



GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE



News From VPCGA at the General Assembly

February 19, 2010

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Dear Member,

Future of Motor Fuels Allowance on Sunday Agenda

On Sunday the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will meet to announce their recommended budgets for the next two years. This will be an important time for the industry as we will learn if our efforts to convince legislators to preserve the motor fuels allowance will be successful. As soon as we know the outcome of those deliberations we will provide it to the membership. If it is unfavorable we will be asking for your immediate assistance. Earlier this week Governor McDonnell announced a program of cuts largely impacting the state workforce and public education to erase a state budget deficit of approximately \$2 billion dollars. This position is opposed by the Democratically-controlled Senate which favors a combination of new taxes and spending reductions to balance the budget. Over the final three weeks of the session members will try to reach agreement on a budget in time for adjournment on March 13.

Weights and Measures

Compromise legislation that would bring significant changes to the state's Weights and Measures program passed the Senate unanimously this week. Under the bill, supported by VPCGA, the state's petroleum storage tank fund will increase by 1/10th of a cent, with the proceeds specifically directed for testing and inspections of petroleum pumps. Any fees in excess of those needed for weights and measures inspections would revert to the petroleum storage tank fund. The legislation is expected to be before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources next week.

Free Spin Legislation

This legislation has passed the House unanimously and will be considered by the Senate General Laws and Technology Committee likely next week. This bill has been amended to address many of the concerns of the industry and we will be closely following its progress next week.