

Week of 2-20-12
From the Desk of Danny Marshall
Representing the 14th District, Virginia House of Delegates

The Real Focus in Richmond

While a few social issues are repeatedly spotlighted in the general media, our real focus and the thrust of our work in Richmond is for economic development, creating a climate for job growth, and keeping taxes low. Sometimes our focus and the majority of work is not clear to our constituents, because the full story does not get out. Less than 3% of the bills that were introduced deal with social issues, while the vast majority of our work is on job creation and all the supporting work that goes with it.

With broad bipartisan support, major legislative initiatives in job creation, K-12 education, higher education, transportation, veteran's issues, public safety and government reform are advancing at the half-way point, which was Crossover.

There are 37 bills that Governor McDonnell has identified to spur job creation, 13 bills to strengthen K-12 education, a new higher education funding package, 19 bills to effect more efficiency in government, 10 bills dealing with transportation, 20 bills strengthening public safety and 12 bills to help veterans. Those are just a count of the "highlighted" bills of the Governor's initiative. Many other bills supporting these initiatives are also moving through.

Governor Bob McDonnell has summed up this work in the following way:

"There is one central theme among all of this legislation – and that is job creation. By ensuring that our children are receiving a high-quality education so that they are prepared for the jobs of the 21st century, continuing to invest in private sector job creation initiatives, reducing the size and scope of government to best utilize taxpayers hard earned money, and making sure that we are best serving those who protect our freedom at home and abroad, we are setting Virginia on the right course today to get more Virginians back to work, while also preparing the Commonwealth for success in the future."

As we continue our work at the General Assembly, we have just passed Crossover, when the surviving bills have "crossed over" in the Virginia Capitol to the other chamber. All active House bills have moved to the Senate and all active Senate bills are being heard in the House of Delegates. So, if you are following an issue that passed the House and want to have input, you would contact your Senators. If your interest is a Senate bill, the action is now with the Delegates.

This week we will begin addressing the amendments to the Governor's Biennial Budget that have been introduced in the House and Senate. The objective of Republicans is to keep taxes low, while getting the most from your dollars. Tax dollars are your hard-earned dollars and we need to be extremely careful with the way that money is spent. Remember, Virginia must have a balanced budget.

As we consider the issues, I want to know your views about Virginia legislation and the budget. Thanks to all of you from home who have made contact with us.

If you want to read or keep up with Virginia legislation, you may go on line to: <http://legis.virginia.gov/> Please let me know your ideas when you hear of state issues that are of concern.

We are working in Richmond and my legislative aide, Mary Franklin, is staffing our office here, located in Room 702 of the General Assembly Building. You can contact us by sending an e-mail to DeIDMarshall@house.virginia.gov or by sending a letter to me at PO Box 406, Richmond, VA 23218-0406, or by calling 804-698-1014. Visit my website at: www.dannymarshall.com

Until this year's session concludes, I'll be sending these weekly comments back home. I hope you enjoy reading the information, and I greatly appreciate this media resource and its commitment to informing the public.

Note

Delegate Danny Marshall (R) represents the 14th House District which includes the City of Danville, Henry County (part) and Pittsylvania County (part).

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