

Subject: VGEA eNews - State Budgets Outlined

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To: Johnna Cossaboon

VGEA eNEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

February 26, 2014

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General Assembly Budget Proposals *Support State Employees and Retirees*

Legislation Follow-up

The **Universal Leave Bill (HB 711)** that we wrote about in the last issue of the *VGEA eNews* newsletter, **was defeated by the House Appropriations Committee.**

The VGEA testified and will continue to **oppose any Leave legislation that may have an adverse impact on current employees.**

On February 20, the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia approved competing versions of changes to the current and future state budgets. For 2014-16, the state budget totals more than \$99 Billion. Details of interest to VGEA members are summarized below. The bills will now go to a conference committee of senior delegates and senators, whose names have not yet been confirmed.

Active State Employee Compensation

House Bill 30, Item 467 #4h (the House of Delegates' budget amendments) authorizes a two percent (2%) bonus for state employees in the Executive Branch, among other groups, in July 2015, provided two main factors apply - hire date and continuation of employment, and that the individual's current performance evaluation is at least "Contributor" or "Meets Expectations."

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In addition, the proposal includes a two percent (2%) salary increase for the following *specific* employee classifications, effective December 2014: Law Enforcement Officer I; Security Officer I; Security Officer III; Direct Service Associate I; Direct

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VGEA NEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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Service Associate II; Direct Service Associate III; Housekeeping and/or Apparel Worker I; Probation Officer Assistant; Emergency Coordinator I; Emergency Coordinator II; Registered Nurse I; Registered Nurse II/Nurse Practitioner I/Physician's Assistant; Licensed Practical Nurse; Therapy Assistant/Therapist I; Therapist II; Compliance/Safety Officer II; District Court Deputy Clerk, Grade 6; District Court Deputy Clerk, Grade 7; District Court Deputy Clerk, Grade 8. These job classes were identified as having the highest turnover rates in state government.

Senate Bill 30, Item 467#4s (the Senate of Virginia budget amendments) provides for a one percent (1%) cost of living base salary adjustment in December 2014 for all state-classified and state-supported local positions.

Item 467#5s provides, in addition to the salary increase, a one percent (1%) bonus payment in December 2015 for Executive Branch employees who have met the standard of "contributor" or better on their performance evaluation and have no active written notices under the standards of conduct for the preceding review period.

In addition, Item 467#3s increases salaries for District Court Deputy Clerks in Pay Grades six, seven and eight, by two percent (2%) in addition to the changes listed above. The Senate adopted the same salary adjustments as the House's employee classifications effective July 2014 as proposed by former Governor McDonnell.

Especially for State Retirees

HB 1105 (Riley Ingram, R-Hopewell) and SB 102 (Frank Ruff, R-Clarksville) each provide for a minimum life insurance payout for retired state employees with 30 years or more of state service. Both bills have passed their respective chambers, providing for a minimum \$8,000 payout to their beneficiary upon the state retiree's death.

Prescription Drugs

House Bill 30, Item 467#3h, requires that the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) increase the co-payments for mail order pharmacy products, in fiscal year 2015, in a manner proportional to the increase in co-payments for retail pharmacy services. The introduced budget assumed a \$5 increase in co-payments for pharmacy products from tiers two, three and four at retail pharmacies and only \$10 for mail order products, even though an individual may receive approximately three times as much of the drug's quantity through mail order.

VGEA Awards Four Scholarships **DEADLINE IS THIS FRIDAY!**

Once again the Virginia Governmental Employees Association will award **four \$2500 scholarships** for the fall 2014 semester! [Click here](#) for the new application. Complete and return it SOON because the **deadline is**

February 28 and we have not yet received **100 applications**. The application is posted on our homepage at www.vgea.org as well and will continue to be posted there for easy access.

Members' Grandchildren are Now Eligible!

The rules have been expanded this year to include VGEA members' grandchildren, due to popular request. In order to be a scholarship recipient, you now must either be **a VGEA member, a member's spouse, child, or grandchild**. Full rules and application details are listed on the application, so please simply read that for more information. If you still have questions, send them to info@vgea.org. Thanks and best of luck to all applicants!

A Night of Arena Racing with VGEA: March 21!

Bring Your Family to the Richmond Coliseum for Food, Fun & Fast Cars!

VGEA members are invited to bring their family and friends to enjoy a great night of family fun and entertainment at Arena Racing RVA! You receive a discounted Club reserved ticket (regular price \$16) plus a catered buffet-style dinner for just \$10 per person!

For details about how to get your tickets, the menu and the schedule for the night, [click here](#).



The deadline to reserve your tickets is March 14, at 7 p.m. Spread the word about this great deal and great time for the family! Bring your co-workers and tell them about VGEA. Call the office at 877-302-7146 with questions, or email info@vgea.org. Hope to see you at the Coliseum!

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