

Legislative Report
November 2016
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1. Virginia Voter ID Law. A Federal Judge upheld the law on the basis that it included a variety of ways to accommodate all people in their right to vote (free photo ids, etc.). This decision has been appealed. For a free photo ID go to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles or to the Voter Registration Office at the County Govt. Center at 755 Roanoke Street. For other information call their office at 382-5741.

2. State Budget. The Virginia economy did not grow as expected resulting in a projected budget shortfall of \$1.48 billion dollars. As a result, Governor McAuliffe has proposed a number of actions: 1. eliminating pay raises for many state employees; 2. eliminating funds for new positions; 3. selected layoffs. There is hope that some positive actions can be taken when the General Assembly convenes in January 2017 to lessen the impact on people and programs.

3. Caregivers Overtime Pay. A recent State Law will affect caregivers hired directly by individuals to help those with disabilities by putting a cap on overtime pay for these individuals. Opponents say this will reduce the supply of such individuals as well as violate a 2012 State agreement with the Federal Government. Proponents say there are alternate ways to handle any serious problems resulting from this law (i.e. live-in care, additional part-time caregivers, exceptions from the State law on a case by case basis).

4. New law creating a State Agency. General Assembly has created an International Trade Corporation to help Virginia become more competitive in international markets. Industry experts predict that in 2017 about 80% of economic growth will take place outside of the United States. Our future budget needs and required economic development will require us to capture much more of this growth.