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## General Assembly Final Report April 25, 2016

The Virginia General Assembly ended its long session on March 12, 2016. Virginia PTA was there every day advocating for our members.

Here is a report of bills we followed during the 2016 General Assembly session:

### Funding:

- **HB 389 (LaRock)** creates the Parental Choice Education Savings Account which allows parents who opt out of public education to take 90% of state share for their student and place into a savings account. Passed. Governor vetoed. We oppose.
- **HB 1018/HB 1019 (Massie)** both modify Education Improvement Scholarships. Both failed or were continued to 2017. Oppose.
- **HB 29/HB 30 (Jones) and SB29/SB 30 (Norment):** House and Senate budget bills referred to House Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance, respectively.

### Assessments:

- **HB 381 (Greason)** would require the Board of Education to prescribe alternate means for students with disabilities to show achievement on SOL assessments. Passed. Governor signed. Support.
- **SB 203 (Miller)** would reduce SOL assessments to federal minimum. Continued to 2017. Support.
- **SB 427 (Miller)** would forbid the zero scores for up to 5% of students who opt out of SOL assessments to count against the teacher/school. Passed. Governor signed. Support.
- **SB 428 (Miller) and HB 833 (Greason)** would reduce the amount of time students would test. Both continued to 2017. Support.

### Flexibility:

- **HB 895 (Greason) and SB 336 (Miller)** would allow for redevelopment of the high school diploma in order to allow for individual paths to student success. Passed. Governor signed. Support.

### Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety:

- **HB 76 (Marshall)** would allow concealed handguns by trained persons on school property. Failed. Oppose.
- **HB 167 (Cole)** would allow possession of firearms by employees who are former law-enforcement officers. Failed. Oppose.

- **HB 422 (Murphy)** would require local regulation of gun dealers within proximity of schools. Failed. Support.

#### **Local Control and School Board Authority:**

- **HJ 1 (Bell, Robert)** is Constitutional amendment on charter schools. Passed House 52-47. Failed. Oppose.
- **SJ 6 (Obenshain)** is Constitutional amendment on charter schools. Failed. Oppose.
- **HB 571 (Robinson)** allows local control of calendar with mandatory 5 day break over Labor Day. Passed House. Failed Senate. Support.
- **HB 753 (Greason)** allows local control of calendar. Passed House. Failed Senate. Support.

#### **Other Bills of Interest:**

- **HB 131 (Bell, Robert) and SB 612 (Garrett)** would allow homeschool students to participate in interscholastic programs. Passed. Governor vetoed. Opposed.
- **HB 187 (Taylor)** would require new public school building blueprints to include indoor active shooter gunshot detection and alert. Failed. No position.
- **HB 357 (Loupassi) and SB 211 (Miller)** would require 20 minutes of physical activity per day in grades K-5. Passed. Governor signed. Support.
- **HB 516 (Landes)** would require the Board of Education to develop policy on parental notification on sexually explicit material. Passed. Governor vetoed. No position.
- **HB 663/HB 781 (Cole)** would require public schools or designated party to develop policies to insure restrooms are solely used by persons whose anatomical sex matched such gender designation. Failed. No position.
- **HB 842 (Cline)** would require professional development in indicators of dyslexia. Passed. Governor signed. Support.
- **SB 224 (Miller)** prohibits use of tobacco products on school busses. Passed Senate 30-10. Failed House 38-60. Support.
- **SB 458 (McEachin)** provides that a student may only be suspended after all feasible alternatives to suspension have been considered. Passed Senate 31-9. Failed House 43-55. Support.

If you are interested in a particular bill, you may find it, along with information about your Senator, Delegate and General Assembly schedules, here: [lis.virginia.gov](http://lis.virginia.gov).

Please feel free to contact the VAPTA Legislation/Education committee with specific questions or concerns at [legislation@vapta.org](mailto:legislation@vapta.org).