

Legislative Report

June 2016

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1. Medicare Plan Change. Payments to providers will be partly based on whether they keep patients healthy rather than solely on the number of procedures and/or services.
2. Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines. There are still concerns about the routes, (erosion and sediment control. The Virginia State Department of Quality has notified both pipeline staffs they may have to pay for hiring additional people to monitor these conditions. Also suggestions have been made to use existing pipeline paths rather than digging new ones. This alternative plan has a number of supporters.
3. Felon Voting Rights Restoration. Did the Governor exceed his executive authority by issuing a mass restoration of voting rights for those who served their time and completed parole and probation? Republicans think so. They have hired an attorney to challenge the Governor's order. One unintended consequence of the order is to make it easier for those felons to obtain guns. The Governor indicated that was not his intention.
4. State Legal Costs. Are we effectively using taxpayer's money?? \$14.8 million was used by our Attorney General for outside counsel in 2015. We have spent \$3.7 million on 4 cases alone (redistricting, voter identification). Are we using the courts to solve our issues rather than making some concessions to the other party? Now there is a concern about meeting our forecasts for tax collections which may affect the budget. This looms in the background as a major crisis.