

Legislative Report
October, 2018
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1. SCHOOL SAFETY-Armed Teachers? The recent national tragedies in our schools has caused a few school boards/school districts to believe the only available solution to the problem is to arm a voluntary cadre of teachers and other school staff to carry their arms onto school property. One of our boards/counties (Lee) has recently made such a proposal and they had community support. Such a plan requires State approval. Our State Attorney General has already ruled that such a plan is unlawful. The District/School Board still wanted to proceed further even though many of our top law enforcement staff are also against it along with gun control advocates, the largest State Teacher's Union and others. This District has considered other actions such as more effective security building access systems, hiring more resource officers as well as hiring more health care staff. But they allege the budgets do not provide the necessary funds to do this. They also came up with another proposal that if they considered some of the armed teachers as "special conservators of the peace" that would eliminate the current objections of their plan. Some other states have done just that. But once again a State Agency (Criminal Justice) rejected their application. This District/School Board is now considering other options. There is currently a committee in the Virginia House reviewing previous recommendations on this subject but none of those include arming teachers; they will make their recommendations when the Assembly resumes in January 2019.

2. REDISTRICTING (GERRYMANDERING) The special session of the General Assembly (GA) failed to agree on a solution to the problem (racial gerrymandering). Again, the court has ruled that the GA must submit a plan to correct the deficiencies and submit it to the court no later than October 30. In the meantime, both GA parties again submitted a new plan but again they could not come to an agreement. If the Governor feels that it is unlikely that the two parties will come to an agreement he then could ask the court to come up with their suggested plan and then submit it to the GA for their approval. More than likely that plan would be approved by the GA and the Governor.

3. URANIUM MINING IN VIRGINIA? The for and against arguments will now be heard in the U.S. Supreme Court as a result of several interested parties (Virginia Uranium, the Nuclear Energy Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce) charging that the mining moratorium against such mining passed by our General Assembly in 1982 is not proper. They state that it undermines the Federal Governments regulatory power, encroaches on the Atomic Energy Act, adversely affects the advancement of clean energy and threatens the U.S. nuclear industry. The economic consequences of this issue are enormous: our southern border is the nation's richest source of the mineral used in nuclear reactors (Pittsylvania County near the Town of Chatham) One estimate is that the deposits are worth \$10 billion dollars and the land is privately owned. Lower courts have not ruled against the moratorium and our current Governor supports it. We also have here the issue of states rights vs. federal rights--who should be in charge?