

Virginia Fire Service Council Legislative Summit

Updated September 25, 2005

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 Fire Programs
 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

Roster of Attendees:

Name	Organization	E-Mail
Taliaferro, Julian	VFSC	iafctreasurer@adelphia.net
Hydy, Buddy	VDFP	Buddy.hyde@vdfp.virginia.gov
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Kopczynski, Steve	VFSC	kopczyns@yorkcounty.gov

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 1	Appropriating money from the General Fund to increase (double) the amount of money available to support firefighting needs
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VPPF, VFCA, VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	See Appendix A
NOTES	<p>The Fire Programs Fund is a special levy fund whose sole purpose is to support firefighting operations and training across the commonwealth. The fund was created by legislation (Code of Virginia 38.2-401) and was passed by the General Assembly in 1985. The source of revenue is a 1 % assessment collected on insurance policy premiums. The insurance policies that are assessed are homeowners, boat and mobile home, hazard, and fire. The assessment is collected each year and it is separate from the General Fund.</p> <p>Under the Code of Virginia, the Fire Programs Fund supports many programs and functions. The operating budget for the Department of Fire Programs, statewide fire training, grants to build training facilities, support to the Department of Forestry and disbursements to localities are all paid for from the Fire Fund. Disbursements to localities are referred to as Aid to Localities money (ATL). Many volunteer companies rely on ATL money just to operate; to buy fire apparatus and firefighting safety equipment.</p> <p>Despite the increased cost of providing service, no improvements have been made to increase the revenue source for the Fire Program Fund. The Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessments of 2003 and 2004 concluded from fire department survey responses that Virginia is woefully under equipped and understaffed. Money is needed for service improvements.</p> <p>General consensus to support.</p>

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 2	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	See Appendix B
NOTES	General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 3	Motor vehicle fee restoration – 4 for Life
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VAVRS
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	See Fire Chief’s Web Site. General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 4	Continue Funding on SAFER Act - \$1 Million
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 5	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	See Appendix B General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 6	Line of Duty Death Act - Health Insurance - provide to families
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	See Appendix A General consensus to oppose effort to place this back on responsibility of localities.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 7	JLARC Study National Comparison of Retirement Benefits
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 8	State Tax Dedication for Health Insurance Plans
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	See Appendix A General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 9	PBX Caller Information
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	APCO
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	<p>Legislation to insure PBX telephone systems report information to E-911 centers physical location of the caller.</p> <p>General consensus to support.</p>

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 10	VOIP Caller Information
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	APCO
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	<p>Legislation so Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone systems report information to E-911 centers physical location of the caller.</p> <p>General consensus to support.</p>

Appendix A

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Appendix B

Virginia State Fire Fighter's Association 2006 Legislative Issues

Obtain much needed funding from the General Fund for
Training firefighters and for Aid to Localities (ATL)

Support increases in the minimum amounts of Aid to Locality money to localities

Obtain a matching amount from the Commonwealth for the Volunteers Service Award
Fund (VOLSAP)

Keep 911 money going to localities for emergency communication

Oppose any statewide mandated training for EVOC and Firefighter 1

In addition, we will work closely with all stake holders for the interest of the fire service
and EMS community