

Subject: VGEA eNews February 19

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From: Virginia Governmental Employees Association (sent by Virginia Governmental Employees Association <sonyawilliams@vgea.ccsend.com>)

To: Johnna Cossaboon

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2016 VGEA eNEWS VIRGINIA GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION	
This Week's News: Find Your Legislators Like VGEA on Facebook House to Propose Pay Raise! Legislation Watch 2016 Top General Assembly Tools!	Crossover February 19, 2016  Virginia Governmental Employees Association
Who are your Legislators? Use the State of Virginia's handy tool to discover your representatives' names and contact information. Just enter your home address. Click here or go to viriniageneralassembly.gov and click on <i>Who's My Legislator</i> on the blue bar at the top. Now you know who to	House Appropriations Committee To Propose Pay Raise in Budget <p>The VGEA lobbying team has been working hard for State employee salary increases. In December, the Governor included funding for a 2 percent pay raise in his budget's second year (if the state's revenue projections are met), but we must rely on the General Assembly to provide budget amendments that would give state workers a pay raise before then.</p> <p>Today's Richmond Times-Dispatch, reported that the House Appropriations Committee will propose a more than 2 percent pay raise for state employees during the first year of the pending two-year budget.</p>

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Membership Questions?

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This newsletter was created for Virginia Governmental Employees Association members as a direct benefit of their dues. If you aren't a current VGEA member, you aren't entitled to receive it. You are encouraged to join at vgea.org.

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Appropriations Chairman S. Chris Jones (R-Suffolk) confirmed Thursday that the budget the committee will release on Sunday will include a raise in the first year. He said the money for the raise would come in part from about \$88 million in total savings from the early payoff of a deferred debt on state employee pensions. Those savings reflect both money from the state general fund and non-general fund sources such as higher education.

Tell your Delegate and Senator that you Support:

- **Pay increases** to help close the private/public pay gap in positions with the greatest disparity, specifically **base salary adjustments for all State employees in FY 2017 and FY 2018 that will more than cover the cost of living (no less than 2 percent *plus* additional targeted salary adjustments for high turnover positions** in 2017 and 2018
- **Salary improvements to minimize *salary compression***
- Establish a **workgroup to develop a plan and time frame** to meet the long-term goal of providing State employees with total **compensation equivalent to their private sector** counterparts.

Look over the **Legislation Watch** list below and see the **General Assembly** site to get contact information for your representatives at <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov> or visit the **Virginia Legislative Information System** to follow the bills at <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>

2016 Legislation Watch

General Assembly Bills Pending

Click on the Bill Number links below to go to the description of each bill on the Virginia Legislative Information System. This information will include each individual bill's summary and status. Unfortunately, some computer networks will not allow this link access. If the links seem to be broken, please go to the

Virginia's Legislative Information System

at <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>

and type in each bill number you want to see.

Bill SPOTLIGHT:

SB 746 Liabilities of Governmental Entities for Inspections.

SB 746 was introduced by Senator Frank Wagner (R-Virginia Beach). The original bill has been amended to now say, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any governmental entity employing a person who conducts inspections of private entities to determine compliance with any law, regulation, or ordinance and who **intentionally exceeds the scope of authority granted to him by law** to perform such inspections and enforce a law, regulation, or ordinance shall be liable to such private entity for any damages arising from any enforcement action taken against the entity on the basis of the employee's inspection."

It does not apply to law-enforcement officers or fire marshals. (Editor has added boldface for emphasis.)

The VGEA opposes this bill as we believe it creates gray areas which may cause *personal liability* to some State employees who are responsible for inspections.

Crossover

The crossover deadline was February 16 so every bill had to be acted upon by then in the House or the Senate, wherever it was introduced. If the bill or amendment passed the Chamber from which it originated, it will now be assigned (or has already been assigned) to a Committee in the opposite Chamber.

All of the bills listed below remain active unless marked otherwise.

HB 61 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; misdemeanor violations, penalty

Chief patron: Morris

Subcommittee recommended laying on the table by voice vote. House left in General Laws.

HB 220 Virginia FOIA; public access to resumes and other information related to gubernatorial appointee.

Chief patron: Taylor

Passed the House (78-Y, 20-N). Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology

HB 294 Southwestern Virginia Training Center and Southeastern Virginia Training Center; closure prohibited.

Chief patron: O'Quinn

House Appropriations' Subcommittee of Health and Human Resources recommended laying on the table by voice vote.

HB 299 Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; conservation officers.

Chief patron: Kilgore

House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Compensation and Retirement recommended laying on the table by voice vote.

HB 363 State Sickness and Disability Program; benefits.

Chief patron: Loupassi

House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Compensation and Retirement recommended laying on the table by voice vote.

HB 409 The Virginia Retirement System; technical corrections.

Chief patron: Ingram

Passed House unanimously in block vote. Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

HB 665 Employee Retirement Security & Pension Reform, Commission on; established, report, sunset provision.

Chief patron: Howell

Passed House unanimously in block vote. Referred to Senate Committee on Rules.

HB 773 Government Nondiscrimination Act; created.

Chief patron: Gilbert

Passed House (56-Y, 41-N). Assigned to Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology.

HB 778 Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act; application for grievance procedure.

Chief patron: McQuinn

Passed House unanimously in block vote. Assigned to Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology.

HB 781 Restroom facilities; use of facilities in public buildings or schools, definition of biological sex.

Chief patron: Cole

Defeated in General Laws (8-Y, 14-N).

HB 821 Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act; applicability to local governmental entities.

Chief patron: LeMunyon

House passed unanimously. Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology.

HB 848 Health insurance; programs for local government employees.

Chief patron: Cline

House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Compensation and Retirement recommended laying on the table by voice vote.

HB 1072 Virginia Retirement System; hybrid retirement program.

Chief patron: Jones

House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Compensation and Retirement recommended continuing to 2017 by voice vote.

HB 1076 Employment; break time and location for employees to express breast milk.

Chief patron: Yancey

Referred to House Committee on Commerce and Labor, Subcommittee #2. Left in Commerce and Labor.

HB 1193 Line of Duty Act; probation and parole officers.

Chief patron: Carr

House continued to 2017 in Appropriations by voice vote.

HB 1202 State Inspector General; lean government initiative.

Chief patron: Dudenhefer

House left in Appropriations.

SB 12 Virginia Human Rights Act; nondiscrimination in public employment.

Chief patrons: Ebbin, McEachin

House Subcommittee recommended laying on the table by voice vote.

SB 51 Virginia Retirement System; technical corrections to programs.

Chief patron: Howell

Passed Senate. Referred to House Appropriations Committee.

SB 93 Correctional Officer Procedural Guarantee Act; created.

Chief patron: Marsden

Passed Senate. Referred to House Appropriations Committee.

SB 149 Health insurance plan, local option; participation of regional emergency medical services councils.

Chief patron: Reeves

Senate continued to 2017 in Finance.

SB 202 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; disclosure of salaries of public employees.

Chief patron: Stuart

Passed the Senate (27-Y, 10-N). Referred to the House Committee on General Laws, Subcommittee #2.

SB 271 Adoption; leave benefit.

Chief patron: Garrett

Passed Senate unanimously. In House General Laws Committee, Subcommittee already reported.

SB 294 State officers and employees; retaliatory actions against persons providing certain testimony.

Chief patron: DeSteph

Passed Senate (29-Y, 11-N). Assigned to House General Laws Subcommittee #4.

SB 335 Public employment; inquiries by state agencies and localities regarding criminal convictions.

Chief patron: Dance

Passed Senate (23-Y, 15-N). Assigned to House Committee on Commerce and Labor.

SB 364 Health insurance plan; Department of Human Resource Management to consider all participants.

Chief patron: Chafin

Passed Senate unanimously. Referred to House Appropriations Committee.

SB 384 State health insurance program; participation by certain local school division employees.

Chief patron: Vogel

Senate: Incorporated by Finance (SB364).

SB 462 Investments by the Virginia Retirement System.

Chief patron: Carrico

Passed by indefinitely in Senate Finance.

SB 485 General Assembly; state employees and appointees making false statements to members, penalty.

Chief patron: DeSteph

Passed by indefinitely in Senate Rules.

SB 552 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; mandatory disclosure of public employee position and salary.

Chief patron: Cosgrove

Passed Senate (25-Y, 15-N). Assigned to House General Laws

Subcommittee #2.

SB 737 Public employees; payment for time away from their official duties, penalty.

Chief patron: Obenshain

Senate passed by for the day. Left in Senate.

SB 746 Government entities; liabilities for certain inspections.

Chief patron: Wagner

Passed Senate (24-Y, 16-N). Referred to House Committee for Courts of Justice, Subcommittee Civil Law.

Top General Assembly Tools!

Go to the homepage of the Virginia Legislative Information System (LIS) at

<http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>

To follow a specific piece of legislation through the 2016 General Assembly: [Track a Bill](#)

To find out when meetings are taking place: [Check the daily calendars](#)

Get [contact information for House members](#)

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House and Senate [Legislative Committee lists](#)



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