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Reminder

Register now for VML Day at the Capitol on Jan. 28.

<http://www.vml.org/node/703>

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Senate committee passes redistricting bill 14-1

Call senators now in support of SJR 284

THE SENATE PRIVILEGES & Elections Committee voted 14-1 Tuesday afternoon in favor of a constitutional amendment that would create an independent, non-partisan commission responsible for drawing legislative lines according to specified criteria. Sen. John A. Cosgrove Jr. was the only committee member to vote no.

Please call your senator and urge support for [SJR 284](#) (Vogel and Lucas). While the bill is certain to face stiff opposition in the House of Delegates, first it must get out of the Senate.

Under [SJR 284](#), a non-partisan commission would draw legislative lines that would be based on defined criteria, including the recognition of existing political boundaries, population, race and ethnicity, contiguity and compactness. Further, the amendment severely restricts the use of political data or election results.

Williamsburg City Council Member Paul Freiling, speaking on behalf of VML and the city, testified in support of the resolution Tuesday morning. The resolution is supported by One Virginia2021, a statewide group advocating for reform of the redistricting process. VML is a member of that coalition.


A list of senators and their contact information is here:

<http://1.usa.gov/183uNEC>. 

Patron to withdraw sheriff's bill

DEL. MARK BERG has announced plans to withdraw [HB 1670](#), his controversial bill that would have made the sheriff the chief law enforcement officer even in localities with a police department.

According to an article in today's *Winchester Star*, the delegate plans to work on revisions to the bill this summer.

The article also said that Berg had introduced the bill in part in reaction to events this past year between a cattle rancher and the federal Bureau of Land Management in Nevada, in which the sheriff supported the cattle rancher. 

General
Assembly
2015



General Assembly



Other bills we are following ...

Car tax reimbursement study proposed; heads to committee

[HJR 590](#) (Ramadan) requests the Department of Taxation to conduct a study of reimbursement payments to localities under the car tax reimbursement program.

The study directs the department to look at how per capita tangible personal property tax relief has changed between tax year 2006 and tax year 2014, and to identify the reasons for the changes, including population trends. Further, the study directs the department to recommend a new formula for distributing the car tax payments that would incorporate changes in population and changing economic conditions.

The result would be to change the distribution of a set amount of funds, which will make for winners and losers.

The bill is in the [House Rules Committee](#).

Staff contact: Kimberly Pollard, kpollard@vml.org.

Creation of model local government charter proposed

[HJR 583](#) (Surovell) establishes a 10-member joint subcommittee to develop a model charter, or series of charters, to serve as a guide for local governments considering charter amendments and as a guide for member of the General Assembly in evaluating charter bills. The study resolution is in the [House Rules Committee](#).

Staff contact: Kimberly Pollard, kpollard@vml.org.

Photo-red referendum bill passed over in committee

THE SENATE PRIVILEGES and Elections Committee voted 11-4 Tuesday afternoon to pass by indefinitely legislation that would require localities to have a referendum to use a photo-red traffic enforcement process. [SB 756](#) (Black) would have applied even to localities that currently operate photo-red cameras.

Staff contact: Kimberly Pollard, kpollard@vml.org.

Registration swells for VML Day at the Capitol Jan. 28

More than 50 legislators to attend reception at Library of Virginia

MORE THAN 50 delegates and senators will attend the reception following the VML Day at the Capitol program on Wednesday, Jan. 28. In addition, members of the governor's senior staff, cabinet members and Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam will be present.

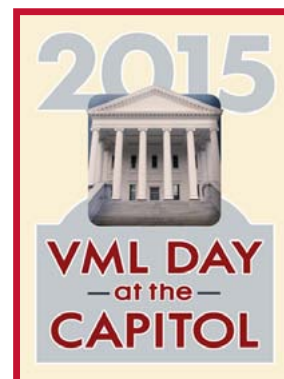
It's not too late for local government officials to register to attend the event, which will be held this year at the Library of Virginia in downtown Richmond.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe will deliver a keynote address when the day kicks off at 3 p.m. in the library's Lecture Hall. A staff briefing on important legislation will follow and conclude at 5:30 p.m. A high-quality reception will be held from 5:30 until 7 p.m. in the lobby of the library. The reception will provide an opportunity for local officials and General Assembly members to talk about issues in an informal setting.

Local officials are urged to call on their legislators prior to the legislative briefing and remind them to attend the reception, which is only a short walk from the capitol. (All legislators have been mailed personal invitations, but a follow-up invitation by local officials will help to ensure good attendance by legislators.) Local officials also are encouraged to invite their legislative delegation to dinner following the reception.

Detailed information about the event, including online registration, can be found on the VML website at <http://www.vml.org/node/703>.

Questions? Contact Anita Yearwood at ayearwood@vml.org.





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