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Contact Your Legislators Now!

January 25, 2013



Contact Your Legislators Today

Tell Your Representatives You Need a Salary Increase!

Call and send e-mails to your legislative representatives. They need to hear **YOUR VOICE this week!** Now is the time to be heard and this is your first step.

Let YOUR Delegate and Senator know that you and your family need and deserve a 5 percent salary increase. Tell them it has been six years since your take home pay has increased and that we need a raise - not more cuts! Every state employee and his or her family members must get involved in this effort!

Click here (<https://www.knowwho.com/index.asp>) to find the name and e-mail address/telephone number of YOUR Delegate and Senator. Simply click Find your Elected Officials in your left hand menu with the telephone icon. When you click on that, there will be two blanks for your address, then town, state, and zip. Enter those and hit return and all your Legislators will appear with their contact information. Open a new e-mail message, enter your Delegate's or Senator's e-mail address and then the subject (STATE EMPLOYEE SALARY INCREASE and BONUS) and your message. Below is a suggested message you can copy, but please feel free to choose your own words.

Dear Delegate/Senator _____:

I work for the Department of _____ and have been a state employee for more than _____ years. My take home pay has not increased in six years, but I am doing my best for the citizens of the Commonwealth and am working harder and longer to do so in the face of continuing staff reductions and budget cuts.

Because of the Social Security holiday expiring, my take home pay was recently cut 2 percent again. State workers simply keep getting cut after cut with no increases and we need a REAL pay raise. JLARC has also reported that state salaries are no longer

You're Invited to VGEA's Legislative Day!



Washington statue in front of the General Assembly Building.

On **Monday, February 18**, at 9 a.m. we will meet by the large clock in front of the General Assembly Building on Capital Square. (If you see General Washington's statue, pictured above, he's riding away from that building). Please **RSVP to the VGEA Office by e-mail: info@vgea.org or toll-free 877-302-7146.**

competitive for recruiting and retaining good employees.

After more than SIX years without any salary increases, the Commonwealth's employees deserve a 5 percent raise. Please do your best to deliver that to us in 2013 by supporting the budget amendment (Senate Item 468 #3s) to raise the state employee salary increase. State workers would appreciate your support of a performance-based bonus, as well, which would reward those of us who truly work hard (House Item 468 #3h).

Sincerely,

Send your message and you're done.

VGEA Board of Director Officers

2013-2015

- Wendy Brown**, president
- Gary Wagner**, first vice president
- Walt Pulliam, Jr.**, secretary
- Mindy Stenbridge**, treasurer
- J. Marshall Terry**, immediate past president

For the rest of the Board members and their contact information, [click here.](#)

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Virginia Governmental Employees Association

Please share this newsletter with your co-workers. Spread the word! We need thousands of e-mails from state employees and their families pouring into the General Assembly members over the next week!

Thank you for your continued support of VGEA - The VOICE for Virginia's State Employees and Retirees!

What's Happening on Capitol Square?

Performance Bonus, 5 Percent Salary Increase Bills Filed

Last Thursday, January 17, Senators Ebbin and McEachin held a press conference to tout their co-sponsored Non-Discrimination in State Government Employment Bill SB701. This legislation has moved forward in the Senate, but in past years has never made it any further. Monitor this and other bills of interest through the Legislative Information System and contact your legislators to encourage their support of those pieces of legislature in which you have a special interest.

Visit your VGEA homepage at www.vgea.org for General Assembly daily news headline updates.

As you can see below, there have been more than a dozen bills and several budget amendments filed that are of direct interest to VGEA members, some of greater impact than others.

Check your inbox for next week's eNews for the latest bill tracking updates - and in the meantime, take action and **contact your legislators today to help the legislation go YOUR WAY!**



Senators Ebbin (left) and McEachin announced their co-sponsored Nondiscrimination in State Government Employment bill SB701 last Thursday.



**Your Voice
at the Capitol!**

Share this newsletter with your fellow employees and remind them that the VGEA is the **only** organization working to protect state employee salaries, benefits and retirement.

The work of the VGEA is supported only by member dues.

[Click here to join.](#)

At just \$4 per pay period (\$2 for retirees) it's an investment in yourself and your future.

**Call for Your
Free Quote!**



Elephant
Auto Insurance

It's time to think about saving money this year on Auto Insurance! VGEA members save an EXTRA 15% off Elephant's already low rates! For more information, visit the VGEA **[Insurance Program page](#)** on the website www.vgea.org! *You must be a member to sign-in.*

Legislation the VGEA is Tracking During The 2013 General Assembly Session

Bills Filed as of January 15

For more information about each piece of legislation filed, please click on the bill title. The link will take you to the [Virginia General Assembly Legislative Information System website](http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm) (http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm) which will provide you with all the details. The legislators sponsoring the bill are listed below. Click on their names to read more about them. If any link malfunctions, just go to the site listed above and enter the legislator's name or bill number to go to that page on the LIS website.

An important Senate budget amendment to ask your legislator to support is [Item 468 #3s](#) Chief Patron: [Charles J. Colgan](#). This amendment provides funding to state agencies and institutions for an additional 3 percent across the board salary increase and would increase the current 2 percent raise currently budgeted for July 2013 to 5 percent for all state employees.

Another significant budget amendment for state workers is House [Item 468 #3h](#) which would set aside resources, if available, for a one-time performance-based bonus on October 15, 2013 for all full-time, non-elected eligible state employees. [Click here to read the details.](#)

[SB701 State government employment; nondiscrimination.](#)

[A. Donald McEachin](#) | [Adam P. Ebbin](#)

[SB704 Workers' compensation; disease presumption, corrections officers.](#)

[Phillip P. Puckett](#)

[SB 816 Payment of wages to employees; requires employers to maintain and preserve certain records.](#)

[A. Donald McEachin](#)

[SB 921 Health insurance reform; revises State's laws.](#)

[John C. Watkins](#)

[SB 922 Health insurance; plan management and rate review.](#)

[John C. Watkins](#)

[HB 1336 Tax credit for employees who telework.](#)

[David I. Ramadan](#)

[HB1356 Health insurance; local government employees eligible to participate in state employee plan.](#)

[Joseph R. Yost](#)

[HB 1393 Fleet management; DGS to issue guidance documents to govern use of vehicles in state fleet.](#)

[Daniel W. Marshall, III](#)

[HB 1769 Health insurance; plan management and rate review.](#)

[Terry G. Kilgore](#)

[HB 1873 Health information technology; health benefit exchange participants.](#)

[Jennifer L. McClellan](#)


SB774 Workers' compensation; disease presumption, corrections officers.

Harry B. Blevins

SB811 State or local employees; filing fraudulent liens or encumbrances against, penalty.

Thomas A. Garrett

HB 1422 Interchangeable biosimilar biological products; permits pharmacists to dispense.

John M. O'Bannon, III

HB 1478 State Inspector General; powers and duties.

Peter F. Farrell

HB 1532 Virginia Retirement System; benefits for certain local employees.

David L. Bulova

HB 1625 Virginia Retirement System; collection of overpayments to retirees and beneficiaries.

Peter F. Farrell

HB1489 State employees; State Comptroller to process payroll on weekly basis.

Nick Rush

SB838 State employees; option of converting accumulated sick leave into service credit under VRS.

Charles W. Carrico, Sr.

HB1590 VRS; certain higher educational institution employees in optional retirement plan.

Onzlee Ware

HB1625 Virginia Retirement System; collection of overpayments to retirees and beneficiaries.

Peter F. Farrell

SB995 VRS; technical changes regarding retirement plans.

John C. Watkins

SB 1104 State officers and employees; removal of certain officers from office.

Ryan T. McDougale

SB 1178 Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Reward Fund; amount of reward.

Frank M. Ruff, Jr.

SB 1244 Virginia Retirement System benefits.

Charles J. Colgan

HB2021 Public employment; prohibits discrimination.

James M. LeMunyon

HB 2138 Health Insurance Reform Commission; established, report.

Kathy J. Byron

SB 1367 Health insurance; local government employees eligible to participate in state employee plan.

George L. Barker

HB2168 Virginia Retirement System; hybrid retirement program.

William J. Howell

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