

Special 2015 Legislative Report

VGEA NEWS

VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

News this issue:

[VGEA Legislative Day is Coming Up!](#)

[Letter Delivered to General Assembly](#)

[Bills of Interest](#)

General Assembly Starts

January 16, 2015



VGEA Offers \$10,000 in College Scholarships: APPLY NOW!

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

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

Letter Asking for Salary Increase Delivered to General Assembly

With the Governor's proposed budget amendments containing *nothing* to improve State employee salaries, the VGEA quickly swung into action. Together with the Virginia State Police Association (VSPA), we wrote a letter to all Delegates and Senators forcefully expressing our need for **at least a 2 percent salary increase this year.**

The **proposed increase would help keep State employees from falling further behind the private sector.** Currently - a 2015 Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) survey shows - **State employees bring home nearly 25 percent LESS than similar professionals in the private sector, as well as local and federal government.**

Our VGEA lobbyists hand-delivered letters to every member of the State Senate and House of Delegates early this week. These letters emphasized the **reasons that State employees need a pay raise** and asked them for their support. [Click here to read the letter](#) - you will learn some **shocking things about State employees.** Please **share this letter with co-workers** and remind your legislator of these facts when you talk

The deadline to return your completed application packets is February 27, and only the first 100 will be considered. Be sure to submit yours soon!

**Save the date:
VGEA
Legislative
Day:**



Presidents' Day

Monday,

February 16

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

*For more details and to RSVP
call the VGEA Office toll-free:
877-302-7146*



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with him/her.

The active support of every VGEA member will be required to make this drive for compensation action a success. **PLEASE CONTACT your legislator today.** [Click here to find out who they are.](#) Call them and write them emails and/or mailed letters: you are their constituents and it does make a difference! **TELL them that State employees need and deserve REAL RAISES.** The people who keep this Commonwealth running should not be an afterthought! Some issues that are on Legislators' priority lists are Transportation, Mental Health and Higher Ed...None of which could EVEN EXIST without STATE EMPLOYEES! **WE DESERVE and MUST DEMAND to MOVE UP ON THEIR PRIORITY LIST.**

The VGEA will continue to keep you informed. Thank you for your continued support on behalf of State employees and retirees. Have questions or concerns? **Call the VGEA at 877-302-7146 or email info@vgea.org.**

Bills of Interest to VGEA Members

VGEA Legislative Director Jim Roberts has compiled this comprehensive list of filed legislation that may be of interest to VGEA members. More bills and amendments may be added, as the deadline was today.

He will revise it each week of the General Assembly session to keep VGEA 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 will take you directly to the corresponding bill's summary.

[SB 674](#) Virginia Information Technologies Agency; email archiving

[SJ 213](#) Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage.

[HJ 492](#) Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage.

[HJ 493](#) Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage.

[SB 680](#) Magistrates; appointment and supervision.

Membership questions?**Please contact:**

Member Services Director

Sonya Williams:

info@vgea.org

or 804-355-3120

toll free

877-302-7146

Legislation questions?**Please contact:**

Legislative Director

Jim Roberts:

jroberts@vgea.org

(Pictured above: the Virginia Capitol and the interior ceiling of the Capitol Rotunda, designed by Thomas Jefferson.)

[HB 1288](#) Same-sex marriages; civil unions.

[SB 681](#) Minimum wage; increases from its current federally mandated level to \$8.00 per hour.

[HB 1289](#) Same-sex marriages; civil unions.

[SB 682](#) Same-sex marriages; civil unions.

[SJ 214](#) Constitutional amendment (first resolution); marriage.

[HJ 500](#) Constitutional amendment (first resolution); failure to pass an appropriation act.

[HJ 501](#) Study; JLARC; reorganization of law-enforcement agencies; report.

[SB 687](#) Virginia Retirement System; limitations on average final compensation.

[HB 1316](#) Virginia Retirement System; average final compensation.

[SB 692](#) Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; conservation officers.

[SB 696](#) Conflict of Interests Acts, State & Local Government & General Assembly; certain gifts prohibited.

[HB 1358](#) Virginia Retirement System; creditable service for members of General Assembly.

[HB 1377](#) Health insurance; credits for retired school division employees.

[HB 1387](#) Health insurance; coverage for renewals of Schedule IV prescription eyedrops.

[SB 735](#) General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; prohibited conduct related to travel.

[SB 738](#) Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period for certain members of VRS.

[SB 739](#) State Police, Department of; appointment of supervisory officers.

[HB 1400](#) Budget Bill.

[SB 800](#) Budget Bill.

[SB 752](#) State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; prohibited conduct for Governor's Secretaries.

[**SB 772**](#) Payment of wages; discrimination between employees on basis of sex.

[**SB 777**](#) General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; gift-free legislator, penalty.

[**HB 1449**](#) Virginia Human Rights Act; childbirth or related medical conditions, cause of action.

[**HB 1466**](#) Capitol Police; security for Gov-elect, Lt. Gov-elect, Att. General-elect, members of Court of Appeals.

[**SB 812**](#) Lobbyist disclosure; definition of executive action, procurement transactions.

[**SB 813**](#) Virginia Retirement System; technical amendments to the programs administered by System.

[**HB 1480**](#) Virginia Retirement System; creditable service for General Assembly members.

[**HB 1498**](#) Virginia Human Rights Act; prohibits discrimination in public employment.

[**HB 1512**](#) Minimum wage; increases to \$15.15 per hour.

[**HB 1546**](#) Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; sworn members of enforcement division of DMV added.

[**HB 1598**](#) Conflicts of Interests Acts, State and Local Government and General Assembly; prohibited gifts.

[**HB 1643**](#) Virginia Human Rights Act; public employment; prohibited discrimination; sexual orientation.

[**HB 1659**](#) Virginia Retirement System benefits.

[**SB 1121**](#) IT responsibility of agency directors.

[**SB 1075**](#) State health plan; participation by local school divisions.

[**SB 1022**](#) Virginia Retirement System benefits.

[**HB 2156**](#) Health insurance; coverage for hearing aids and related professional services.

[**HB 2081**](#) Employers; disclosure of social media account information.

[**HB 1916**](#) Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act; definition of state agency.

[HB 1890](#) Virginia Retirement System; purchase of service credit for prior service.

[HB 1883](#) Virginia Sickness and Disability Program; open enrollment period; State Police Retirement System.

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