

Virginia Fire Service Council Legislative Summit

Updated November 7, 2004

Henrico County Public Safety Training Center

SUMMIT NOTES VERSION 1.0

Agencies, Departments, and Organizations Represented:

David Bailey & Associates
Henrico County Division of Fire
State Fire Marshals Office
Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators
Virginia Association Volunteer Rescue Squads
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Virginia Department of Fire Programs
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Department of Health, Officer of Emergency Medical Services
Virginia Fire Chief's Association
Virginia Fire Prevention Association
Virginia Fire Service Council
Virginia Professional Fire Fighters Association
Virginia State Firefighters Association

Organizational Positions on Issues Summary:

(Shows positions only for organizations present on 10/29/2004)

S=SUPPORT

N=NEUTRAL/NO POSITION

O=OPPOSED

ISSUE	PRESENTING ORGANIZATION							
1								
2								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 1	Increase Aid-to-Locality (ATL) through the use of the General Fund
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VPPF, VFCA, VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	None at this time – VDFP to facilitate a working group to explore options
NOTES	All groups to support attaining General Fund ATL for Fire & Emergency Services Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matching Funds to Insurance Industry (based on VDFP Needs Analysis) - Charge on Alcohol Sales - Traffic Ticket Fee

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 2	Second Year Funding on SAFER Act
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	Part of the Governors budget package
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Roll over funding from previous year Consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 3	Oppose re-structure that would eliminate local “911” tax ability
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	APCO
RATIONALE	Support making all “911” taxes local
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 4	VOLSAP – Matching dollars from the Commonwealth, \$1 Million General Fund Matching - \$120 per person, per year match by state
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	No opposition.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 5	Junior Firefighters (16 & 17 year olds) – clarify legislative intent Residency (must one reside in locality where training is Received) Riding apparatus – should be possible
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Must be enrolled in High School (provision introduced by VPPF)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 6	Support and defend law that provides for equipment dealers being licensed dealers
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 7	Extend Heart/Lung Coverage to Rescue Squad Members
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	VSFA Support

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 8	Include VDEM Hazardous Materials Officers in VALORS
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	HMA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Consensus to support.

**Benefits for Public Safety Officers Injured in the Line of Duty (HJR 34)-
Public Hearing regarding VaLORS membership, October 19,2004**

Inclusion of HazMat Response Specialist Officers

My name is David Bailey and I am here to speak on behalf of the Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists. This association is primarily composed of individuals who respond to emergencies involving hazardous substances within their own localities. This is among the most hazardous occupations with extreme and varied personal health and safety risks to those performing such tasks.

Therefore, the Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists, are asking that the Virginia Department of Emergency Management HazMat Response Specialists be included in VaLORS. Without this improvement in the retirement package, we see the Commonwealth continuing to be a "training ground" for the best and brightest, who then take their skills to other sectors and to other states. The system was instituted nearly 25 years ago, yet no officers have stayed for the duration. They are accepting positions elsewhere and getting better salaries and better retirement options.

The cost for fully training and equipping personnel as mandated for these highly hazardous positions is well into the thousands of dollars. This is an investment which is not returned if the VDEM HazMat officer does not remain in that capacity for a full career. The authorized staffing is currently 11 personnel. Every time an officer leaves, it is necessary and costly to fill his or her vacancy.

Some communities in the Commonwealth are served by full-time career public safety personnel, who are eligible to retire after 25 years of service, with full benefits, and there is no age restriction. The justification for this eligibility is the high risk to the personnel.

Likewise, the VDEM HazMat Response Specialist Officers are subject to hazardous mobilizations 24/7 throughout the state. Terrorist events of the last few years have made these mobilizations even more likely and even more hazardous.

As we indicated, there has been a high attrition rate in the ranks of the VDEM HazMat Response Specialist Officers. We believe that the rate of attrition is due, to a significant extent, to the lack of a competitive retirement incentive.

I would like to introduce Chief Paul Mauger, President of the Virginia HazMat Specialists, who is here in support of adding HazMat Officers to the VaLORS system. Chief Mauger is available should you have questions.

##

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 9	Add Fire Department Chaplin to the Line of Duty Act (LODD)
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	Police Chaplin are already included
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 10	“Call to Duty” retirement loss for firefighters – changing VRS to not include “active duty” time when calculating top 3 years of retirement
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	Study?
NOTES	

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 11	Motor vehicle fee restoration – 4 for Life
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 12	EMS Board – Increase from 25 to 27 to include three regional councils – reduce VAVRS by 1 seat
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Opposed by VPF

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 13	“Meet & Confer”
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Neutral by VFSC

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 14	Clarify Heart/Lung to include Strokes
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 15	Smokeless Powder / Black Powder
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	