



GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE



News From VPCGA at the General Assembly

January 30, 2010

In This Update

- **General Assembly Update**
- **Reminder: Spotsylvania County to Impose 2.1 Percent Tax February 15**

Quick Links

- **VPCGA Bill List**
- **Who's My Legislator**
- **Printable Versions of the Update**
- **2010 Legislative Reception Pictures**

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Dear Member,

General Assembly Update

While we are still awaiting action on many industry issues, during the past week we did see action at the General Assembly on the following issues:

Rest Area Privatization

The House Transportation Committee unanimously passed a watered-down study resolution this week. It did so after including language we requested that assures that the impact of privatization on existing businesses adjacent to interstate highways is a part of any study. Earlier the committee had agreed that the study will be done by VDOT's Transportation Research Council and not a legislative study committee, meaning that whatever findings are reached they are not likely to result in immediate legislation. Senate action on a similar resolution will happen next week.

ABC Issues

During the week the Virginia Wineries Association and Virginia Retail Merchants Association attempted to amend a rather inconsequential bill relative to shipment of wine and beer into one that would have significantly expanded the internet sales of wine and beer into Virginia at the expense of existing in-state licensees. We, along with the Virginia Retail Federation, opposed this change which was dropped during committee consideration of the bill.

Price Gouging Legislation

Delegate Chris Peace has filed legislation which would amend the state's price gouging law by reducing the number of days that gouging complaints could occur from 30 to 10 after the declaration of the emergency. While seemingly innocuous, we are concerned that this

change may impact the industry's ability to respond to fuel shortages during times of emergency by limiting weight, hours of service and fuel specification waivers. Traditionally these waivers have covered the duration of the emergency or 30 days, whichever is longer. We will be working to assure this bill does not impact the industry in a negative fashion.

Reminder: Spotsylvania County to Impose 2.1 Percent Tax February 15

Members are reminded that as the result of an ordinance adopted by the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors last year, distributors who serve stations in that county must begin assessing the 2.1 percent additional fuel tax for all deliveries beginning February 15. Members will recall the disinformation campaign run by the proponents of this change which told consumers that pump prices would not increase as a result of the change. To address this as well as anticipated customer questions we have prepared dispenser signs that members can obtain free of charge. To order, email elizabeth@vpcga.com.