

VA State Legislative Plan

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Exempting Certain Federal Pensions from Virginia Income Tax

The Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Retirement System (FSRDS) are retirement annuities paid by the Federal Government in place of Social Security. These federal pensions should be treated the same as Social Security pensions and should not be taxed as income by the Commonwealth of Virginia. At least nine states already exempt Federal pensions from state tax. This is a fairness and equal taxation issue.

Minimum Nursing Home Standards

Nursing home residents need adequate certified staff to improve their physical and emotional quality of life. Current federal regulations require “sufficient” staffing to meet the needs of residents. While many states have adopted minimum staffing levels, Virginia has yet to do so. We urge the Virginia General Assembly to enact legislation to adopt and implement certified nursing home staffing assignments and staffing levels. .

Absentee Voting

We commend the General Assembly on passing legislation that allows “no excuse” absentee voting seven days before an election. We urge the General Assembly to pass legislation that expands the “no excuse” absentee voting period to at least 45 days, the same period currently allowed for absentee voting in the Commonwealth.

Tax Credit for Family Caregivers

According to an AARP study, the average annual out of pocket expense for family caregivers is almost \$7,000. In addition to the emotional pain, the physical and mental toll it takes on family caregivers, the cost of providing that care can be devastating financially for the family members. We recommend the General Assembly pass a tax credit not to exceed \$1,000 per family for eligible family members that provide needed home/institutional health care or thirdparty providers.

Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long –Term Care

Insurance Premiums Health Care costs continue to rise and most retirees are on fixed incomes. Therefore, we support legislation that would amend VA58.1-322(C) to allow retirees to subtract health insurance and long-term insurance premiums from federal adjusted gross income restrictions.

Redistricting Reform Gerrymandering reduces political competition and fosters a climate of partisan gridlock. We urge the General Assembly to pass the exact same language regarding a proposed constitutional amendment for redistricting reform that was approved by the 2019 General Assembly, which is necessary to allow the citizens of Virginia to vote on the issue.