

## **Legislative Update from Delegate Rick Morris**

Greetings from Richmond!

### **Oath of Office & Committee Assignments**

On January 11, 2012 I was honored to take my oath of office. It was truly a privilege to officially become the voice of the citizens of the 64th District on the floor of the House of Delegates. It is a moment I will never forget. During the opening ceremony, Speaker Bill Howell announced Members' committee assignments for the 2012 session, appointing me to the Committee on Courts of Justice, the Militia, Police & Public Safety Committee and the Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns. I am very pleased with my committee assignments.

### **Sponsored Legislation**

I have patroned the following legislation:

- House Bill (HB) 632 addresses charter changes in the Town of Windsor providing for a transition to November elections and makes a technical correction.
- HB 634 addresses charter changes in City of Franklin providing self regulation procedures for council members.
- HB 1114 address zoning regulations for sport shooting.
- HB 630 which amends provisions that allow for forfeiture of real or personal property used in substantial connection with racketeering offenses to provide that the interest or profits derived from the investment of the forfeited money may also be forfeited.
- HB 631 provides that when deciding domestic relations matters, a court may not apply a foreign law where such application of foreign law would violate a person's fundamental rights guaranteed by both the state and US Constitution.
- House Joint Resolution 110 requests the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the efficiency of the use of public education funds and the possible gains from regionalizing school divisions.
- House Joint Resolution commemorating the service of the Honorable William K. Barlow.
- House Joint Resolution commemorating the service of the Honorable Samuel Edgar Campbell.
- Co-sponsor to a budget amendment that maintains funding for free clinics. If passed, the budget amendment would ensure funding for the Western Tidewater Free Clinic.

[All of the legislation I sponsored and co-sponsored can be found here on the General Assembly's website, legis.state.va.us.](http://legis.state.va.us)

Furthermore, I am lending my full support to HB 1183. This bill seeks to create the Route 460 Corridor Interstate 85 Connector Economic Development Zone to promote the use of the Port of Virginia. As this bill directly benefits economic development in our district, I am doing everything I can to ensure the passage of such a monumental piece of legislation.

## **Constituent Visits**

Already I have had the pleasure of numerous visits to my Richmond office from constituents. Students of Paul D. Camp Community College, along with President Paul Conco stopped by for a personal introduction. Other visitors included Mayor of Franklin, James P. Councill, and government liaisons from Suffolk and Isle of Wight. Constituents representing the Bank of Southside Virginia, Farmer's Bank, Virginia Red Cross, Virginia Citizens Defense League, Hampton Roads Tea Party, Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance, Chippokes Plantation Foundation, Virginia Legal Aid, Virginia Home Builders and many others also took the time to stop by. I am encouraged to see so many taking an active interest in government operations, and welcome more visitors in the weeks to come.

## **Telephone Town Hall**

I would like to invite all residents of the 64<sup>th</sup> District to participate in my upcoming telephone town hall that will be held on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. If you would like to join, please dial (888) 886-6603 Ext. 17811# at 7:00 PM. We will discuss important pieces of legislation, and you will have the opportunity to ask me questions. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

As always, my staff and I are here in Richmond to serve you. We want to hear what you think about the legislation pending before the House, or if there's anything we can do to help you in dealing with a state government agency. My office can be reached by phone at (804) 698-1064 or by email at [Delrmorris@house.virginia.gov](mailto:Delrmorris@house.virginia.gov). If you are planning to visit Richmond during Session, I encourage you to visit me in Room 817.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.