

Virginia Fire Service Council Legislative Summit

Updated October 16, 2006

Held at the City of Richmond Fire Training Center

SUMMIT NOTES VERSION 2.0

Agencies, Departments, and Organizations Represented:

David Bailey & Associates
Henrico County Division of Fire
Henrico Firefighters
Richmond Fire
Roanoke County Fire & Rescue
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 International Association of Arson Investigators
Virginia Professional Fire Fighters Association
Virginia State Firefighters Association
York County Professional Fire Fighters

Roster of Attendees:

Name	Organization
Abernathy, Randy	VAGEMSA
Bailey, David	VSFA, VFPA
Bragg, Robert	VFFF
Brown, Gary R.	Virginia Office of EMS
Burdick, Brett	VDEM
Chandler, Russ	VDPF
Creecy, Robert	Richmond Fire
Dalton, Gary A.	VAVRS
Dinse, Don	York County Professional Fire Fighters
Eudailey, Chris	VFSC
Harris, Richard	VSFA
Hatton, Mike	Chesterfield EMS
Howlett, Willie	VFCA
Hughes, Jimmy	Henrico Firefighters
Jenkins, Ron	VDOF
Lipscomb, Art	VFFF
Lukhard, Bobby	IAAI
Martin, Toby	VFFF
Mastin, Ron	VFSC
Miller, John	VDOF
Mohler, R. Michael	VFFF
Newman, Jeremy	RCFRD
Nilo, James	VFSC
Pokorski, Paul	VFCA
Rhodes, Ed	VFCA
Samuel, Gary	Henrico Firefighters
Simcoe, Tom	VFFF
Singleton, Charles	VSFA
Smith, Bill	VFCA
Stoples, Mike	VFFF
Wagner, Karen D.	VAVRS
Winston, Scott	Virginia Office of EMS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 1	Search & Rescue
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	VDEM – Search & Rescue Training Sheriff in charge of Search & Rescue Operations Bill 1348 Local Issue General consensus to oppose.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 2	Multi-Line Telephone Bill –1603 911 information to show location and number calling of exact location instead of a single building where telephone systems may encompass very large buildings of a complex of buildings that share a single telephone system
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 3	Senate Bill 667 modified to require Carbon Monoxide Detectors in occupancies such as College Dorms, Motels, etc. that are heated with gas fires heaters in addition to residential structures
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	<p>May be an additional bill in carry over.</p> <p>General consensus to support.</p>

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 4	Appropriating money from the General Fund to increase (double) the amount of money available to support firefighting needs
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
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 5	Line of Duty Death Act - Health Insurance - provide to families
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VDPP
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	1387 General consensus to oppose effort to place this back on responsibility of localities

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 6	HB 598 – EMS Reporting of Child Abuse
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VAGEMSA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Issues include cost of required training, financial failure to reports (fines), knowledge of abuse May support without penalty. Carry over from previous year. General consensus to oppose without changes.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 7	Charitable Gaming for Small Card Games HB 525 (2005) – Fund raising, “Poker Bill”, Rules and regulations i.e. reporting quarterly vs. annually. Difficult games to involve. May put big bingo games at fire departments out of business.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	VSFA – Opposed. VPPF – No position. No additional comments.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 8	HB 5044 (2004) DMV Fees for Drivers Training. Bill to exempt VAVRS from fees collected to teach EVOC drivers' safety courses that provide "good" driver points.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VAVRS
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 9	Passive in Building Communications Systems. HB 2592 (2002) – Legislative study by Housing and Community Development (that has not been produced) where building of more that 40,000 sq. ft. have interoperable communications. New construction & Old construction.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFFF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 10	Legislation by Botetourt County to change language to allow State LEO to release insurance information to locality i.e. insurance information t recoup funds from accidents to fire and rescue. (46208 para. 812)
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VSFA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	VSFA to Support. No position from others.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 11	Fingerprints and Background Checks – Members of Volunteer Fire and EMS Departments – Issues such as funding to pay of checks
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VAGEMSA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 12	Relocation of State Fire Marshall’s officer out of Department of Housing and Community Development to Secretary of Public Safety (no as a part of VDFP)
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Governor’s office state that this issue is “under advisement”. General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 13	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	Obtain a matching amount form the Commonwealth for the Volunteers Service Award Fund (VOLSAP) Carry over from previous year. General consensus to support.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 14	Guns Shows – Fire Prevention Code Local Authority – May allow no local say with regards to ammunition and powder for sale in improper occupancies.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	General consensus to support. Opposed to action.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 15	Code Language – General “clean up” of current regulations. Including possible creation of State Medi-vac Authority due to the large number of new air carriers.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	OEMS
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 16	Move of OEMS to Public Safety from Department of Health
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 17	Some VDOF Employee's classified as first responders may receive improved retirement. "Special Warden" with summons powers identified by code as "Fire Fighters".
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VDOF
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 18	Misc. Items including Line of Duty Death benefits for certain state employees involved in response and use of "red lights" on select VDFP vehicles*.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VDFP
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	* This section opposed by VSFA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 19	Language to Define Fire Marshals under definition of Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) i.e. illegal to kill a Police Officers as a felony), Title 18 of the Criminal Code. May cause hardships for local fire marshals. Research being done by DCJS and DFP, Board of State Chiefs.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 20	Legislation to retrofit sprinkler systems to assisted living occupancies (high rise) with focus on residential high rises with aging populations.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	City of Richmond Fire
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Includes changes to existing state codes. FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 21	Fire Safe Cigarettes
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	Successful legislation already exists in New York and California. General consensus to support if introduced.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE 22	VOIP Caller Information Legislation so Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone systems report information to E-911 centers physical location of the caller.
BY ORGANIZATION/AGENCY	VFCA
RATIONALE	
PATRON/PROPOSED	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
NOTES	General consensus to support.