rate Period for APCo remains December 31, 2017. DEV's first review

after its Transitional Rate Period will be held in 2021, which is one year earlier than currently scheduled, and will utilize the four 12-month test periods beginning January 1, 2017, and ending December 31, 2020. APCo's first review after its Transitional Rate Period will be held ...

Status: [Senate: Read third time and passed Senate \(26-Y 13-N\) - 02/09/2018](#)

Position: Support

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill. See HB1558**



Number: VA [R] SB 971 - Updated (Status 02/13/2018)

Sponsor: Sen. Mark Obenshain (REP-VA)

Title: [Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Plan; Commonwealth Transportation Board to develop.](#)

Abstract: Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Plan. Directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board to develop and adopt an Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement plan and evaluate the feasibility of tolling heavy commercial vehicles to finance corridor improvements.

Status: [Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed \(40-Y 0-N\) - 02/12/2018](#)

Position: Oppose

Priority: High

Notes: **VMA Defensive Priority Bill.** VMA has opposed truck only tolling on I-81 since 2002.