

VIRGINIA
CHAMBER

THE VOICE of BUSINESS

2014 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & REPORT CARD





FROM BLUEPRINT TO ACTION

I am pleased to present the Virginia Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Legislative Report Card, the Virginia General Assembly's voting record on key business issues. In the following pages, we report on legislators support for initiatives that will help move Virginia forward and provide analysis of a legislator's support for the business community's priorities as outlined in Blueprint Virginia: A Business Plan for the Commonwealth.

During the past eighteen months, the Virginia Chamber worked with over 7,000 business and community leaders from around the state to develop Blueprint Virginia, a comprehensive initiative to provide business leadership, direction and long-range economic development planning for Virginia. Blueprint Virginia also serves as the Virginia Chamber's legislative agenda. To ensure a competitive business climate, Blueprint Virginia outlines fundamental principles for success in key areas such as education, workforce training, economic development, transportation, health care, technology and innovation, energy, manufacturing, environment and military and veterans affairs.

During the 2014 session, over 2,800 bills were introduced in the General Assembly. The Virginia Chamber of Commerce was active and involved in many bills, and provided legislators with a weekly "Bills We're Watching" report delineating the Chamber's position on the business community's most important issues. In the 2014 session, Virginia made great strides in advancing early childhood education, making the business climate more competitive, improving our transportation infrastructure using innovative technologies and making Virginia a more veteran-friendly state.

The Legislative Report Card is a valuable tool for identifying legislators who uphold free market principles and support the interests of the business community. With the strong support of pro-business legislators, we can continue to strengthen Virginia's business climate and help keep Virginia as the Best State for Business.

Barry DuVal
President & CEO

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR



DELEGATE TERRY KILGORE
1ST DISTRICT

The Virginia Chamber's 2014 Legislator of the Year Award is presented to the business community's premier legislator whom exemplifies outstanding leadership in support of pro-business issues. **The award recognizes a leader for distinguished advocacy of the free enterprise system.**

For his leadership in 2014, the Legislator of the Year Award was presented to Delegate Terry Kilgore. During the General Assembly session, Delegate Kilgore led the fight to strengthen Virginia's economy and establish predictability and stability with Virginia's business climate.

Under his leadership and through his role as Chairman of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, Delegate Kilgore played an integral role in advancing a pro-business legislative agenda. From protection of intellectual property and advancements in workforce development, to defending job creation by opposing increases to the cost of hiring and retaining workers, Delegate Kilgore worked to ensure Virginia remains competitive and attractive to current and future businesses.

FRESHMAN LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR



DELEGATE GLENN DAVIS

As each election brings new faces and new ideas and as candidates become legislators, it is challenging to predetermine how a newly elected official will side on business issues. In difficult economic times, Virginia businesses need their elected officials to make decisions that will help grow the private sector and create jobs. This year, the Virginia Chamber presents the Freshman Legislator of the Year Award to the freshman legislator who played a significant role in promoting pro-growth legislation and policies at the State Capitol. There is no mistaking the voting record and the leadership exhibited by Delegate Glenn Davis. As a small businessman and entrepreneur, Delegate Davis understands the needs of businesses. During his first term, Delegate Davis worked collaboratively with the business community to champion pro-business policies and initiatives. The Virginia Chamber is grateful for Delegate Davis' commitment to the free enterprise system and we look forward to continuing to work with him, as well as other pro-business legislators, to build the most business-friendly environment in the nation.

BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD



DELEGATE DAVID RAMADAN

The Virginia Chamber appreciates the many pro-business legislators who do an exceptional job advocating for policies that improve Virginia's overall business climate and economic competitiveness. This year, the Virginia Chamber would like to recognize Delegate David Ramadan with the Business Advocate of the Year Award for his commitment and outstanding advocacy for the business community. Last year and during the 2014 General Assembly session, Delegate Ramadan worked tirelessly to improve government efficiency, and he championed many issues important to the business community.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD



DELEGATES TAG GREASON, CHRIS PEACE, ROB KRUPICKA AND KATHY BYRON



Virginia's economic well-being is inextricably linked to the education and skills of its citizens. Many Virginia employers are faced with an insufficient supply of educated workers because of gaps in skills and training. It is imperative that the educational system--beginning with early childhood education programs, including K-12 education and continuing with workforce training initiatives--are aligned with the skill requirements and workforce needs of businesses. The Excellence in Education and Workforce Training Award recognizes legislators who worked to improve the quality of education and workforce training in Virginia. The Virginia Chamber recognizes Delegate Tag Greason for his work on SOL reform, Virtual Virginia and the teacher career ladder program; Delegates Chris Peace and Rob Krupicka for their efforts to promote early childhood education; and Delegate Kathy Byron for her work to streamline and strengthen the Commonwealth's workforce development system with the Excellence in Education and Workforce Development Award.

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AWARD



SENATORS GEORGE BARKER, BILL STANLEY, DELEGATE BARBARA COMSTOCK AND SENATOR RYAN MCDOUGLE

Forbes Magazine has once again recognized Virginia as the best state for business. The Commonwealth has long been regarded for its business climate. However, to remain economically competitive, Virginia must continually strengthen and expand the state's economy. The Economic Competitiveness Award recognizes legislators who worked to improve Virginia's business climate. This year, the Virginia Chamber recognizes Senators George Barker and Bill Stanley for their collaboration on the creation of a work-share program that helps Virginia employers avoid layoffs and retain skilled employees; and Delegate Barbara Comstock and Senator McDougle for their efforts to strengthen Virginia's research and development tax credit which will promote private sector research activity and industry-sponsored research at Virginia universities.

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVOCATE AWARD



DELEGATE KIRK COX, SENATORS MAMIE LOCKE AND FRANK WAGNER

The military plays a vital role in the nation's safety and security. It also spurs economic growth and job creation. The military has partnered with the business community to create new service industries and help develop new technologies. The Virginia Chamber appreciates the sacrifices that our military men and women and their families make every day. While our military men and women do not ask for anything in return for their service, it is important that the business community and the state support policies that secure our freedoms, improve the lives of America's military and their families, and promotes employment opportunities for our veterans. The Military and Veterans Affairs Advocate Award recognizes General Assembly members who have gone above and beyond to advocate for our military, veterans and their families. The Virginia Chamber would like to acknowledge Delegate Kirk Cox and Senators Mamie Locke and Frank Wagner for their professional and personal dedication toward strengthening the ties between the business community and the military and for promoting job opportunities for veterans.

TRANSPORTATION REFORM ADVOCATE AWARD



DELEGATES CHRIS PEACE, CHRIS STOLLE, RON VILLANUEVA AND SPEAKER BILL HOWELL

Virginia's transportation infrastructure is vital to the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness. Last year, the General Assembly passed a landmark transportation funding bill to address the Commonwealth's critical infrastructure needs. Now that Virginia will have long-term, dedicated and sustainable revenue to spend on transportation improvements and investments, how will the Commonwealth make sure such funds are spent wisely? The Virginia Chamber would like to recognize Delegates Chris Peace, Chris Stolle and Ron Villanueva and Speaker Bill Howell with the Transportation Reform Advocate Award for promoting policies that ensure funds for Virginia's multimodal transportation system are dedicated to providing a safe, reliable and efficient transportation network that supports business development and growth, and enhances mobility, reduces congestion and incorporates innovative smart road technologies.

CHAMPIONS OF FREE ENTERPRISE



SEN. CHARLES W. CARRICO, SR.



SEN. EMMETT W. HANGER, JR.



SEN. JOHN A. COSGROVE



SEN. RYAN T. MCDUGLE



SEN. THOMAS A. GARRETT, JR.

2014 SENATE REPORT CARD

Member Name	Party	City/County	%	Grade
Kenneth C. Alexander	D	Norfolk	84	B
George L. Barker	D	Alexandria	88	B+
Richard H. Black	R	Leesburg	94	A
Charles W. Carrico, Sr.	R	Galax	100	A+
Charles J. Colgan	D	Manassas	94	A
John A. Cosgrove, Jr.	R	Chesapeake	100	A+
R. Creigh Deeds	D	Charlottesville	94	A
Adam P. Ebbin	D	Alexandria	66	D
John S. Edwards	D	Roanoke	88	B+
Barbara A. Favola	D	Arlington	88	B+
Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.	R	Hadensville	100	A+
Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.	R	Mount Solon	100	A+
Janet D. Howell	D	Reston	90	A-
Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.	D	Accomac	88	B+
Mamie E. Locke	D	Hampton	90	A-
L. Louise Lucas	D	Portsmouth	94	A
David W. Marsden	D	Burke	84	B
Henry L. Marsh, III	D	Richmond	94	A
Stephen H. Martin	R	Chesterfield	88	B+
Ryan T. McDougle	R	Mechanicsville	100	A+

RECEIVED AN A GRADE

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THEY VOTED

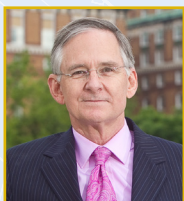
CHAMPIONS OF FREE ENTERPRISE



SEN. JEFFREY L. MCWATERS



SEN. WALTER A. STOSCH



SEN. THOMAS K. NORMENT, JR.



SEN. RICHARD H. STUART



SEN. BRYCE E. REEVES



SEN. JILL HOLTZMAN VOGEL



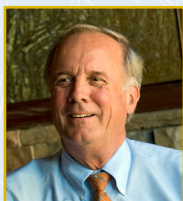
SEN. FRANK M. RUFF, JR.



SEN. FRANK W. WAGNER



RALPH K. SMITH



SEN. JOHN C. WATKINS

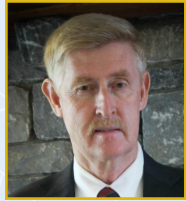
2014 SENATE REPORT CARD

Member Name	Party	City/County	%	Grade
A. Donald McEachin	D	Richmond	76	C
Jeffrey L. McWaters	R	Virginia Beach	100	A+
John C. Miller	D	Newport News	94	A
Stephen D. Newman	R	Forest	94	A
Thomas K. Norment, Jr.	R	Williamsburg	100	A+
Mark D. Obenshain	R	Harrisonburg	88	B+
J. Chapman Petersen	D	Fairfax	78	C+
Phillip P. Puckett	D	Tazewell	88	B+
Linda T. Puller	D	Mount Vernon	94	A
Bryce E. Reeves	R	Fredericksburg	100	A+
Frank M. Ruff, Jr.	R	Clarksville	100	A+
Richard L. Saslaw	D	Springfield	88	B+
Ralph K. Smith	R	Roanoke	100	A+
William M. Stanley, Jr.	R	Moneta	94	A
Walter A. Stosch	R	Glen Allen	100	A+
Richard H. Stuart	R	Montross	100	A+
Jill Holtzman Vogel	R	Winchester	100	A+
Frank W. Wagner	R	Virginia Beach	100	A+
John C. Watkins	R	Midlothian	100	A+
Jennifer T. Wexton	D	Leesburg	94	A

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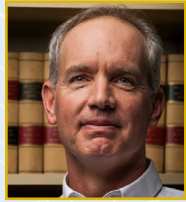
CHAMPIONS OF FREE ENTERPRISE



DEL. TERRY L. AUSTIN



DEL. A. BENTON CHAFIN, JR.



DEL. ROBERT S. BLOXOM, JR.



DEL. BARBARA J. COMSTOCK



DEL. KATHY J. BYRON



DEL. M. KIRKLAND COX

2014 HOUSE REPORT CARD

Member Name	Party	City/County	%	Grade
Leslie R. Adams	R	Chatham	88	B+
David B. Albo	R	Springfield	94	A
Richard L. Anderson	R	Woodbridge	98	A+
Terry L. Austin	R	Buchanan	100	A+
Mamye E. BaCote	D	Newport News	94	A
Richard P. Bell	R	Staunton	88	B+
Robert B. Bell	R	Charlottesville	94	A
Mark J. Berg	R	Winchester	82	B-
Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.	R	Mappsville	100	A+
Robert H. Brink	D	Arlington	88	B+
David L. Bulova	D	Fairfax Station	88	B+
Kathy J. Byron	R	Lynchburg	100	A+
Jeffrey L. Campbell	R	Marion	90	A-
Betsy B. Carr	D	Richmond	88	B+
A. Benton Chafin, Jr.	R	Lebanon	100	A+
Benjamin L. Cline	R	Amherst	94	A
Mark L. Cole	R	Fredericksburg	70	C-
Barbara J. Comstock	R	McLean	100	A+
M. Kirkland Cox	R	Colonial Heights	100	A+
Rosalyn R. Dance	D	Petersburg	94	A

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DEL. WILLIAM R. DESTEPH, JR.



DEL. GORDON C. HELSEL, JR.



DEL. PETER F. FARRELL



DEL. M. KEITH HODGES



DEL. HYLAND F. (BUDDY) FOWLER, JR.



SPEAKER WILLIAM J. HOWELL



DEL. T. SCOTT GARRETT

2014 HOUSE REPORT CARD

Member Name	Party	City/County	%	Grade
Glenn R. Davis, Jr.	R	Virginia Beach	94	A
William R. DeSteph, Jr.	R	Virginia Beach	100	A+
James E. Edmunds, II	R	Halifax	96	A
C. Matthew Fariss	R	Rustburg	90	A-
Peter F. Farrell	R	Richmond	100	A+
Eileen Filler-Corn	D	Springfield	88	B+
Hyland F. (Buddy) Fowler, Jr.	R	Glen Allen	100	A+
Michael T. Futrell	D	Dumfries	90	A-
T. Scott Garrett	R	Lynchburg	100	A+
C. Todd Gilbert	R	Woodstock	94	A
Thomas A. (Tag) Greason	R	Lansdowne	94	A
Gregory D. Habeeb	R	Salem	94	A
Christopher T. Head	R	Roanoke	94	A
Gordon C. Helsel, Jr.	R	Poquoson	100	A+
Charniele L. Herring	D	Alexandria	66	D
Daun Sessoms Hester	D	Norfolk	86	B
M. Keith Hodges	R	Urbanna	100	A+
Patrick A. Hope	D	Arlington	70	C-
Algje T. Howell, Jr.	D	Norfolk	88	B+
William J. Howell	R	Fredericksburg	100	A+

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2014 HOUSE REPORT CARD



DEL. TIMOTHY D. HUGO



DEL. R. STEVEN LANDES



DEL. RILEY E. INGRAM



DEL. JAMES A. LEFTWICH, JR.



DEL. S. CHRIS JONES



DEL. L. SCOTT LINGAMFELTER



DEL. TERRY G. KILGORE



DEL. DANIEL W. MARSHALL, III



DEL. BARRY D. KNIGHT



DEL. T. MONTGOMERY MASON

Member Name	Party	City/County	%	Grade
Timothy D. Hugo	R	Centreville	100	A+
Riley E. Ingram	R	Hopewel	100	A+
Matthew James	D	Portsmouth	80	B-
Johnny S. Joannou	D	Portsmouth	96	A
S. Chris Jones	R	Suffolk	100	A+
Mark L. Keam	D	Vienna	90	A-
Terry G. Kilgore	R	Gate City	100	A+
Barry D. Knight	R	Virginia Beach	100	A+
Kaye Kory	D	Falls Church	84	B
K. Robert Krupicka, Jr.	D	Alexandria	84	B
R. Steven Landes	R	Verona	100	A+
David A. LaRock	R	Hamilton	94	A
James A. Leftwich, Jr.	R	Chesapeake	100	A+
James M. LeMunyon	R	Chantilly	90	A-
L. Scott Lingamfelter	R	Woodbridge	100	A+
Alfonso H. Lopez	D	Arlington	84	B
G. M. (Manoli) Loupassi	R	Richmond	98	A+
Daniel W. Marshall, III	R	Danville	100	A+
Robert G. Marshall	R	Manassas	96	A
T. Montgomery Mason	D	Williamsburg	100	A+

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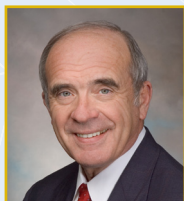
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THEY VOTED

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DEL. JAMES P. (JIMMIE) MASSIE, III



DEL. CHARLES D. POINDEXTER



DEL. JOHN M. O'BANNON, III



DEL. DAVID I. RAMADAN



DEL. ROBERT D. ORROCK, SR.



DEL. ROXANN L. ROBINSON



DEL. CHRISTOPHER K. PEACE



DEL. NICK RUSH

2014 HOUSE REPORT CARD

Member Name	Party	City/County	%	Grade
James P. (Jimmie) Massie, III	R	Richmond	100	A+
Jennifer L. McClellan	D	Richmond	94	A
Delores L. McQuinn	D	Richmond	94	A
Jackson H. Miller	R	Manassas	98	A+
J. Randall Minchew	R	Leesburg	94	A
James W. (Will) Morefield	R	North Tazewell	94	A
Richard L. Morris	R	Carrollton	94	A
Joseph D. Morrissey	D	Richmond	78	C+
John M. O'Bannon, III	R	Richmond	100	A+
Israel D. O'Quinn	R	Bristol	96	A
Robert D. Orrock, Sr.	R	Thornburg	100	A+
Christopher K. Peace	R	Mechanicsville	100	A+
Kenneth R. Plum	D	Reston	78	C+
Brenda L. Pogge	R	Norge	98	A+
Charles D. Poindexter	R	Glade Hill	100	A+
David I. Ramadan	R	Dulles	100	A+
Margaret B. Ransone	R	Kinsale	88	B+
Sam Rasoul	D	Roanoke	88	B+
Roxann L. Robinson	R	Richmond	100	A+
L. Nick Rush	R	Christiansburg	100	A+

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2014 HOW THEY VOTED

CHAMPIONS OF FREE ENTERPRISE



DEL. THOMAS DAVIS RUST



DEL. TONY O. WILT



DEL. EDWARD T. SCOTT



DEL. THOMAS C. WRIGHT, JR.



DEL. CHRISTOPHER P. STOLLE



DEL. DAVID E. YANCEY



DEL. RONALD A. VILLANUEVA



DEL. JOSEPH R. YOST

2014 HOUSE REPORT CARD

Member Name	Party	City/County	%	Grade
Thomas Davis Rust	R	Herndon	100	A+
Edward T. Scott	R	Culpeper	100	A+
Mark D. Sickles	D	Franconia	82	B-
Marcus B. Simon	D	Falls Church	84	B
Lionell Spruill, Sr.	D	Chesapeake	94	A
Christopher P. Stolle	R	Virginia Beach	100	A+
Scott A. Surovell	D	Mount Vernon	76	C
Scott W. Taylor	R	Virginia Beach	94	A
Luke E. Torian	D	Dumfries	88	B+
David J. Toscano	D	Charlottesville	82	B-
Roslyn C. Tyler	D	Jarratt	94	A
Ronald A. Villanueva	R	Virginia Beach	100	A+
Jeion A. Ward	D	Hampton	94	A
R. Lee Ware, Jr.	R	Powhatan	94	A
Vivian E. Watts	D	Annandale	82	B-
Michael J. Webert	R	Marshall	92	A-
Tony O. Wilt	R	Harrisonburg	100	A+
Thomas C. Wright, Jr.	R	Victoria	100	A+
David E. Yancey	R	Newport News	100	A+
Joseph R. Yost	R	Pearisburg	100	A+

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MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHY IT MATTERS TO VIRGINIA

Virginia is home to many of our nation's most essential defense activities and military installations. Hundreds of thousands of military personnel and their families and veterans call Virginia home. Many large defense contractors and a multitude of suppliers and businesses support our nation's military from Virginia. With a significant portion of the state's economy linked to the country's defense activities, the Commonwealth must preserve Virginia-based military assets and support military families and veterans through increased educational and job opportunities.

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS LEGISLATION



UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR TRAILING MILITARY SPOUSE (SB 18)

FROM
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TO ACTION**

Provides that good cause for leaving employment exists if an employee voluntarily leaves a job to accompany the employee's spouse, who is on active duty in the military or naval services of the United States, to a new military-related assignment established pursuant to a permanent change of duty order from which the employee's place of employment is not reasonably accessible. The measure applies only if the state to which the spouse is transferred has a similar provision. Benefits paid to qualifying claimants shall be charged against the pool rather than against the claimant's employer.



EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES OF CERTAIN VETERANS (SB 516)

Provides that private employers may grant preference in hiring and promotion to a veteran or the spouse of a veteran with a service-connected permanent and total disability. The measure applies only to veterans who are honorably discharged. The measure provides that granting such preference does not violate any local or state equal employment opportunity law.



EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHY IT MATTERS TO VIRGINIA

Virginia's economic well-being is inextricably linked to the education and skills of its citizens. The Commonwealth must work to create a world-class system of education to ensure a technically skilled and well-trained workforce that is so vital to Virginia's future prosperity.

“ Future business investment will follow the workers. Having a sufficient supply of qualified workers will determine the growth potential of Virginia's economy and its competitive position nationally and globally. ”

Stephen S. Fuller, Ph.D.
Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and University
Professor Director,
Center for Regional Analysis
George Mason University

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION



STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS AND REFORM (HB 930/SB 306)

Provides the number and type of Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight. The bill requires each local school board to certify that it has provided instruction and administered an alternative assessment, in conformance with Board guidelines, for each subject area in which the Standards of Learning assessment was not administered. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to establish the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee to periodically review the Standards of Learning and assessments.



VIRTUAL VIRGINIA; SHARED ONLINE COURSES (HB 1115)

Permits the Department of Education to contract with one or more local school boards that have created online courses to make such courses available to other school divisions through Virtual Virginia. The bill requires the Department to establish the Virtual Learning Advisory Committee to advise the Department on (i) online courses, in-service training, and digital instructional resources that school divisions need to meet the Commonwealth's graduation requirements and (ii) strategic planning to expand blended and online learning opportunities in Virginia's public schools.



TEACHER CAREER LADDER PROGRAM (HJ 1)

Requests the Department of Education to study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of implementing a Teacher Career Ladder program in the Commonwealth.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (HB 1009)

FROM
BLUEPRINT
TO **ACTION**

Recasts the Virginia Workforce Council as the Virginia Board of Workforce Development. The Governor is authorized to appoint a Chief Workforce Development Advisor who shall serve as lead staff to the Board. The bill also directs the establishment of an executive committee of the Board and also authorizes certain other committees. The bill also establishes the Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Council to advise the Governor, General Assembly, and Board and to coordinate services, resources, and requests among agencies and institutions of higher education involved or requesting to be involved in the delivery of education and advanced manufacturing workforce training.



BUSINESS CLIMATE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHY IT MATTERS TO VIRGINIA

Virginia's business climate is important to the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness. Before making expansion or relocation decisions, businesses evaluate the competitiveness of potential states, including the tax system, the regulatory environment, the legal climate and other costs of doing business. Creating a competitive business climate and strengthening and expanding Virginia's economy is important to maintain Virginia's rank as the best state for business.

Forbes[®]

“Virginia Tops 2013
List of the Best States
for Business”

BUSINESS CLIMATE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION



STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION'S SECURE ONLINE SYSTEM (HB 168)

Requires the State Corporation Commission limit the submission of data and documents on behalf of a business entity through its eFile electronic registration system to any user (i) designated to make such submission on behalf of the business entity and (ii) whose identity has been established satisfactorily through a verification process.



UNAUTHORIZED FILINGS WITH THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION (HB 313)

Authorizes the clerk of the State Corporation Commission, upon determining that a person who executed or delivered a business entity document to the clerk's office lacked the authority to act on behalf of the business entity, to refuse to accept the document for filing. The clerk is further authorized under such circumstances to summarily remove a filed document, correct the records, and notify the affected business entity.



PROHIBITING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM REQUIRING CONTRACTORS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN COMPENSATION OR BENEFITS (HB 422)

Prohibits local governing bodies from establishing provisions that would require a wage floor of any other employee benefit or compensation, above what is otherwise required by state or federal law, to be provided by a contractor to its employees as part of certain local government contracts.



INCOME TAXES ON DOMESTIC INTERNATIONAL SALES CORPORATIONS (HB 480/SB 575)

Exempts a domestic international sales corporation (DISC) from Virginia income taxes.



PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX (HB 617)

Authorizes a locality to establish lower personal property tax rates on the tangible property of businesses that locate for the first time in the locality. The lower rates would apply for the first two tax years that the business is subject to the personal property tax.

BUSINESS CLIMATE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION



ADMINISTRATION OF THE VIRGINIA JOBS INVESTMENT PROGRAM (HB 932/SB 492)

Changes the administration of the Virginia Jobs Investment Program from the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority.



ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORK-SHARE PROGRAM (SB 110)

FROM
BLUEPRINT
TO **ACTION**

Creates a short-time compensation program that provides employers with the option of reducing the hours worked by employees, while permitting the employees whose hours are reduced to receive partial compensation for lost wages. Program participation requires Virginia Employment Commission approval of a plan, which must provide that the reduction in hours of work is in lieu of a layoff of an equivalent percentage of employees and that employees' health and retirement benefits cannot be reduced or eliminated under the plan. An employer is not eligible to participate in the program if it has negative unemployment experience, is assigned the maximum experience rating tax rate, is assigned the tax rate for new employers, or reduced its workforce by 20 percent or more during the preceding six months. Participating employers are required to provide information regarding whether the plan is intended to be a transition to permanent layoffs.



INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE (HB 32)

Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.50 per hour effective July 1, 2014.



INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE (HB 536/SB 590)

Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.25 per hour effective July 1, 2014, and to \$9.25 per hour effective July 1, 2015.



SAFE DAYS FOR EMPLOYEES (HB 833)

Requires private employers to allow an employee safe days, with pay, if the employee or a family member is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking or is a family member of a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Employers are required to provide employees with 32 hours per year of safe day time if the employee has less than 120 months of employment with the employer, and 40 hours per year of safe day time if the employee has 120 or more months of employment with the employer.





ENERGY

WHY IT MATTERS TO VIRGINIA

Energy is the cornerstone of Virginia's economy. Having a stable, diverse, affordable energy supply supports economic development and job growth while meeting the growing needs of our population and business community.

ENERGY LEGISLATION



VIRGINIA ENERGY PLAN (HB 1261 /SB 615)

Requires the Virginia Energy Plan (VEP) to include, with regard to any regulations proposed or promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating units the Clean Air Act, an analysis of the costs and benefits imposed on energy producers and electric utility customers; the effect on energy markets and reliability; and the commercial availability of technology required to comply with such regulations.



TRANSPORTATION

WHY IT MATTERS TO VIRGINIA

Virginia's transportation infrastructure system supports business, tourism and economic growth. With over 99 percent of the world's consumers outside of the state's borders, an effective transportation network that efficiently moves people and goods is essential to Virginia's economic prosperity.



"Top States for Business ranked Virginia's transportation infrastructure 21st in the nation."

TRANSPORTATION



STATEWIDE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (HB 2)

FROM
**BLUEPRINT
TO ACTION**

Provides for the development of a prioritization process for projects funded by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Such prioritization shall weight factors such as congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality and be applied within each highway construction district.



NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS (HB 1090)

FROM
**BLUEPRINT
TO ACTION**

Requires the Secretary of Transportation and VDOT to incorporate new smart road technologies and innovations in statewide transportation technology programs.



INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSPORTATION FUND (HB 1095)

FROM
**BLUEPRINT
TO ACTION**

It directs 5 percent of the Commonwealth Transportation Board formula funds to a newly created Innovation and Technology Transportation Fund for high-tech infrastructure improvements that reduce congestion, improve mobility, improve safety, provide up-to-date travel data, or improve emergency response.





TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION & STARTUPS

WHY IT MATTERS TO VIRGINIA

To be successful in the global economy, Virginia must support key technology sectors, encourage innovation and boost entrepreneurship. It is important that Virginia focus on making the Commonwealth the top place in the world in which to start and grow a business.



Virginia has the highest concentration of technology workers in the country and ranks 4th in total technology employment as reported in Cyberstates 2013.



According to the US Small Business Administration, startup businesses accounted for about 40 percent of the private sector's net new jobs over the past two decades.



TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION & STARTUPS



PARTICIPATION BY STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION IN THE VIRGINIA BUSINESS ONE STOP ELECTRONIC PORTAL PROGRAM

(HB 167)

FROM
**BLUEPRINT
TO ACTION**

Requires the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to connect the SCC's eFile system to the Business Permitting Center by December 1, 2014.



UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFIT RATIO

(HB 22)

Removes state unemployment tax rate penalty that detrimentally impacts small businesses.



ENTREPRENEUR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

(HB 321/SB 362)

Creates the Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program to improve outreach by state government to the private sector. The objectives of the Program are to (i) strengthen coordination and interaction between state government and the private sector on issues relevant to entrepreneurs and small business concerns and (ii) make state government programs and operations simpler, easier to access, more efficient, and more responsive to the needs of small business concerns and entrepreneurs.



PATENT INFRINGEMENT ASSERTIONS MADE IN BAD FAITH

(HB 375/SB 150)

Prohibits any person from making in bad faith an assertion of patent infringement. The Attorney General or an attorney for the Commonwealth is empowered to accept assurances of voluntary compliance and seek injunctive relief. The Attorney General is authorized to issue civil investigative demands.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES TAX CREDIT

(HB 1220/SB 623)

FROM
**BLUEPRINT
TO ACTION**

Increases the annual cap for the Research and Development Expenses Tax Credit from \$5 million to \$6 million. This bill would also increase the amount of Research and Development Expenses Tax Credits that each taxpayer could claim to an amount equal to 15 percent of the first \$234,000 in Virginia qualified research and development expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer or 20 percent of the first \$234,000 in such expenses if the Virginia qualified research was conducted in conjunction with a Virginia public or private college or university.

GRADING CRITERIA

- Legislators were docked 6 points for voting against the Virginia Chamber's position on a bill.
- Legislators were docked 4 points for carrying or co-sponsoring a bill that the Virginia Chamber opposed.
- Legislators were docked 2 points for not voting on a bill. If a leave of absence was granted on the day of the vote, points were not docked.

Since legislators refrain from voting in cases of an ethical conflict, if a legislator **ABSTAINED** from a vote, this was not counted against them.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97

A = 96-93

A- = 92-90

B+ = 89-87

B = 86-83

B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-77

C = 76-73

C- = 72-70

D+ = 69-67

D = 66-63

D- = 62-60

F = 60 & below

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919 E MAIN ST | SUITE 900 | RICHMOND, VA 23219

WWW.VACHAMBER.COM