



Issue March 2011

The Voter



Virginia State Session Roundup Issue

Next Meeting Monday March 28th at 7:00 p.m.

At Hampton Main Public Library

Guest Speaker Delegate Glenn Oder - Virginia's 94th District

Often speaks against payday loans and watches transportation issues.

A Note From The President

Recently in a Daily Press letter to the Editor a writer put "Power corrupts, and absolute power tends to remove all perspective on rational adult behavior" . Mr Louis was writing why as citizens we can not vote every two years and then just forget about it till the next election. This is a true statement. A candidate can tell citizens what they want to hear depending on what audience they are talking to. After getting elected they know most voters are not really watching them. This November the states entire House of Delegates and Senate will be up for election. I bet many of your neighbors may not even know their Delegates or state Senators names. If they do they are unlikely to know what went on in session this year.

At a meeting recently I heard someone call this session "the whats the point session" . They were referring to the fact that not a lot of bills that had any kind of controversy passed the session. The reason being is that not only is the election this year but also the redistricting will happen before the election. These officials do not know if they will have the same voters as last election. Some may not even have a seat at all and if they intend to stay in Richmond they will have to run against another incumbent.

As most of you know the numbers have seats shifting to Northern Virginia as that is where the population has grown the most. Both Senator Miller and Senator Locke areas were down by 20,000 citizens. There has also been talk of the South Side loosing seats.

Of course we will not know until the redistricting plan has been approved. The state League of Women Voters of Virginia has talked a lot about this in our meetings as well as speaking against gerrymandering in public meetings. The house came out with their version recently which made sure to protect their seats. (Virginia Pilot article <http://bit.ly/ga50Cc>) "It's an incumbent plan, not a Republican plan," said former GOP Rep. Tom Davis. Well no, its a protect that seat plan regardless if citizens hate gerrymandering.

So we are having our annual session round up information meeting. We were unable to have our session roundup with both sides at the same meeting due to schedule problems. So we are having Republican Delegate Glenn Oder at the March 28th meeting and Democrat Senator John Miller at our April 25th meeting. The next two newsletters will include some bills that were considered at session this year. It does not matter if you agree with how a member voted on a bill you should come and ask them why they back or do not back certain bills that matter to you. They will also give us their opinion of the best and worst that happen in session this year.

These meetings are open to the public and will be at the Hampton main library at 7:00pm . Bring anyone you can, friend or neighbor, because when elections come around this November you do not know who's district you might be in.

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PayDay Loan Progress

Legislation was introduced to amend payday lending practices. These bills failed.

In the Senate

SB 751 Motor vehicle title loans; interest rate. Caps the rate of interest that may be charged on a motor vehicle title loan at 36 percent per year. Currently, interest on such loans may not exceed 22 percent per month on the portion of the outstanding balance of the loan that does not exceed \$700; 18 percent per month on the portion between \$700 and \$1,400; and 15 percent per month on the portion that exceeds \$1,400. Bill Introduced by Senator Mamie Locke . Bill Killed in Commerce and Labor Committee.

SB 752 Payday loans; permitted interest. Repeals provisions of the Payday Loan Act that authorize lenders to charge a loan fee or verification fee, thereby limiting permissible charges on payday loans to simple interest at a maximum annual rate of 36 percent. Bill Introduced by Senator Mamie Locke. Bill Killed in Commerce and Labor Committee.

SB 933 Payday loans; permitted interest. Repeals provisions of the Payday Loan Act that authorize lenders to charge a loan fee or verification fee, thereby limiting permissible charges on payday loans to simple interest at a maximum annual rate of 36 percent. Bill Introduced by Senator John Miller. Bill Killed in Commerce and Labor Committee.

In the House of Delegates

HB 1441 Motor vehicle title loans, payday loans, and open-end credit plans; interest rate. Caps the rate of interest that may be charged on motor vehicle title loans, payday loans, and open-end credit plans at 36 percent per year. Bill Introduced by Delegate Glenn Oder. Bill Killed in Commerce and Labor Committee.

If you look at our several of our local representatives records on the legislative search you will see the numerous bills they have submitted over the years to rein in payday lending practices. Carol Capo addressed payday lending in one of her recent editorials <http://bit.ly/hGu24u>

The Bill that Passed

The following bill would allow residents of neighboring states where car title loans are illegal to come into our state and take a loan out with the high interest payday rate on their car.

SB 1367 Motor vehicle title loans; nonresidents. Eliminates provisions that prevent motor vehicle title lenders from making title loans to individuals whose motor vehicle is registered in another state. Currently, a title lender is required to have its security interest in the motor vehicle added to the vehicle's certificate of title by complying with the requirements of Virginia's motor vehicle laws. This measure will allow title loans to be made to nonresidents of Virginia provided the lender's security interest is added to its certificate of title by complying with the laws of the state where it is registered. Bill Introduced by Richard Saslaw. Bill Passed



Nays in our localities – Senator Mamie Locke, Delegate Robin Abbott, Delegate Glenn Oder, Delegate Jeion Ward, Delegate Mamye BaCote, Delegate Brenda Pogge and Delegate Lynwood Lewis

Yeas in our localities Senator John Miller

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The so called Abortion Clinic bill that has been in the paper recently

SB 924 Hospitals, nursing homes, etc.; regulations required of Board of Health.

Board of Health; regulation of facilities. Requires the Board of Health to promulgate regulations containing minimum standards for policies related to infection prevention, disaster preparedness, and facility security of hospitals, nursing homes, and certified nursing facilities. This bill provides that minimum standards for construction, maintenance, operation, staffing, equipping, staff qualifications and training, and conditions under which services may be provided, as well as requirements for policies related to infection prevention, disaster preparedness, and facility security for hospitals, nursing homes, and certified nursing facilities shall also apply to any facility in which five or more first trimester abortions per month are performed, and that such facilities, shall be classified as a category of hospital for the purposes of such requirements. This bill requires the Board of Health to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act within 280 days of enactment.

Neas in our localities – Senator Mamie Locke, Delegate Robin Abbott, Delagete Jeion Ward, Delegate Mamy BaCote, and Senator John Miller

Yeas in our localities – Delegate Glenn Oder, Delegate Brenda Pogge and Delegate Lynwood Lewis

Notes on the Bill

This bill passed the house then tied in the senate with Lt. Governor Bill Bolling determining the outcome. There have been controversy and some unease as this bill requires clinics to follows guidelines which have not been developed yet. Also some groups have stated it will cause most abortion clinics to close in Virginia. Another issue is that this bill is pushed on a fast track to have the regulations in place they are by passing the usual two month public input period for the public. They are allowing the public to speak the day the board will take action on the regulations.

Newspapers political columnist articles on the bill

Daily Press – Kimball Payne <http://bit.ly/gXeqbq>

Washington Post – Rosalind Helderman <http://wapo.st/gXQDVl>



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SB 1400 Fort Monroe Authority Act; created.

Fort Monroe Authority Act. Moves the Fort Monroe Authority Act's enabling legislation from Title 15.2 to Title 2.2 and makes necessary technical changes. Additionally, the Authority may fix, charge, and collect rents, fees, and charges for the use of the services or facilities provided, owned, operated, or financed by the Authority benefiting property within the Authority's Area of Operation, with an exception provided for use by the Commonwealth or the City of Hampton. The Authority is expressly prohibited from arranging or contracting for the furnishing of works, services, privileges, or facilities the City of Hampton provides, except to the extent necessary to provide additional, more complete, or more timely services than are generally available in the City of Hampton to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Fort Monroe. The bill provides a formula detailing the fees the Authority shall pay the City of Hampton each year.

Yeas in our localities – Senator Mamie Locke, Delegate Robin Abbott, Delegate Glenn Oder, Delegate Jeion Ward, Delegate Mamyé BaCote, Delegate Brenda Pogge and Delegate Lynwood Lewis and Senator John Miller



Study of Our Community

We now have the study we are required to complete to become a full league. There are a lot of questions which will require many quick calls to verify information. We will be assigning everyone a couple questions then the study group will compile the information. This will allow us to complete this task more quickly. If you wish to be on the committee to help compile the information please email us a vplwv@lwvpeninsula.org or tell us at the next meeting.



Want To Join The Virginia Peninsula Members-at-Large Unit Of the League of Women Voters of Virginia

Promoting Informed And Active Citizen Participation in Government

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- * **WE STUDY** and discuss issues of local, state and national concern.
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- * **WE PUBLISH** and distribute issue-oriented material.

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