

## **Legislative Report**

**April 2014**

Val Coluni

1. Driver Safety. Current research shows the best way to identify unsafe drivers is in person license renewal. Legislation recently passed will require drivers 75 years of age and older to renew in person every 5 years, effective Jan. 1, 2015. Previous law required in person renewal for persons over 80 every 8 years.

2. Financial Exploitation. AARP has worked on this issue for many years and recent legislation now makes it a criminal offense to exploit incapacitated persons. This will make it easier to bring exploiters to justice.

3. Ethics Bill. Passed by Legislature with virtually no opposition. Some feel there are too many loopholes and not enough means to insure effective enforcement.

4. Budget. There has already been agreement on some major issues-mental health, education, transportation but no agreement on the overall budget due to continued controversy over Medicaid Expansion. The current budget ends on June 30, 2014. The Governor has said there will be "no Government shutdown" if a new budget is not approved by that date.

5. Medicaid Expansion. No progress on this issue. The positions on the Governor, House, Senate have been frequently stated with little movement towards agreement. Right now it looks like the one proposal that has best chance of bringing the parties together is "Marketplace Virginia" which was offered by Senator Watkins. The issue has become so complex that major surveys by the "pros" have resulted in different conclusions as to whether there is now public support for the expansion.