

Special 2015 Legislative Report

VGEA NEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

News this issue:

[Anthem Participants' Data Breached](#)

[Salary Increases & More!](#)

[Scholarship Deadline Extended](#)

[Legislation Update](#)

Session Wrap-up

February 26, 2015



Legislature Approves Salary Increases and More

Today the Virginia General Assembly approved sweeping positive changes for active state employee compensation packages as well as retiree benefits - for only the second time in the past eight years. Without VGEA, these changes would not have happened.

The approved Budget Bill (HB 1400) now goes to the Governor for his signature, and it includes:

- **A 2 percent across the board salary increase for active employees in August 2015**
- **A \$65 per year of continuous service compression raise** for active State employees with five to 30 years of service, **plus an \$80 per year increase for State Police Officers**
- **An additional 2 percent salary increase** for 19 high turnover, lower pay state job classifications
- **A \$1,000 per year increase for Department of Corrections officers**
- **A 2.5 percent salary increase for university and**

Anthem Participants' Data Breached

Nearly Four Million Affected

Anthem recently reported that almost four million Virginians are affected by a data breach that the company disclosed earlier this month. State employees and retirees are likely included among them! VGEA members and Anthem participants should consider this credit monitoring link:

[https://www.anthemfacts.com/?cldee=ZWxhaW5laUBtY2N1ZW1vcnRnYWd1LmNvbQ%253D%](https://www.anthemfacts.com/?cldee=ZWxhaW5laUBtY2N1ZW1vcnRnYWd1LmNvbQ%253D%253D)

More information is available at the Department of Human Resource Management website:

<http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/anthem-data-breach>

further information about identity protection is available here:

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Identity-Protection>



VGEA Communications
Director/Lobbyist

Johnna Cossaboon
VGEA eNews Editor
jcossaboon@vgea.org
804-228-4513

Membership questions?

Contact:

Member Services Director
Sonya Williams:
info@vgea.org
or 804-355-3120
toll free
877-302-7146

Legislation questions?

Contact:

Legislative Director
Jim Roberts:
jroberts@vgea.org

college faculty

- An **increase in the VRS employer contribution** to reach 90 percent of the actuarially established rates
- A **rollback of proposed increases in the State Health Insurance Fund deductibles and co-payments**, restoration of HIF interest earnings, and restoration of long-term care tax credits

Please go back to the last *ForeSight* and read over our 2015 Legislative Priorities. You'll see we did pretty well at reaching/surpassing our goals - but you'll also be reminded that it'll take more than one year to catch State employees up with the private sector. We will need to work on this again next year! **Thank you for supporting the VGEA! We are stronger with you!**

Scholarship Deadline Extended

\$10,000 in Awards for VGEA Members & Their Families

The VGEA Scholarship Committee has voted to extend the deadline for submission of the 2015 VGEA Scholarship Application packets to 5 p.m. Friday, March 6. If you have been a VGEA member for at least one year; you, your spouse, children and grandchildren are eligible to apply for one of four \$2,500 awards presented annually.

[Click here](#) to download the application, which contains the complete 2015 guidelines. The application is also available online at vgea.org (you must be a member to log-in and access the scholarship page). There are also a few new rules, so be sure to read the guidelines carefully. All post-high school students are eligible, as long as their college/ university or graduate school is SCHEV certified (or another state's equivalent) and they have not won before.

The **deadline to return completed application packets has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday, March 6**. Be sure to submit your application packet on time and all together.

Legislation of Interest to VGEA Members

Go to the Legislative Information System for additional details at <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm> enter the bill number (no spaces) and click go.

HB 1942 Health insurance; prior authorization for drug benefits. - **Passed House and Senate**

SB 977 Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period. - **Failed**

HB 1969 Virginia Retirement System; cash balance retirement plan. - **Passed House and Senate**

SB 1135 Adoption leave; creates new classification for state employee. - **Failed**

HB 2277 Life insurance for retired state employees. - **In Conference**

SB 692 Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; conservation officers. - **Failed**

SB 738 Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period for certain members of VRS. - **Failed**

HB 1400 Budget Bill. - **In Conference**

SB 800 Budget Bill. - **Failed**

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

SB 813 Virginia Retirement System; technical amendments to the programs administered by System - **Passed Senate and House**

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

SB 866 Health insurance; school board allowed to elect to have employees & retirees to receive state plan. - **Failed**

SB 1022 Virginia Retirement System benefits. - **Failed**

HB 2081 Employers; disclosure of social media account information. - **In Conference**

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

HB 1890 Virginia Retirement System; purchase of service credit for prior service - **In Conference**

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to swilliams@vgea.org by 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