

# The Senior Advocate Alert



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Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, the Area Agency on Aging for South Hampton Roads, is mandated as the local advocate for aging by the federal Older Americans Act. Advocates need up-to-date information so they can participate in shaping legislation.

During the 2010 session of the Virginia General Assembly, Senior Service will publish **The Senior Advocate Alert** every other Friday. If an urgent matter arises, special editions will be published.

**The Senior Advocate Alert** will be distributed via e-mail. Printed copies will be available at local Aging Task Force and Aging 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](mailto:mhowell@ssseva.org).

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## 2010 Virginia General Assembly

### KEY DATES:

- See next page for selected pre-filed bills.
- Senior Advocacy Day in Richmond, Jan. 27. E-mail John Skirven at [jskirven@ssseva.org](mailto:jskirven@ssseva.org) by noon Jan. 22 for details.
- Friday, Jan. 22: All bills and joint resolutions due 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 16: Crossover day for legislation.
- Thursday, Feb. 25: Crossover day for budget bills.
- Thursday, March 11: Budget bills conference report available by noon.
- Saturday, March 13: End of 2010 session.

### KEY WEB SITES: *Contact legislators and track legislation.*

- <http://www.ssseva.org/advocacy/representatives.shtml>
- [http://www.vaaaa.org/legislative\\_updates/](http://www.vaaaa.org/legislative_updates/)

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## COMMUNICATIONS TIP

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

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## SELECTED PRE-FILED BILLS OF INTEREST:

Bills	Committee	Last action	Date
<b>HB 514 - Rust</b> - State aging services; blueprint for livable communities and long-term services.	<b>(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions</b>	(H) Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	01/12/10
<i>Notes:</i> Provides for the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to coordinate the development of a blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities. In addition, the bill amends provisions relating to the development by the Department for the Aging of a four-year plan for aging services. The bill also repeals the authority for Campbell County to contract with the Area Agency on Aging designated to serve the County to provide certain services specified by federal law.			
<b>HB 698 - Bulova</b> - Licensure of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day care centers, child day centers.	<b>(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions</b>	(H) Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	01/12/10
<i>Notes:</i> Requires applicants for licensure of any nursing home, assisted living facility, adult day care center or child day center to submit emergency plans to the local emergency management agencies for review and acceptance before a license will be issued.			

**SB 262 - Whipple** - Department for the Aging; universal design and visitability features.

**(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology**

(S) Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

01/12/10

*Notes:* Requires the Department for the Aging to develop guidelines on universal design and visitability features to make structures and dwellings accessible for older Virginians and people who develop mobility impairment. The guidelines are also required to be disseminated to the public and posted on the Department's Web site.

**SB 265 - Whipple** - Hospice and home health care; licensure.

**(S) Committee on Education and Health**

(S) Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/12/10

*Notes:* Amends hospice licensure standards to include the same exemptions applicable to home care organizations and allows inspections of both types of facilities exempt from licensure. The bill also prohibits new home care organizations from being licensed until July 1, 2012, but allows the Commissioner of Health to issue a request for and accept applications for: (i) the establishment of home care organizations in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas or (ii) home care organizations approved for payments for home health or personal care services by the Department of Medical Assistance Services prior to July 1, 2010.

**SB 410 - Vogel** - State aging services; blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports.

**(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology**

(S) Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

01/13/10

*Notes:* State aging services; blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities. Provides for the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to coordinate the development of a blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities. In addition, the bill amends provisions relating to the development by the Department for the Aging of a four-year plan for aging services. The bill also repeals the authority for Campbell County to contract with the Area Agency on Aging designated to serve the County to provide certain services specified by federal law.