



GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE



News From VPCGA at the General Assembly

February 12, 2010

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Dear Member,

Senate Amends Weights and Measures Bill

Drops Registration Fee and Adds 1/10th Cent to Petroleum Fund Dedicated to Weights and Measures Inspections

Yesterday evening the Virginia Senate Finance Committee unanimously passed legislation relative to the state's weights and measures program. Instead of the \$17.50 registration fee which had been under consideration, the bill now provides for a 1/10th of one cent per gallon increase in the state's petroleum storage tank fund dedicated solely to inspections of petroleum devices that dispense products on which the fee is assessed. Another provision of the new bill states that any excess funds from the additional 1/10th shall automatically revert to the tank fund at the Department of Environmental Quality. VPCGA supports this compromise, but while this bill will almost certainly pass the Senate before Tuesday's crossover deadline, we do not know how the House will react. Governor McDonnell has stated that he will evaluate fees associated with related state services on a case by case basis, so it is premature to predict the outcome of this issue. [Click here](#) to view the bill.

Free Spin Legislation

This legislation has become the most debated bill before the House General Laws committee in 2010. It was subject to an extensive hearing in the ABC/Gaming Subcommittee yesterday afternoon and another hearing before the full General Laws Committee that concluded at 9:30 last night. At the end of the meeting it was decided that the committee would meet for a third time this afternoon to digest compromise language to allow many existing devices to remain in operation.

Native American Legislation

As reported yesterday, legislation submitted by Virginia's Indian tribes to establish compacts with the state on motor fuels and tobacco products taxation was sent back to the Finance Committee. Yesterday afternoon the Committee voted to carry the bill over to the 2011 session. This means we will have to redouble our efforts in Washington D.C. in the coming months to assure that Senators Warner and Webb agree to amend the bill to include an amendment protecting Virginia from tribal tax evasion. If we are unsuccessful, it's a certainty that the tribes will be back next year.

Spotsylvania Tax

Members are reminded that the Northern Virginia 2.1 percent motor fuels tax will be expanded to include Spotsylvania County, and must be assessed on all retail deliveries beginning this Monday, February 15. The Department of Taxation revised guidelines for the implementation are available [here](#).