

## Legislative Report

April 2017

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1. GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017. Will resume on April 5 to discuss Bills/Resolutions vetoed or amended by the Governor. Approximately 28 Bills plus a number of Regulations to be reviewed. Potential outcomes are--accept Governor's decisions or set aside his actions with the necessary votes of the ASSEMBLY membership.

2. OUR REPRESENTATIVES ACTIONS: Senator Edwards, Delegate Yost. The Senator sponsored or co-sponsored 25 Bills plus a number of Regulations. Nine were approved. Two of special significance-a. An energy bill to reduce the cost of electricity; b. The establishment of a joint Health Commission to evaluate/improve the delivery of health services to our citizens. Delegate Yost sponsored or co-sponsored 13 Bills plus a number of Regulations. Seven were approved. Two of special significance were- a. Required mental health training for college student counselors/advisors who are directly involved with students in order to improve their skills in identifying mental/emotional student problems; b. Regulations providing a more acceptable environment for a special group of voters who were utilizing absentee ballots.

3. LEGISLATION-LEGALIZING MEDICAL MARIJUANA. Good medical practice plus a JOB CREATOR for SW Virginia plus another source of State tax revenue. Medical marijuana is now accepted as treatment of certain medical conditions (cancer, glaucoma and 10 others)and is legal in a number of States-28. In some of these States "Cultivation Centers" (Green Houses) have been established as private businesses. In one State/Town the Center became the largest private employer in the area. Already some of our Legislators appear to support this. And there is opposition by others. Is the opposition mostly philosophical one?? A good idea??

4. STATE BUDGET. Good news. A 1.2 billion shortfall was closed without raising taxes!! This will provide pay increases for large groups of our dedicated public employees along with funding other pressing needs within the Commonwealth.

TAX ALERT!! Federal Income Taxes. This year we have three extra days to pay these (DUE on APRIL 18)