

## Week 4 Template Update

It might feel like Session started just yesterday, but we are nearing the halfway point of the Session known as Crossover. The week before Crossover is always frenzied as the daily floor sessions begin to run longer and each of the House committees work to complete action on all the bills referred to their committees.

### **Lowering Energy Bills for Families and Businesses**

On Monday, the House passed important legislation that could have a positive impact on your wallet. The House voted to eliminate an excessive incentive for energy utility companies related to the use of renewable energy and streamline the State Corporation Commission's process for approving or denying a rate increase.

This legislation came as a result of Attorney General Cuccinelli working with Virginia's two largest investor-owned power companies, Dominion Power and Appalachian Power, to find a solution to remove this excessive incentive and benefit of Virginia families and businesses.

### **Additional K-12 Reform Bills Pass the House of Delegates**

Building off last week's momentum in education reform, the House passed additional legislation this week that is part of the Governor's All Students K-12 education agenda. House Republicans have made passing these important reforms a top priority during this year's session.

The measures passed this week will reward our hardworking teachers, remove mandates on local school boards, and promote early reading and math initiatives in our schools.

Some of the K-12 education reform bills that passed this week include:

- House Bill 2066 will remove certain Standards of Quality staffing requirements to give local school leaders more flexibility over staffing in schools and classrooms.
- House Bill 2068 will expand the early intervention reading and mathematics program to help students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade.
- House Bill 2083 will establish a fund for localities to establish a strategic compensation grant and reward their hardworking teachers. The locality will set the requirements on the teacher bonus. The Governor has committed \$15 million to the fund that would give additional \$5,000 bonus to as many as 3,000 teachers.
- House Bill 2098 will make it easier for school boards to receive waivers from state regulations.

House Republicans remain committed to enacting these and other important reforms to ensure that every child in the Commonwealth has the opportunity to receive a top-quality education that prepares him or her for college or a career upon graduation.

## **Bills and Resolutions**

**HB1926** - Abolishes school board selection commissions in school divisions composed of a single county and gives the authority and accountability back to the local government and the citizens to select or elect their own School Board. The bill also eliminates, in single-county school divisions, referendums as a method of authorizing school board appointment by the county governing body or abolishing the school board selection commission. This was unanimously reported by the Education committee and passed the full House by a vote of 98-0. It now heads to the Senate for consideration.

## **Contact Me**

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 at (804) 698-1064 or via the Internet at [DelRMorris@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelRMorris@house.virginia.gov). Please take my Citizen Survey:

<http://survey.house.virginia.gov/Survey.aspx?surveyid=2829>. 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.

## **Links of Interest**

### Jobs

- [Governor McDonnell Announces Creation of Rural Jobs Council](#)
- [Governor McDonnell Announces Microsoft Expansion in Mecklenburg County](#)
- [Executive Order Supports Virginians with Disabilities in the Commonwealth's Workforce](#)
- [House Passes Legislation to Protect Secret Ballot & Employee Privacy](#)
- [House Courts Committee Passes Tort Reform Package](#)

### Transportation

- [Statement of Governor Bob McDonnell on House of Delegates Finance Committee Passage of Transportation Funding and Reform Package](#)
- [New Study Confirms Benefits of Governor's "Virginia's Road to the Future" Transportation Plan](#)
- [More Business Groups Endorse Governor McDonnell's Transportation Plan](#)
- [Public Safety Groups Unite to Support Governor McDonnell's Efforts to Solve Virginia's Transportation Problem](#)
- [Governor McDonnell Launches "Virginia's Road to the Future" Website](#)
- [Virginia Business Council Endorses Governor McDonnell's Transportation Plan](#)

#### Legislation to Help Lower Energy Bills

- [House Passes Emergency Electric Utility Regulation Change](#)

#### K-12 Education Reform Agenda

- [House passes education bills aimed at increasing flexibility and rewarding Virginia's teachers](#)
- [Statement of Governor Bob McDonnell on Senate Education and Health Committee Passage of A-F School Grading System](#)
- [Legislation to Allow Teach For America to Partner with Virginia Communities Passes Both Chambers without Opposition](#)

#### School Safety

- [School Safety Task Force Recommendations](#)
- [House Republicans Propose \\$31 million in new funding for school security](#)

#### Other

- [Delegate Todd Gilbert on HB 1617](#)
- [Governor McDonnell Releases New Public Service Announcement to Build Awareness of Domestic Violence](#)
- [Statement of Governor Bob McDonnell on the Passing of Senior Justice Harry Lee Carrico](#)

#### **Visitors**

Family Foundation Pastors  
 Several Colleges/Universities  
 VEA