

Legislative Update – Crossover Review  
February 17, 2012

The Virginia General Assembly began the 2012 session on January 11th, and has now reached the halfway mark. This halfway point is referred to as cross-over day because it is the point in time when the House of Delegates and Senate exchange the bills they have passed in either house to be voted on by the other body.

So far, the House of Delegates has had tremendous success passing legislation to reform Government and apply principles of efficiency, accountability and innovation to the everyday concerns of Virginians. In fact, nearly half of the bills passed so far this session address jobs, education, government reform and public safety. In the first four weeks of Session the House has passed over 380 bills while the Senate has passed over 300. In addition to these bills I submitted a House Joint Resolution for the Commonwealth of Virginia to honor William Barlow for his twenty years of service to our Commonwealth.

Of the House bills passed, 43% pertain to job creation, education, government reform, and public safety. 12% are directed at the judicial system, and 10% affect local government. 6% of House bills deal with health care, while 5% are transportation bills. 4% concern energy and the environment, and 3% address veteran's issues. Only 2% of all bills passed thus far are related to social issues.

The most significant bills that have already been approved by the House and Senate include: incentives for expanding existing businesses, economic development grants for agriculture and forestry businesses, charter school enhancements, and the most sweeping government reorganization plan in recent Virginia history.

Upon the conclusion of the General Assembly session I will hold Town Hall meetings in Smithfield, Franklin and Prince George County. Government functions best when we listen to the stakeholders and work for solutions. Please continue to keep me updated on the issues that are important to you and your family. You can contact me by calling (804)698-1064 or by emailing me at [delrmorris@house.virginia.gov](mailto:delrmorris@house.virginia.gov).