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2016 General Assembly Budget Highlights



The budget passed by the General Assembly makes significant investments in critical services and moves Virginia toward correcting several long-standing structural budget deficiencies. Below are the major highlights:

- **K-12 Education** - Increases direct aid for public education by \$892 million over the current biennium. This includes an increase of \$90 million for Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.
- **Higher Education** - Includes \$130 million for colleges and universities to increase access and affordability, and \$40 million for research and economic development.
- **Employee Salaries** - Includes a 3% across-the-board raise for state employees and the state's share of a 2% raise for public school employees.
- **Transportation** - Increases funding for transportation by almost \$1 billion over the biennium, including \$140 million for widening I-66 inside the Beltway from the Dulles Connector to Ballston.
- **Natural Resources** - Provides \$81.7 million for water quality and land conservation efforts.
- **Rainy Day Fund** - Deposits \$605 million into the Rainy Day Fund, which can only be used in the event of an unexpected economic down-turn.
- **Economic Development** - Includes \$35.9 million in funding for the Growth and Opportunity (GO) Virginia economic development initiative.
- **Mental Health** - Provides \$47 million over the biennium for enhanced mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Saturday Morning Coffee with Your Delegate

I am pleased to continue a tradition started eleven years ago. Join me for Saturday morning coffee from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** on the dates below. Constituents can stop by to ask a question, discuss an issue, or just find out what is going on in the General Assembly.

September 17th at Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, Fairfax
October 22nd at Jireh Cafe, 13848 Lee Highway, Centreville
December 3rd at Main Street Bagel

Watch for details or changes at www.davidbulova.com



Delegate David Bulova

Report from Richmond

News from the 2016 Virginia General Assembly



Dear 37th District Resident,

It is an honor to represent you in the Virginia House of Delegates. One of my most important jobs is to keep you informed about the decisions being made in the General Assembly and to make it easy for you to share your ideas.

Inside you will find a selection of some of the new laws passed this year that will affect our community. These include redesign of high school graduation requirements, the Growth and Opportunity (GO) Virginia economic development initiative, compromise legislation on firearms, proposed amendments to the Virginia constitution, and many other initiatives. Also hotly debated was the proposed tolls on I-66 inside the Beltway.

My legislative agenda included HB407, which ensures that **HOV lanes on I-66** both inside and outside of the Beltway are not prematurely switched from HOV-2 to HOV-3 for the purpose of tolling. The bill has been signed by the Governor. I also introduced HB1374 to require the **widening of I-66 inside the Beltway** from the Dulles Connector to Ballston. While my specific bill did not pass, the concept was successfully included as a \$140 million amendment to the budget. In all, I introduced 13 bills, seven of which passed the General Assembly.

As a member of the House Education Committee, one of the most important bills I had the opportunity to work on was HB895. This bill directs the Board of Education to **redesign high school graduation requirements** and gives them flexibility to comprehensively reexamine how student achievement is assessed. The process, which will start with the development of a "Portrait of a Virginia High School Graduate," is expected to occur over the next two years and will include rigorous public input.

The General Assembly also adopted the biennial budget, which must be balanced in accordance with Virginia's constitution. The budget includes additional funding for K-12 education, higher education, economic development, individuals with disabilities, water quality improvement, and state employee salary increases. I am particularly pleased that the **biennial budget includes more than \$90 million in additional education funding** for Fairfax County and Fairfax City.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss a specific issue or share an idea!

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2016 General Assembly Legislation



Over 780 laws were passed during the 2016 General Assembly session. Most went into effect on July 1st. The following is a brief summary of just some of the legislation that is likely to affect the daily lives of people in our community.

EDUCATION

High School Redesign (HB895). Directs the Board of Education, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to redesign high school graduation requirements based on a new "Profile of a Virginia Graduate." The profile will identify the knowledge and skills that students should attain during high school, including critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship. The first two years of high school will emphasize the development of core skill sets. Students will then have multiple pathways toward college and/or careers that include internships, externships, and credentialing. The changes will begin with the class of freshmen entering high school in 2018.

Physical Activity in Elementary School (HB357). Requires children in Virginia's elementary schools to have an average of at least 100 minutes per week of physical activity.

Social Media Accounts (SB438). Prohibits a public or private college or university from requiring a student to disclose the password of a personal social media account. The law does not affect accounts or services provided by a college.

VOTING

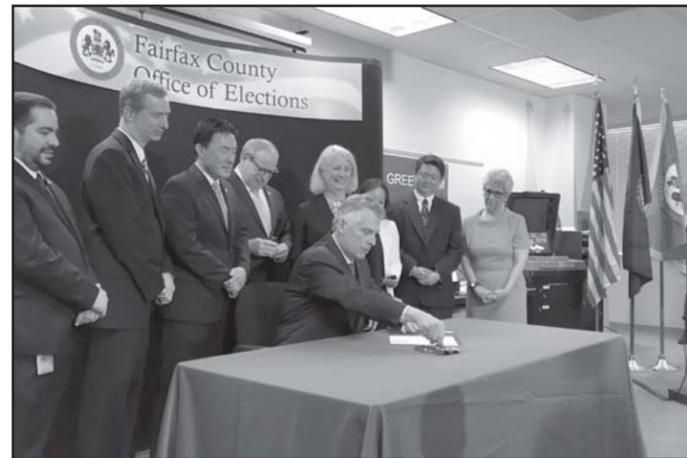
Polling Place Procedures (HB1223). Allows a voter to give his/her name and legal address in writing when checking in at a polling place. Previously, a voter was required to give the information verbally.

Constitutional Amendment (HJ2). Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia prohibiting any agreement where membership in a union is made a condition of employment. This concept, known as Right-to-Work, has been the law in Virginia since 1947. The measure will be on the ballot for consideration by the voters this November.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Dating Violence Education (HB659). Requires high school family life education to incorporate age-appropriate information on the prevention of dating violence.

Legal Age for Marriage (HB703). Limits marriage to individuals 18 years or older by eliminating exceptions that allow marriage starting at age 16 (or earlier in the case of pregnancy) with the consent of the parent. The bill creates new rules for emancipation of 16 and 17 year olds who wish to marry.



Bill Signing for HB1223 at the Fairfax County Government Center

Physical Evidence Recovery Kits (HB655). Requires storage of physical evidence recovery kits for no less than five years even if the victim does not wish to submit the kit as evidence at the time. This change keeps the option open for the victim to pursue prosecution in the future.

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Tolling Notification (HB1069). Requires the Department of Transportation to allow E-ZPass account holders to provide an email or phone number and to electronically notify account holders of a toll violation. The law lengthens, from 30 to 60

days, the time period before the administrative fee increases from \$25 to \$100 for all toll violations. The law also provides for a 10-day grace period for unpaid tolls and requires toll operators to attempt to process and collect unpaid tolls twice during such period.

Smoking in a Vehicle with a Child (HB1348). Provides that any person who smokes in a motor vehicle when a minor under the age of eight is in the vehicle is subject to a civil penalty of \$100. The violation is a secondary offense.

Opening Motor Vehicle Doors (SB117). Requires a driver to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open the doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic. A violation constitutes a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Structured Settlement Protection Act (HB52). Provides new protections for victims of predatory settlement purchasers. The measure requires the purchaser and the payee to appear in the circuit court where the payee lives. This change will help ensure that predatory companies that purchase structured settlements cannot take advantage of the payee and that the payee understands the details of the settlement.

Advance Disclosure for Elective Procedures (HB905). Requires every hospital to furnish a patient scheduled for an elective procedure, test, or service to be performed by a hospital with an estimate of the payment amount for which the participant will be responsible. The patient must request the information at least three days in advance of the date of when the procedure is scheduled to be performed.

Fantasy Contests Act (HB775). Formally legalizes daily fantasy contests like FanDuel and DraftKings. The law establishes a system of state-run audits and consumer protections. Virginia is the first state in the nation to pass comprehensive regulation on fantasy sports contests.

FIREARMS

Three bills were passed together as part of a larger deal concerning firearms. **HB1163** allows the holder of an out-of-state concealed handgun permit to carry a concealed handgun in Virginia provided that the person is at least 21 years of age, the other state has a 24-hour-a-day means of verifying their permits, the person carries a government-issued photo identification, and the person has not previously had a Virginia concealed handgun permit revoked.

HB1386 requires the State Police to be available to perform voluntary background checks at all firearms shows in Virginia. Previously, only about 70% of firearms shows had State Police

available to perform background checks. **HB1391** provides that anyone subject to a permanent restraining order cannot possess or purchase a firearm.

BUSINESS

GO Virginia (HB834). Creates the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and establishes a regional approach to investing in workforce and small business development. Regional boards will be made up of local business leaders and government officials, and will be responsible for issuing grants to grow and diversify Virginia's economy.

Airbnb (HB812). Instructs the Virginia Housing Commission to study the impact of regulating and taxing short-term rentals in residential areas at the state level. This would affect companies like Airbnb. Any recommendations would need to be passed during the 2017 General Assembly.

Stay Informed

By signing up for my "Focus on Fairfax" electronic newsletter you can keep up to date on what is happening in Richmond and learn about special events such as **Constituent Day** at the General Assembly.



For more information or to sign up visit www.davidbulova.com.

Tax Holiday

Tax-Free Shopping for Back-to-School Supplies and Energy and Water Conservation Products

August 5-7, 2016

For more information go to www.tax.virginia.gov

David's Voting Record

My voting record is how I am accountable to you. Use the following link to see how I voted on all bills introduced in 2016 <http://services.dlas.virginia.gov/webservices/frmLISVotIng1.aspx>.