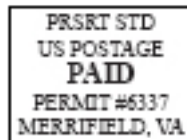




P.O. Box 106
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039



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2010 Legislative Initiatives and Accomplishments



Constituents play a leading role in my legislative agenda. Many initiatives, including several that passed, were brought to me by 37th District residents. This year I introduced 16 bills ranging from improving emergency planning in nursing homes to strengthening penalties for texting and driving. Below are a few of my bills that have been signed into law.

Strengthening Identity Theft Laws

HB210 addresses a serious weakness in our identity theft laws. It came to my attention, based on a real-life example, that it would be problematic to use Virginia's extortion statute to prosecute someone for threatening to sell another person's Social Security Number or other sensitive information. Unfortunately, these schemes have become more and more popular. Working with the Office of the Attorney General, I successfully sponsored legislation to fix the problem.

HB211 closes a legal loophole that allowed anybody to obtain sensitive personal information from college applications through a Freedom of Information Act request. The General Assembly deemed the bill important enough to make it "emergency legislation," meaning that it went into affect immediately upon signature by the Governor.

Restoring the Chesapeake Bay

HB1221 provides local governments with much needed access to low cost loans to implement projects aimed at cleaning up polluted stormwater. Polluted stormwater is a main cause of water quality problems in the Chesapeake Bay.

Protecting Small Businesses

This past summer, Virginia regulators informed yoga teacher training programs that they would be treated in the same way as higher education and be subject to thousands of dollars worth of new fees. Thanks to the great work of several local yoga studio owners, we passed HB703 to exclude these types of small businesses from overregulation.

Streamlining Government and Improving Education

HB208 eliminates or consolidates a half-dozen school reporting requirements that were determined to be outdated or redundant by the Virginia Board of Education. This reduces the administrative burden on our schools and shifts resources to our classrooms.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

HJR136 designates March 30th in 2010 and each succeeding year as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Virginia to celebrate the service of Virginia's more than 262,000 Vietnam Veterans and to say "thank you." Every member of the House and Senate signed on as a co-patron. I was honored to work with the Virginia Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America on this resolution.

Join David For Saturday Morning Coffee

Main Street Bagel
(10268 Main Street)
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Feel free to stop by without an appointment to ask a question, discuss an issue, or to just find out what is going on in the General Assembly.



Upcoming dates for 2010 include:

**September 11th ■ October 16th
November 6th**

2010 Report from Richmond



Delegate David Bulova

Proudly Representing Virginia's 37th District

Dear 37th District Resident,

It is an honor to represent you in Richmond. I believe that openness and accountability are the foundation of good government. In that spirit, I am pleased to provide you with my "2010 Report from Richmond" -- a summary of some of the new laws passed this year that will affect our community.

Our most significant challenge this year was to cut over \$4 billion from the budget in the face of declining revenue. While these cuts affect nearly every aspect of government services, I am proud that we were able to work together to make the tough decisions necessary to balance our budget.

Looking ahead, the Governor has created two important study commissions that will likely result in far reaching recommendations. The first is the **Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring**, which is tasked with finding ways to make government more efficient and effective. The second is the **Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation, and Investment**. As the father of three children, I know that affordable and accessible higher education is very important to Fairfax families.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss an issue or want to share an idea for how to make Virginia an even better place to live.

Contact Information

Fairfax District Office
Office Hours: 10-4, M-F
Legislative Assistant:
Mr. Rama Van Pelt

9900 Main Street, Plaza 102
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Phone: 703-310-6752
info@davidbulova.com

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 106
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039

Web Site
www.davidbulova.com

The following is a summary of just a few of the 877 laws passed by the General Assembly in 2010 that are likely to have an impact on our community.

Unauthorized Services on Telephone Bills (HB204). This law prohibits a telephone service provider from charging a customer for products or services that the customer did not specifically authorize. The law requires service providers to obtain verification of a customer's authorization before sending a bill.

Threatening Text Messages (HB741). Unfortunately, text messages can be used to harass a person 24 hours a day. This bill provides that any person who uses electronic texting in this manner is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Existing law only applies to the use of a telephone or a citizens band radio.

Continued inside...

Report from Richmond

...continued

Campaign Telephone Calls (HB215). This bill prohibits anyone from making a campaign call that intentionally modifies caller identification information in order to mislead the recipient as to the caller's identity.

Veterans Skills Database (HB760). This bill establishes a Veterans Skills Database within the Virginia Employment Commission. The service will be free and is meant as a way to help veterans market and promote their workforce skills to potential employers.

Charter Schools (HB1390). Local school boards will continue to have the final say in whether to approve a charter school. However, the application will first go to the State Board of Education for initial review. The purpose of the law is to increase the quality of applications before they go to a local school board.

Virtual Schools (HB1388). This law gives the State Board of Education the authority to regulate online school courses and programs. While these programs already exist in Virginia, the new law provides a framework to ensure that these programs meet certain minimum standards.



Offshore Wind Development (HB389). This law creates the Offshore Wind Development Authority to support the development of the offshore wind industry. While wind power potential is limited in inland portions of Virginia, offshore wind power potential is considered excellent.



Concealed Handgun Permits (HB505). Almost two dozen gun related bills were debated in the House this year. This bill allows a person with a concealed handgun permit to carry a concealed handgun into a restaurant that serves alcohol, provided that the individual does not consume alcohol. Under still existing law, a person may open carry a handgun into a restaurant and drink alcohol. However, a restaurant can prohibit any weapon from the premises.

Funeral Services (HB201). In response to several very unfortunate incidents, one of which was local, this new law establishes more stringent guidelines for handling human remains, including requirements related to covering and storage of a body.

Display of the United States Flag (HB956). This law prohibits a property owner's association from prohibiting the display of our nation's flag provided that it is displayed in accordance with the federal Flag Code.

ABC Exemption for Assisted Living Facilities (HB753). This measure allows a licensed assisted living facility to provide alcoholic beverages to residents in dining areas or private rooms. Previously, no alcoholic beverages were allowed on the premises if food or refreshments were furnished for compensation.

ABC Store Tastings (HB952). This measure authorizes distilled spirits and farm winery tasting events to be conducted at ABC stores under certain circumstances. This is similar to what is already allowed for wine at many retail stores.

Requirement to Obtain Individual Health Insurance Coverage (HB10). This law states that a Virginia resident cannot be required to obtain individual health insurance coverage, with certain exceptions. This bill forms the basis of Virginia's challenge to the new federal health care law.

E-Verify Program (HB737). Virginia agencies must now enroll in the federal E-Verify program by December 2012 to ensure that each newly hired state employee is eligible to work legally in the United States.



"Move Over" Law (HB1159). This law requires drivers on a four-lane highway to "move over" or yield when approaching emergency vehicles that are displaying flashing lights. The provisions do not apply in highway work zones.

Protection of Credit Card and Bank Account Data (HB434). This measure exempts from the mandatory disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information Act the portions of records that contain account numbers or routing information for any credit card, debit card, or other financial account.

General Assembly Ethics Panel (HB655). Few things are as important as maintaining the public's trust in our government. This measure provides more openness and accountability to the General Assembly's existing ethics investigation process.

Speed Limits on Highways (HB856). This measure increases the general highway speed limit from 65 mph to 70 mph. The provision only applies to certain highways after VDOT has conducted a safety review. Also, the speed at which reckless driving charges kick in continues to be 80 mph.

How Did My Delegate Vote?

My voting record is how I am accountable to you. To check how I voted on a specific issue, visit <http://leg1.state.va.us>.

Spotlight on the 2010 Budget

Few things we do in the General Assembly are as important as the budget. It reflects our values and priorities as a Commonwealth. This year, we made the tough decisions necessary to deal with a projected revenue shortfall of over \$4 billion.

While not perfect, the final budget ensures that we meet our responsibility under the Virginia Constitution to adopt a balanced budget. Here are some of the highlights:

■ **K-12 Education:** Early versions of the budget would have severely hurt our region, particularly in the area of education. One proposal would have "frozen" the formula for distributing K-12 education funding using old figures -- costing Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax over \$61 million. Attempts were also made to strip the region of our "cost-to-compete" funding. Fortunately, our Northern Virginia delegation was able to successfully fight these proposals.

■ **Higher Education:** Higher education spending was reduced by about \$383 million, primarily through reductions in Tuition Assistance Grants and the Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension program. Because higher education has taken the brunt of reductions in past years, we avoided significant across-the-board cuts.

■ **Medicaid:** Thanks to a lot of hard work, the final budget mitigated cuts to Medicaid and protected funding meant to help low-income families obtain health insurance for their children.

■ **Economic Development:** Balancing the need to preserve core services with the need to expand business opportunities, the General Assembly approved more than \$49 million in economic development initiatives.

■ **Mental Health, Public Safety, and the Environment:** Mental health funding was cut by \$56.7 million and public safety was cut by about \$495 million. Natural resources was cut by 14% compared to the last biennium. Many other programs were severely cut or eliminated.

■ **Regional Planning:** Funding for regional planning in Northern Virginia was cut by 68%. This is what I consider a short-sighted cut given that one of the purposes of regional planning is to more effectively coordinate services.

■ **Virginia Retirement System:** New state employees will pay more and receive fewer benefits from the Virginia Retirement System. The General Assembly also reduced payments to the system, which must be made up in future years.

■ **Transportation:** Most frustrating has been the General Assembly's inability to address our transportation needs. VDOT has now lost over 1,300 employees since FY2009 and capital construction is grinding to a halt. Adequately funding transportation and ensuring that our region gets its fair share continue to be among my top priorities.

Virginia Sales Tax Holidays

August 6-8, 2010
Back-to-School

Clothing and Supplies

During this three-day period, purchases of certain school supplies, clothing, and footwear will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Each eligible school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less.

October 8-11, 2010
Energy and Water

Conservation Products

During this four-day holiday, purchases of energy-efficient appliances meeting the Energy Star and WaterSense qualifications will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Eligible products must be priced at \$2,500 or less for each item, and be purchased for home or personal use.

For more information go to: www.tax.virginia.gov