



February 17, 2020

We have now passed crossover and are looking to the end of this Virginia General Assembly session on March 8. This **2020 VMA Legislative Crossover Report** focuses on [74 priority and defensive priority bills](#). The remaining 210 bills and budget items that the VMA is monitoring and managing are available by [clicking here](#).

The new Democratic House and Senate majorities have resulted in more environmental regulation, taxation, energy regulation, workplace regulation, and product bans passing than in previous sessions.

This session has been dominated by challenges to Virginia's Right-to-Work; collective bargaining for public employees; bans on hydrocarbon based fuels, generation and infrastructure development; taxes and regulations on electricity; \$15 minimum wage; mandatory paid family and medical leave; expanded regulation of and cause of action against employers for gender discrimination; gasoline tax increases for central Virginia; workforce development funding; repeal of income tax reform; bans on polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), bisphenol A (BPA) and polystyrene chemistries; taxes on plastics; coal ash impoundment regulation; aboveground chemical storage tank regulation; and the development of advanced recycling resources.

For example, just two bills, HB1526 and SB851 (Virginia Clean Economy Act), include laudable environmental goals, but also establish binary renewable energy technology choices that will make renewable energy unaffordable and result in no better CO2 reductions than any other more affordable renewable alternative. The SCC estimates that these bills will drive electricity costs up a minimum of 16% in just a few short years.

One important aspect of this year's advocacy strategy has been the formation of industry coalitions. The VMA has helped form three important coalitions to work more strategically toward our shared goals. The Coalition for a Strong Virginia Economy is the largest trade association coalition in Virginia. 24 associations have joined together to work on a multi-year strategy to protect everything from Right-to-Work to minimum wage. For more details, [click here](#). The VMA has also helped form the [Coalition for Consumer Choices](#) to work with our retail industry partners to advocate against plastic product bans and educate legislators about the importance of advanced recycling. We have also joined a new group, the Virginia Energy Consumer Coalition, to raise awareness about the importance of affordable and reliable energy.

We will continue to use our new advocacy tools, such as the [VA MFG Economic Impact Portal](#), the [VA MFG Competitiveness Plan](#) and the [VA MFG Competitiveness Index](#), to educate the new leaders of the Virginia General Assembly. We must also ensure that every manufacturer and their employees understand the [Virginia Legislative Competitiveness Scorecard](#) and are motivated to political action.

As *Industry's Advocate*™ since 1922, the VMA has had to shift its political advocacy to a primarily defensive posture, but we will not abandon the vision of making Virginia one of the most competitive states in the U.S. to manufacture world-class products. It is more important than ever to engage employees and supply-chain partners to join us in fighting for the Commonwealth's competitiveness. 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 | 2020 VMA Legislative Crossover Report

The advanced technology industries that make up the manufacturing sector 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. Virginia's historically pro-business climate is waning, and manufacturers must reinforce the importance of international competitiveness. We must advocate for common sense legislation which supports 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. VMA priorities include:

- **Protect Virginia's Right-to-Work**
- **Keep Energy Costs Affordable and Reliable**
- **Stop Mandatory Paid Employee Leave & Employer Cause of Action Regulations**
- **Close the Skills and Career Planning Gaps**
- **Stop Product Bans**
- **Maintain Regulatory Balance**
- **Stop Public Employee Collective Bargaining**

The 2020 Session of the General Assembly convened on January 8th and adjourns March 8th. 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 Wednesday, February 11th.

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 www.vamanufacturers.com to review the "Bill Watch List." 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 MFG Competitiveness Plan](#) in the General Assembly. In total this legislative session, **the VMA monitored and managed 507 bills. Of that total, we continue to monitor and manage 210 bills. Of that total, the VMA has identified 74 as "Priority & Defensive Priority Bills"**. "Priority" bills are those introduced on our behalf, as part of a coalition to which the VMA belongs and/or directly addresses key priorities. "Defensive priority" bills are those bills that require amendment or opposition in order to preserve the VMA's legislative competitiveness agenda.

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, the American Chemistry Council, and NFIB, 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.