

The Senior Advocate Alert

 Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

Interstate Corporate Center • 6350 Center Drive, Bldg 5, Suite 101 • Norfolk, VA 23502 • (757) 461-9481 • www.ssseva.org

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The Senior Advocate Alert is published weekly and 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.

2009 Virginia General Assembly Session

SENIORS ADVOCACY DAY REPORT

Area Agencies on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association, the Commonwealth Council on Aging, Norfolk Senior Center joined advocates from around Virginia who visited all 140 legislative offices on January 28, 2008 to communicate the needs of seniors and urge protection of core services for the elderly from cuts; mandatory reporting of financial exploitation of frail and elderly when there is suspicion by financial institutions and prevention of pre-mature nursing home placement by preserving Medicaid payments for home and community based services.

Hampton Roads legislators received this message very well and stated they would do what they could despite the dire budget crisis that Virginia faces. Many thanks to those that braved fog, ice and crazy out-of-state drivers to make the trip. Special thanks to Senior Connections, the AAA in Richmond for arranging lunch.

Latest Update from Richmond from Jane Woods, Legislative Advocate for V4A
Dateline: 6:00 p.m. 2/2/09

Budget amendments: Aging Funding and Language: #284 1h & 1s; 282 1h & 21s

Each house will report out their amendments (their budget) Sunday the 8th afternoon. After that each house will adopt their own, reject the budget of the other house, appoint formally the conferees and then conference work begins. Several members today said they are hearing angst among colleagues about going past the 28th of February for the budget so perhaps they will finish on time after all. Clearly the stimulus provisions at the federal level will play into this decision along with the timeliness of its passage & signing by the President.

Calls are needed to:

Delegates Hamilton, Morgan, Cox, Landes, O'Bannon, Brink, BaCote & Dance
Senators Houck, Wampler, Howell, Norment, Hanger, Marsh, & Whipple

Use the websites below to get telephone numbers and track legislation. How to guide use the websites are published in *The Senior Advocate Alert #2* which is on the SSSEVA website.

- <http://www.ssseva.org/advocacy/representatives.shtml>
- http://www.vaaaa.org/legislative_updates/

See Page 2 for latest on Bills of Interest

Bills of Interest

HB1582: It appears that the criminal background check bill of Delegate Howell will not come out of committee...he is looking to get bill re-written in interim (before 2010 session)

SB1543: It appears this bill will not get passed which requires the Board of Nursing to accept five years of work experience as a medication aide as an alternative to fulfillment of the approved education program required for registration, and requires the Board of Long-Term Care Administrators to accept five years continuous employment as an administrator of an assisted living facility as successful completion of any educational and experience requirements for initial licensure.

HB1792 & SB1454: These bills that legislate Area Agencies on aging as lead agencies for No Wrong Door have passed and will go to the other house after crossover.

HB1099: This bill that establishes criminal penalties for financial exploitation of elderly and disabled will not pass this year but will have more work done so it is stronger for next session.

Word on the Street:

Up in Smoke? It does not appear that the cigarette tax bills (30 cents and 59 cents) will get out of committees. There is just under \$150 million in the Governor's budget predicated on the passage of 30 cents additional tax, so that money will have to be made up somehow.

Federal Flim Flam? The stimulus money seems to be "bookmarked" on FMAP (federal percentage Medicaid) for starting retroactively to Oct 1, 2008 to December 2010; money committee members are beginning to express concern about, "what then?"

Energy Conservation:

SENATE BILL NO. 1065: A BILL to amend and reenact § [67-700](#) of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 67 a section numbered [67-702](#), relating to covenants regarding wind energy drying devices.

"Wind energy drying device" means any device, such as a clothesline, or any combination of devices, that uses naturally occurring wind to dry clothes, linens, or other fabrics.

Summary as introduced:

Covenants regarding wind energy drying devices. Provides that effective July 1, 2009, no community association shall prohibit an owner from installing or using a wind energy drying device on that owner's property.

Status:

01/13/09 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/14/09 092303304

[01/13/09 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology](#)

[01/28/09 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with amendments \(15-Y 0-N\)](#)

[01/30/09 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed \(39-Y 0-N\)](#)

02/02/09 Senate: Read second time

02/02/09 Senate: Reading of amendments waived

02/02/09 Senate: Committee amendments agreed to

02/02/09 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended SB1065E

02/02/09 Senate: Printed as engrossed 092303304-E

You can't make this up.