

The Senior Advocate Alert



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2009 GA Session Vol. 1, #2

2009 Virginia General Assembly Session

The Senior Advocate Alert is published weekly and is distributed via e-mail. Printed copies are available at the local Aging Task Force and Commission meetings. If you wish to be placed on the e-mail list, or if you wish to be removed from the list, please contact mhowell@ssseva.org.

COMMUNICATIONS ALERT!!!!

AARP advises you should **HAND WRITE** your comments to the legislators and send them return receipt requested or hand deliver them to the legislators.

SENIORS ADVOCACY DAY – JANUARY 28, 2009

Advocacy Caravan to the General Assembly on 1/28/09.

- Senior Services is coordinating an Advocacy Caravan. 10 seats in 3 vehicles are open.
- Vehicles leave at 7:00 a.m. from the Center for Aging, 6350 Center Drive, Norfolk,
- Arrive 9:00 a.m. at the GA Building Richmond.
- Join advocates from across Virginia visiting your representatives and Senators to:
 - **Protect services** for the elderly from cuts;
 - **Legislate mandatory reporting** of financial exploitation of frail and elderly when there is suspicion by financial institutions.
 - **Prevent pre-mature nursing home placement** by preserving Medicaid payments for home and community based services.
- **Advocacy materials will be provided: Legislators, Lists, Handouts, talking points.**
- A Debriefing Lunch for all who come will be held at the V4A offices at 24 E. Carey Street at 12:30 p.m. Following lunch you can go back to the G.A. building or go home.

E MAIL jkskirven@ssseva.org by noon Friday 1/23/09 if you can drive your car or need a ride. Senior Services will match you with a driver. Gas is a shared cost

- **KEY DATES NEXT WEEK:** Fri. 1/22/09: All bills and joint resolutions due 5:00 p.m.
- **KEY WEBSITES: Track legislation and contact legislators:**
 - <http://www.ssseva.org/advocacy/representatives.shtml>
 - http://www.vaaaa.org/legislative_updates/

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR SELECTED LEGISLATION

**HOW TO USE THIS LINK TO THE V4A LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SITE.
EXAMPLE**

Bills	Committee	Last action	Date
HB 1792 - Brink - Long-term care support service; Dept. for Aging to designate area agencies for No Wrong Door system.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	(H) Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	01/09/09
<p>notes: Codifies language from the budget bill, which is due to expire. The bill requires the Department for the Aging to designate area agencies on aging as the lead agencies for the No Wrong Door system.</p>			

Go to http://www.vaaaa.org/legislative_updates/

- **How to look at specific bill:** Put your cursor on the bill number. Follow the instructions. This takes you to the actual bill and shows you who introduced it, the link to the full text, which committee or subcommittee it is in and its status.
- **How to look at the sponsor:** Put your cursor on the sponsor name. Follow the instructions. This takes you to the sponsor's site and shows you all of his or her legislative activity as well as the committees he or she is on.
- **How to look at the Committees:** Put your cursor on the Committee name. Follow the instructions. This takes you to the Committee site. Here you can see the members, the meeting times, the subcommittees, the bills before each committee and the daily docket.

Editors Note: Bills are being submitted daily and Committees are meeting daily. There will be a delay during the first few weeks of session between introduction and posting on the V4A website. Visit often. It is updated on a continuous basis.

SELECTED PRE-FILED and NEW BILLS OF INTEREST:

[SB 738](#) - [Edwards](#) - Adult protective services; reporting of suspected financial abuse of elderly & dependent persons.

[HJ 632](#) - [Englin](#) - Human services & social policy; JLARC to study feasibility of adopting 'housing first' approach.

[HB 310](#) - [Eisenberg](#) - Absentee voting; persons with a disability or illness may vote absentee.

[HB 1049](#) - [Watts](#) - Income tax, state; deduction for licensed medical caregivers.

[HB 1275](#) - [Spruill](#) - Real estate tax; localities to grant higher percentages of tax relief to elderly.

[HB 1792](#) - [Brink](#) - Long-term care support service; Dept. for Aging to designate area agencies for No Wrong Door system.

[HB 1853](#) - [Cox](#) - Mental Retardation and IFDDS waiver waiting lists; Governor, etc., to implement plan for funding.

[HB 1977](#) - [Ware, R.L.](#) - Health insurance; mandated coverage for prosthetic devices and components.

[HB 1938](#) - [Peace](#) - Income tax, state; increases livable home tax credit.

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