

2011 State Legislation Plan

I) Aging issues in the state are still a concern. Many issues identified in the JLARC10 study as well as issues more recently identified need addressing.

- Implement and enforce geriatric certification requirements for both professional and non-professional workers.
- Implement and enforce a adequate caregiver to patient ratios in elderly care institutions.
- Require nursing homes to provide more options to patients for obtaining prescriptions and other needed drugs and medicines.
- Implement programs to secure and encourage greater utilization of ombudsmen for patients.
- Regulation of Assisted Living and Continuing Care Retirement Communities,
- HB110 of the 2006 GA session called for agency assessment reports through 2008. The most recent report by the Agency on Aging published in the fall of 2009 is missing information on how individual agencies are setting or meeting goals to provide services to this portion of the population.

II) Encourage VDOT to alter transportation policies to accommodate the needs of the rapidly increasing senior's population:

- Previous legislative actions (HB110 2006) called for changes in state Transportation policy to recognize the special needs of the increasingly aging population, but there is little evidence that this is happening. VDOT's annual report is now an electronic survey submitted to the Agency on Aging which combines this with surveys from other agencies.
- Policy must call for larger and more visible signage for street signs, and route numbers. Lane markers and edge designators must be clearer and visible under adverse weather conditions.
- Public transportation to meet the needs of seniors needs to be developed in all areas of the state. Seniors who relied on their own private transportation options need help converting to the use of public transportation modes.
- handicapped parking access, should be available even when adverse weather conditions reduce total parking availability
- Any consideration of increased speed limits should take into account congestion and use patterns.

III) The General Assembly's freezing of funds for the Judicial segment of the state government has led to a shortage of judges with the continuing retirement of senior judges. The GA needs to find Funding for replacement Judges.

IV) State Board of Elections Voter lists should be made available only to those persons who need it to perform the function of electing office holders in the State. Outside organizations no matter their lofty goals should not have access to voter lists and voter histories. The desire by some to harass voters to encourage increased voter turnout can only result in less registered voters.

V) The GA supported our request in 2007 to protect property rights in Virginia by limiting the ability of localities to take private property for non public uses. (HB2954, SB781, SB1296) We strongly urge that the current law be adopted as a constitutional amendment, so that a future legislature will have to seek approval of the voters of the state to overturn these protections.