

January Legislative Report
Blacksburg AARP
Val Coluni, Chair
Legislative Committee

1. Lobby Day (Tuesday, January 28) Over 100 AARP volunteers and staff visited members of the General Assembly to ask their support of the Medicaid Expansion Proposal which is the primary legislative objective of State AARP this legislative session. L. Bloom and J Hillison represented the Blacksburg Chapter.
2. Legislative Visitation. The AARP State Advocacy Team attended several committee hearings and provided verbal support to proposals or raised disapproval of some proposals. Some of the proposals being supported were: a. Public Guardianship Program. This is a program of last resort for incapacitated adults who need significant help but do not have a suitable family member or friend to serve them. Additional funding is required. Still active. b. Lifespan Respite Voucher Program. For family caregivers who are uncompensated and caring for individuals of all ages with special needs. Funding is needed as the previous program ended June 30, 2013 Still active c.. Longterm care insurance. Provided greater protection to the consumer before policies were terminated. Was defeated in sub-committee. Some of the proposals not supported: a. Utility issue. Would limit the authority of a State Agency (SCC)) in a way which could negatively impact our members and many older Virginians. Still active.
3. Medicaid Expansion. Will continue to be a contentious issue as many House Republicans do not favor it and may soon announce an alternative plan. Our newly elected Governor is actively in support of the current proposal. It is difficult to predict who will win the "battle." Still active.
4. Mature Driver Legislation. Would lower the age at which drivers are required to appear before DMV for license renewal from 80 to 75 or older and require that licenses issued to persons age 75 or older be valid for no more that 5 years. AARP is concerned about any legislation which links driver:s ability to age. Still active.
5. Stalking Bill. Include "Technology Stalking" in the definition of stalking. AARP supports this. still active.
6. Public Utilities. Seeks to limit the power of a state agency (SCC) to regulate agencies as now done. AARP not in favor. Still active.