

# Special 2015 Legislative Report

# VGEA NEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

**News this issue:**

**Legislative Day Next Monday**

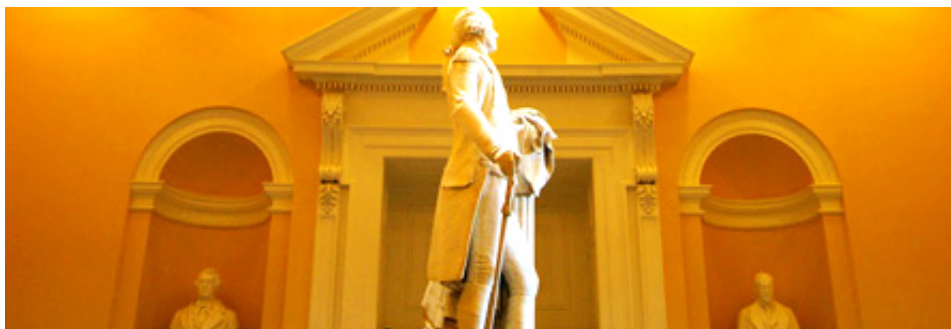
**Apply Now for Scholarships**

**Raises Proposed**

**Crossover Bills**

*Crossover*

*February 11, 2015*



**RSVP Now for  
VGEA  
Legislative  
Day**



**Presidents' Day**

*Monday,*

**February 16**

**8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

***Tell your representatives  
WHAT YOU THINK!***

***Meet at the VGEA Office  
1011 E. Main St., Ste. 400,  
Richmond for coffee and***

## Welcome News for State Employees and Retirees!

***House and Senate Money Committees Propose Raises***

Last Sunday, February 8, both the **House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees reported their recommendations on the State Budget.**

Both Committees recommend **salary increases** for current employees. Take home pay for active employees has increased only once since 2007 -- that's eight years -- while the costs of everything else continued to climb.

VGEA, along with our colleagues in the Virginia State Police Association, have worked very hard to make the Governor and General Assembly see this inequity. The legislative committees agree that State employees need and deserve raises, but ***it's NOT OVER.***

The **Senate Committee recommends a 3% pay increase** across the board for **all state employees**, along with specific pay actions for 19 job classes with high turnover at the low end of the pay scale.

The **House Committee recommends a 1.5% salary increase** across the board for **all employees, PLUS a salary "compression" increase of \$80 per year of service for each**

***bagels then walk to the General Assembly. Talk to your legislators, then meet back at the office for sandwiches. On your own in the afternoon if you'd like a free tour of Thomas Jefferson's Capitol Building.***

**For more details and to RSVP call the VGEA Office toll-free: 877-302-7146 or email [info@vgea.org](mailto:info@vgea.org)**

**VGEA Offers Four \$2,500 College Scholarships: Apply Today!**

The new 2015 **VGEA Scholarship Application is now online!** If you have been a **VGEA member for at least one year; you, your spouse, children and grandchildren are eligible** to apply.

**[Click here to download the application, which contains the complete 2015 guidelines.](#)** There are also a few new rules, so be sure to read it carefully. All post-high school students are eligible, if their college/ university or graduate school is SCHEV certified.

The **deadline to return your completed**

**year of continuous State service for those who have been employed more than five years, up to a maximum of 30 years.**

Both of these plans have been adopted by the House and Senate. Yesterday was Crossover, meaning that the bills and amendments adopted by one body now go over to the other for review. After they are adopted by both the House and Senate, lastly they are signed by the Governor.

We have developed a couple charts to help you see how the changes will affect you. [Click here](#) to see how the House and Senate plans might impact an average State employee's salary with varying years of service.

For retirees and employees, the **House Committee recommends limiting Health Insurance premium increases, rolling back increased deductibles** proposed in the introduced Budget, and **establishing a Life Insurance "floor" for retirees.**

**Every STATE EMPLOYEE and RETIREE needs to contact their legislators; thank them for what they've proposed, and urge them to continue their support. It ain't over 'til the Governor signs them!**

**Bills of Interest to VGEA Members**

VGEA Legislative Director Jim Roberts has compiled this comprehensive legislation list that may be of interest to VGEA members.

We will revise it each week of the General Assembly session to keep members informed about the progress and outcome of each bill as they move through the system. For more details, visit Virginia's Legislative Information System at <http://lis.virginia.gov> or **click the number link** that should take you directly to the corresponding bill's summary.

**[HB 1942](#)** Health insurance; prior authorization for drug benefits. - **Reported with amendments**

**[SB 1017](#)** Employment applications; inquiries regarding criminal arrests, charges, or convictions. - **Passed Senate**

**[SB 977](#)** Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**[SB 785](#)** Public employment; prohibits discrimination based on basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. - **Passed Senate narrowly, with Lt. Gov's vote in favor breaking tie**

**[HB 1969](#)** Virginia Retirement System; cash balance retirement

**application packets is February 27**, and only the first 100 will be considered. **Be sure to submit your application soon!**



VGEA Communications  
 Director/Lobbyist  
**Johnna Cossaboon**  
**VGEA eNews Editor**  
[jcossaboon@vgea.org](mailto:jcossaboon@vgea.org)  
 804-228-4513

**Membership questions?**

**Please contact:**

Member Services Director  
**Sonya Williams:**  
[info@vgea.org](mailto:info@vgea.org)  
 or 804-355-3120  
 toll free  
 877-302-7146

**Legislation questions?**

**Please contact:**

Legislative Director  
**Jim Roberts:**  
[jroberts@vgea.org](mailto:jroberts@vgea.org)

*(Pictured above: a statue of George Washington in the Capitol rotunda, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson, is just one of the things to see if you choose to tour the building on Legislative Day, Feb. 16.)*

plan. **Reported with amendment.**

**SB 1135** Adoption leave; creates new classification for state employee. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**HB 2277** Life insurance for retired state employees. - **Passed House**

**SB 692** Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; conservation officers. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**SB 738** Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period for certain members of VRS. - **Passed Senate with amendments**

**HB 1400** Budget Bill. - **Passed House**

**SB 800** Budget Bill. - **Passed Senate**

**HB 1466** Capitol Police; security for Gov-elect, Lt. Gov-elect, Att. General-elect, members of Court of Appeals. - **Passed House**

**SB 813** Virginia Retirement System; technical amendments to the programs administered by System. - **Passed Senate Finance with amendments**

**HB 1598** Conflicts of Interests Acts, State and Local Government and General Assembly; prohibited gifts. - **Incorporated HB 2070**

**HB 2070** State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act. - **Re-referred to House Appropriations**

**SB 1121** IT responsibility of agency directors. - **Passed Senate**

**SB 1075** State health plan; participation by local school divisions. - **Incorporated SB 866**

**SB 1022** Virginia Retirement System benefits. - **Passed Senate**

**HB 2081** Employers; disclosure of social media account information. - **Passed House**

**HB 1916** Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act; definition of state agency. - **Passed Senate**

**HB 1890** Virginia Retirement System; purchase of service credit for prior service. - **Passed House**

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [swilliams@vgea.org](mailto:swilliams@vgea.org) by [swilliams@vgea.org](mailto:swilliams@vgea.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Virginia Governmental Employees Association | 1011 East Main Street, Suite 400 | Richmond | VA | 23219