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# TRUCKERS ★ IN ★ ACTION

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*A MEMBERS ONLY REPORT ON THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

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February 8, 2008

## 2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEARS HALF-WAY POINT

The Virginia General Assembly convened for its 2008 Session on Jan. 9 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 8. Legislators will act on over 2,800 measures during the 60-day “long session.” Following the hard-fought November elections, there is divided power in the General Assembly. Although they lost several seats in the House of Delegates, the Republicans maintain a 53 to 44 majority (there are 2 Independents and 1 vacant seat). The Democrats control the Senate 21 to 19. The Democratic majority in the Senate should give Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine an advantage in promoting his agenda, however, nothing will be accomplished without the cooperation of House Republicans.

Legislators are working on amendments to the current budget to reflect reduced revenue estimates as well as the proposed budget for the next biennium. “Headline” issues being dealt with by the General Assembly include payday loans, smoking restrictions, closing the “gun show loophole,” illegal immigration, mental health system reforms exposed by the tragic massacre at Virginia Tech and the much criticized abusive driver fees.

There are 20 new faces in the General Assembly this year, and another 20 new faces from the last election cycle. Nearly 30% of incumbent legislators have departed over the past 2 years. One-third of Senators and 40% of Delegates currently have less than 5 years of experience in the General Assembly. There have also been significant changes in committee leadership, especially in the Senate where record numbers of African-Americans, women and Northern Virginians will chair committees. Women lead 7 of 11 committees. Among the 11 committees, four are chaired by African-Americans and six by Northern Virginians.

Leadership and committee changes of note for trucking include (complete listing is attached):

- Senator Richard Saslaw (D-Fairfax) takes over as Majority Leader of the Senate.
- Senator Yvonne B. Miller (D-Norfolk) takes over as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, replacing Marty Williams of Newport News, who was defeated in the Republican primary.
- There are five new members of the Senate Transportation Committee - Patsy Ticer (D-Alexandria), Ken Cuccinelli (R-Fairfax), Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax), Ralph Smith (R-Roanoke), and John C. Miller (D-Newport News).
- Senator Chuck Colgan (D-Prince William) takes over as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance.
- Senator Richard Saslaw (D-Fairfax) takes over as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.
- Delegate Ward Armstrong (D-Martinsville) is the Minority Leader in the House of Delegates.
- Delegate Joe May (R-Loudoun) takes over as Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, succeeding Leo Wardrup of Virginia Beach, who retired.
- There are six new members of the House Committee on Transportation - Robert Tata (R-Virginia Beach), Jeff Frederick (R-Prince William), Manoli Loupassi (R-City of Richmond), Robert Brink (D-Arlington), David Toscano (D-Charlottesville), and Paul Nichols (D-Prince William).
- Delegate Terry Kilgore (R-Gate City) takes over as Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Keeping Up With the 2008 Session** - You can find a wealth of information about the General Assembly and track progress on legislation on their website at <http://leg1.state.va.us/>. Aren't sure who your state legislators are? Go to <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>, fill in the required fields and save the information. Do it for both your home and work address.

For questions or more information about a particular bill listed in this report or any other legislative issue, please contact Dale Bennett of the VTA at [dbennett@vatrucking.org](mailto:dbennett@vatrucking.org) or 804-355-5371. A final report on the status of the bills reported on here will be sent out to the membership during the final weeks of the session.

## ***Trucking & Mover Issues***

The VTA is opposing the following bills:

***Local Enforcement of Truck Weight Laws*** - A number of bills have been introduced to allow specific or all local governments to weigh trucks and keep the fines and penalties for their own road needs or to fund local law enforcement. We are not surprised by this attempt by localities to target the trucking industry for local revenue needs. The significant increases in the liquidated damages penalties enacted last year make these penalties a potentially lucrative revenue source for local governments. A number of them have truck inspection teams and view weighing trucks and keeping the fines as a way to fund them. Others see this as a way to “double dip” by keeping fines that would otherwise go to the state Highway Maintenance & Operating Fund (HMOF) and also continuing to receive their annual share of funding from the HMOF.

The VTA is opposing these bills because:

- Allowing a large number of localities to weigh trucks will result in an undue burden and increased operating costs for legal truck operators and create significant impediments to the movement of freight throughout the state.
- We believe the state should maintain its policy of using liquidated damages fines for road maintenance.
- Localities should not be allowed to “double dip” by keeping overweight fines and receiving their normal allocation of state highway maintenance funds.

Several of these bills were introduced “by request” of the local government, which means the patron does not necessarily strongly support the proposal. The bills seeking to expand local truck weighing authority are:

***Weight Limit Enforcement by Counties*** HB 293 - Poisson (introduced at the request of Loudoun County) Provides for county enforcement of weight limits on highways within the county and imposition of overweight fines. Revenue from the fines is to be used by the county to fund traffic safety enforcement.

***Disposition Of Overweight Penalties*** - HB 1112 - Cole - Allows Stafford County to collect half of penalties for citations issued by county deputies.

***Vehicle Weight Limits Enforcement by Local Law-Enforcement Agencies*** - SB 558 - Obenshain (introduced at request of Front Royal) Allows enforcement of state vehicle weight limit statutes by local law-enforcement agencies.

***Town Weight Limit Ordinances*** - HB 1546- Athey

(introduced at request of Front Royal) - Allows any town with population over 3,500 (33 in Virginia) to adopt ordinances mirroring state weight limit laws and to retain the fines for violations of such ordinances.

***Fees on Trucks*** - HB 185 - Marshall, Robert G. - Requires Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to impose a fee on trucks and combination vehicles required to be weighed at weigh stations for use in maintaining state highways. The CTB is to calculate, impose, and collect a fee for damage done to highways by trucks. The amount of the fee is to be based on the difference between the amount received annually by Virginia from the federal government for highway maintenance and the annual cost to Virginia of repairing damage done to the highways of Virginia by trucks. The amount of the fee and the method of payment are to be determined by the CTB. The fee is to be imposed on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis, and no vehicle upon which a fee is assessed is to be operated on any highway of Virginia if the fee is not paid in full on or before the date upon which payment of the fee is due.

***Local Ordinances Prohibiting Use of Certain Highways by Tractor-Trailer Combinations*** - HB 568 - Crockett-Stark and SB 407 Puckett - Allows the governing body of any county, city, or town by ordinance to prohibit the use of any highway within its boundaries by tractor-trailer combinations when, in the sole judgment of the local governing body, tractor-trailer combinations are unable safely to negotiate such highway.

These bills were introduced at the request of Pulaski County, which wants a through truck restriction imposed on Routes 601 and 738. Apparently a number of tractor-trailers are using these routes as a shortcut between I-77 and I-81. However, it appears that these roads are not well-suited for tractor-trailer traffic and, recently, there have been a number of tractor-trailer crashes.

As background, during the 2003 General Assembly, the VTA worked with the General Assembly and VDOT to establish a process through which local governments could submit requests for through truck restrictions on primary and secondary highways. VDOT has developed objective, safety-based criteria which a request must meet before it will be granted.

Because Pulaski has not utilized this process to request the restriction, the VTA is opposing these bills.

***Drug Testing of Commercial Drivers*** - Two bills were introduced by Delegate Dan Bowling in response to a fatal crash involving a truck that occurred in his district. HB 1221 provides that commercial drivers who are involved in an accident required to be reported are to be treated as though there is a reasonable suspicion that they were driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and that the procedures for DUI testing and arrest will apply. HB 1224

requires DMV to establish a program whereby commercial drivers must take random and unannounced drug and alcohol tests. The VTA is opposing these bills because they would unnecessarily duplicate current federal requirements and create some conflicts with federal regulations. We have asked the patron to withdraw or carry these bills over to the 2009 Session and pledged to work with him to develop a proposal for some needed improvements in the drug/alcohol testing program, such as tracking test results as part of driving records.

**Vehicle Overweight & Overload Permits** - HB 1551 was introduced by Delegate Dan Bowling at the request of the Secretary of Transportation. It proposes to create fee schedules for overweight and overload permits to help recover the additional maintenance costs associated with overweight and overloaded vehicles. The fees shall be based on a fee schedule established by the Commonwealth Transportation Board calculated on the basis of a study of the added highway maintenance costs associated with the increased weight and the cost to administer the permit program. The overload permit fees shall be updated every 4 years to adjust for changes in the cost of highway maintenance.

**Workers' Comp; Alternative Dispute Resolution** - SB 161, introduced by Senator Don McEachin, authorizes an employer primarily engaged in the construction business and a collective bargaining representative of its employees, with which the employer has a signatory agreement, to negotiate a dispute resolution system, which may include mediation and binding arbitration. The system would be an alternative to dispute resolution procedures in the Workers' Comp Act. Such agreements may also address the use of an agreed list of health care providers for treatment and examinations, light duty and return-to-work programs, and vocational rehabilitation or retraining. Settlements must be approved by the Workers' Comp Commission. Arbitration decisions may be reviewed in the same manner as decisions of deputy commissioners.

The VTA is supporting the following bills:

**Tolls On Interstate Highways** - HB 1516, introduced by Delegate Todd Gilbert, and SB 754, introduced by Senator Mark Obenshain, would prohibit a private entity from imposing tolls or user fees under the PPTA on any existing rural Interstate highway without the prior approval of the General Assembly.

**Va-NC Interstate Toll Road Compact** - Delegate Steve Landes introduced HB 84 to repeal the state law authorizing Virginia to participate in the Virginia-North Carolina Interstate Toll Road Compact that would allow the states to impose tolls on I-95 in both states.

**Commercial Driver's Licenses** - HB 1198, introduced by Delegate Shannon Valentine, brings Virginia law on CDLs into conformance with federal requirements. Without these changes in Virginia law, FMCSA could withdraw DMV's authority to issue CDLs and FHWA could withhold as much as \$50 million in federal funds. The changes are already contained in federal regulations and specifics about them are available from the VTA office upon request.

**Unemployment Compensation; Failing DOT Drug Tests** - HB 366, introduced by Delegate Bill Carrico, would clarify in state law that an individual is not eligible to receive unemployment compensation benefits if he is discharged from employment as a result of a confirmed positive for a nonprescribed controlled substance as a result of a U.S. DOT-qualified drug screen conducted in accordance with the employer's bona fide drug policy. In addition, an unemployed individual who applies for benefits is disqualified if he has been rejected for offered employment as a result of either failing to appear for a U.S. DOT-qualified drug screen that is a condition of a job offer or testing positive for a nonprescribed controlled substance in a U.S. DOT-qualified drug screen.

**Overweight Permits for "Tank Wagons"** - SB 55, introduced by Senator Edd Houck, increases the total gross weight from 36,000 to 40,000 pounds for overweight permits for tank wagons (defined as straight trucks or straight truck/trailer combinations designed or used to carry fuel and having a capacity of less than 6,000 gallons).

The VTA is monitoring the following bills to ensure they are not amended to have a negative impact on trucking:

**Abusive Driver Fees** - A number of bills have been introduced to repeal the much criticized and maligned abusive driver fees. It appears that the fees will be repealed. The only questions that remain are if the General Assembly will agree on a plan to refund the fees already paid and whether they will agree on a source of funds to replace the revenue accounted for in the budget.

**Driver's Licenses; Requires First-time Applicants to Have Completed Driver Education Program** - HB 1245 - Hugo - Requires all first-time applicants for Virginia driver's licenses to prove that they have successfully completed either a driver education program approved by the State Dept. of Education or a course offered by a licensed driver training school and increases the minimum time required for first-time applicants over the age of 19 to hold a learner's permit from 30 days to 90 days.

**DMV Fees** - SB 512 - Y.B. Miller - Increases surcharge of issuance of any driver's license *other than a CDL* from \$1.60 per year to \$3.60 per year of validity of the license

and increases the fee for the reissuance or replacement of a driver's license from \$5 to \$10. Increases the fee for issuance of a duplicate driver's license from \$5 to \$10.

**Vehicle Safety Inspections** - SB 526 - Locke - Requires vehicle safety inspections every 24 months instead of every 12 months and increases the maximum allowable fee for most vehicles, (*increase does not apply to trucks and trailers*) from \$16 to \$20.

**Text Messaging While Driving** - HB 39 - Jim Scott and HB HB 609 - Al Eisenberg - Prohibits operation of a motor vehicle, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on Virginia highways while using any wireless telecommunications device for the purpose of sending, receiving, or reading any text message. The VTA is monitoring this legislation to ensure no restrictions on use of devices currently used by our members to communicate with their drivers are negatively impacted.

**Vehicle Weight Law Enforcement** - HB 148, introduced by Delegate William Fralin, Jr., authorizes enforcement of vehicle weight laws by full-time sworn members of the enforcement division of DMV.

Other bills of interest that the VTA is monitoring are:

#### **Towing**

Much controversy has ensued over the Virginia Board for Towing & Recovery Operators since it was formed in legislation passed by the General Assembly last year to oversee and regulate the towing industry. Several bills have been introduced to make several changes in the law enacted last year. They are:

**HB 1012 - Hugo; SB 691 - Watkins** - Requires that a vehicle have insurance providing coverage for towing, recovery, and storage fees in order to be considered "insured motor vehicle" for the purpose of vehicle registration. Allows tow trucks to use crossovers on controlled-access highways when providing a public safety towing and recovery service. Allows the Board to promulgate regulations specifying additional training or conditions for individuals seeking tow truck authorization documents. Provides that a person cannot not be refused a license or a tow truck driver authorization document by the Board solely because of a prior criminal conviction, unless the criminal conviction directly relates to the towing and recovery of vehicles and safety of the users of the services offered by such licensee or holder of a tow truck authorization document.

**HB 1296 - Peace** - Postpones until July 1, 2010, the effective date of any regulations promulgated by the

Board. Also postpones until July 1, 2010, the requirement that tow truck operators have tow truck driver authorization documents issued by the Board and the requirement that towing and recovery services have and display licenses issued by the Board.

**SB 707 - Norment** - Postpones until July 1, 2010, the effective date of any regulations promulgated by the Board, the requirement that tow truck operators have tow truck driver authorization documents issued by the Board, and the requirement that towing and recovery services have and display licenses issued by the Board. Also alters composition of the Board and requires that regulations recommended by the Board shall be presented to the Senate and House Transportation Committees for their consideration during the 2009 General Assembly session.

#### **Labor & Workplace Issues**

**Employment; Verification of Eligibility** - SB 90, introduced by Senator Chuck Colgan, requires employers to participate in an electronic employment verification system or any equivalent federal work authorization program. It prohibits an employer from allowing an individual to start work unless the employer has conducted the identity verification process through the electronic employment verification system and has obtained a response that affirmatively verifies that the individual is legally eligible for employment in the U.S. Violations are a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Notice to Employees; Earned Income Tax Credit** - HB 284 - Toscano; SB 14 - Edwards - Requires employers to provide oral notice to employees that they may be eligible for the earned income tax credit and to post any notice that may be provided by the Dept. of Social Services informing employees that they may be eligible for the earned income tax credit. Establishes a fine of no less than \$100 nor more than \$250 for noncompliance.

#### **Unemployment Compensation**

**Minimum Earnings; Maximum Weekly Benefit** - HB 547, introduced by Delegate Sam Nixon, increases the wages an employee must have earned in the two highest earnings quarters of his base period to be eligible for unemployment benefits from \$2,700 to \$3,000. Also increases the maximum weekly unemployment comp benefit from \$363 to \$378 for claims effective on or after July 6, 2008.

**Virginia Employment Commission Orders** - HB 881, introduced by Delegate Manoli Loupassi, authorizes final orders of the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) or circuit court allowing unemployment benefits to be recorded, enforced and satisfied as orders or decrees of a circuit court upon certification of such orders by the Commissioner of the VEC or the court. The measure also

deletes a provision that allows overpayments of unemployment benefits, with interest and fees and costs, to be collectible by civil action in the name of the VEC.

***Not Speaking English Is Misconduct*** - SB 339, introduced by Senator Ken Cuccinelli, provides that an employee's inability or refusal to speak English at the workplace, in violation of a known policy of the employer, constitutes misconduct. An individual who is found by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) to have been discharged for misconduct connected with his work is disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation benefits. The VEC may consider evidence of mitigating circumstances in determining whether misconduct occurred.

#### **Transportation Funding/Projects**

***Highway Maintenance Funding Deficit*** - Under Virginia law, highway maintenance is prescribed as the first priority for spending of highway transportation funds.

Maintenance expenditures are made from the Highway Maintenance & Operating Fund (HMOF). If the funds in the HMOF do not cover VDOT's highway maintenance costs in a particular year, money is transferred from the Transportation Trust Fund (which is used to fund new construction) to cover the maintenance deficit. Despite the new revenues generated under last year's transportation funding legislation, it is projected that the HMOF will face a deficit of \$290 million in FY 2009 - a deficit that is projected to steadily increase in future years. Several bills have been introduced to increase the tax on motor fuels to offset the maintenance deficit, however, none will likely be approved by the House of Delegates.

***Tolls*** - HB 405 - Oder - Prohibits imposition and collection of tolls for use of (i) I-64 between Route 143 (Jefferson Ave.) interchange in Newport News and the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel and (ii) I-664 between I-64 and the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel.

***Sales and Use Tax on Motor Vehicle Repairs in Certain Localities*** - HB 361 - Purkey - Provides that the sales and use tax on motor vehicle repairs in the localities embraced by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Hampton Roads Transportation Authority does not include charges for towing and storage of motor vehicles.

***Vehicle Repair Services; No. Va. and Hampton Roads*** - HB 450 - Rust - Prohibits any entity that is a party to an insurance policy or agreement, an extended service agreement, a vehicle maintenance agreement, or other written indemnification agreement under which it has agreed or agrees to pay for vehicle repair services for a vehicle that is registered in a county or city embraced by the Hampton Roads or No. Va. Transportation Authorities to require or recommend that the vehicle owner utilize a

repair facility in a city or county that is not embraced by the Hampton Roads or No. Va. Transportation Authorities, unless it provides the vehicle owner the option of utilizing a repair facility in a city or county that is embraced within the area of the Hampton Roads or No. Va. Transportation Authorities.

***Hampton Roads Transportation Authority; Taxes and Fees*** - SB 176 - Blevins - Makes changes to the taxes and fees that may be imposed by the Authority as follows: (i) reduces from \$10 to \$5 the annual motor vehicle inspection fee; (ii) eliminates the 5% sales tax on labor or services charged in the repair of motor vehicles; (iii) reduces the grantor's fee that may be charged from \$0.40 per \$100 to \$0.20 per \$100; (iv) increases from 2% to 5% the retail sales tax on motor fuels sales; and (v) increases from 2% to 5% the fee that may be charged on the gross proceeds from the daily rental of motor vehicles.

***Hampton Roads Transportation Authority*** - HB 826 - Gear - Includes expansion of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel in the list of "first tier" projects of the Hampton Roads Transportation Authority.

***Hampton Roads Transportation Authority*** - HB 829 - Gear; SB 676 - Miller, J.C. - Abolishes the Authority and the taxes, fees, and charges dedicated to financing its operation and programs.

***Hampton Roads Transportation Authority*** - HB 1304 - Oder - Provides that no tax or fee is to be imposed or collected to fund its operation and programs before 7/1/09.

***Regional Sales & Use Tax; Compensation to Dealers*** - HB 579 - Cosgrove - Modifies current formula that compensates dealers with a percentage of the sales & use tax they collect by including the local sales & use tax collected in the No. Va. and Hampton Roads Transportation Districts on motor vehicle repair services.

#### **Traffic Safety/Enforcement**

***Primary Safety Belt Law*** - SB 649 - Ticer; HB 1065 - Amundson - Repeals language that makes nonuse of motor vehicle safety belt systems a secondary offense.

***Traffic accident reports*** - SB 39 - Deeds - Increases from \$1,000 to \$1,500 the damage threshold at which traffic accidents become "reportable."

***Law-enforcement Officer Uniform Requirement for Arrests for Speeding*** - HB 231 - Cosgrove - Allows law-enforcement officer to arrest a person for speeding without the requirement that he wear a uniform, only that he display a badge.

**HOV Lane Penalties** - HB 268 - Miller, P.J. - Imposes the higher penalties for HOV lane violations in Northern Virginia to HOV violations in Hampton Roads.

### Motor Vehicles

**Motor Vehicle Air Conditioner Refrigerants** - HB 1015 - Hugo - Allows explosive, flammable, or toxic refrigerants in motor vehicle air conditioners if the refrigerant is included in the list published by the U.S. EPA as a safe alternative motor vehicle air conditioning substitute for chlorofluorocarbon-12.

**Vehicle Registration Fee Increase for Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services** - HB 922 - Rust - Increases the \$4-for-life fee to \$4.25, with the revenues generated by the additional \$0.25 to be used for costs associated with the certification and recertification training of emergency medical services personnel.

### Taxation

**Income Tax; Conformity with IRS Code** - HB 912 - Purkey - Advances the date as of which Virginia's system of taxation conforms with the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) from 12/31/06, to 12/31/07. Passage of this bill would make the following federal items deductible under Virginia law:

- Exemption for money received from Virginia Tech University out of amounts transferred from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund.
- Several tax breaks for small businesses under The Small Business and Work Opportunity Tax Act of 2007.
- Exception to current law that certain homeowners do not have to pay taxes for debt forgiveness on troubled home loans and a provision allowing homeowners to deduct mortgage insurance payments from their taxable income and other forms of tax relief under The Tax Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007.

**Tax Credit for Health Insurance Premiums Paid by Small Business Employers** - HB 59 - Frederick; HB 986 - Nutter - Provides tax credit for taxable years beginning on or after 1/1/09 to employers who pay at least one-half of the annual health insurance premium per employee. The credit is the lesser of \$500 or the amount paid per employee. Total credit available to each employer annually is limited to \$25,000. Credits are available to employers with 50 or fewer full-time employees.

**Tax Credit for Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums Paid by Small Business Employers** - HB 1191 - Moran - Provides a tax credit for taxable years beginning on or after 1/1/08, to employers who pay the annual long-term care insurance premium for each employee. The credit is 20% of the amount paid per employee. Credits are available to employers with 50 or fewer full-time

employees and are refundable.

**Tax Credit for Waste Motor Oil Equipment** - SB 650 - Ticer - Repeals tax credit of 50% of the purchase price paid for equipment used exclusively for burning waste motor oil at a business facility.

### Insurance

**Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Coverage Limits** HB 168 - Albo - Increases minimum liability coverage amounts from \$25,000 to \$50,000 in cases of bodily injury to or death of one or more persons in any one accident.

**Disclosure of Insurance Liability Limits** - HB 172 - Kilgore - Requires disclosure of liability limits to an attorney for an injured person, prior to the filing of a civil action for personal injuries resulting from a motor vehicle accident, after the attorney provides written notice of representation.

### Environment

**DEQ** - There are a number of bills dealing with the issue of consolidating the existing three citizen boards that currently issue environmental permits- State Air Pollution Control Board, State Water Control Board, and the Waste Management Board - into one 11-member citizen board and transferring permit authority to DEQ.

**Commission on Climate Change** - HB 676 - Plum - Establishes a Climate Change Commission in the executive branch of government to develop a Climate Change Action Plan.

**Tire Recycling Fee** - HB 1398 - Oder; SB 665 - Whipple - Extends, until 7/1/11, the \$1 recycling fee imposed on each new tire sold in Va.; thereafter, the fee is reduced to 50¢. Under current law the fee is to be reduced to 50¢ on 7/1/08.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Mandatory Reporting** - SB 234 - Whipple; HB 1230 - Vanderhuy - Requires the State Air Pollution Control Board to adopt regulations requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources that emit more than a de minimis amount of greenhouse gas and that are already required to report emissions of other air pollutants. Starting in 2009, VDOT is required to provide DEQ with data necessary to maintain a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for individual road segments throughout the state. The Board is also authorized to establish a voluntary program allowing persons to register voluntary reductions in direct or indirect emissions of greenhouse gases. The voluntary program may include the reporting of reductions in emissions from motor vehicle fleets owned by persons otherwise required to report emissions from stationary sources.

**2008 House of Delegates Leadership and  
Committees of Importance to the Trucking Industry**  
*(New committee members/positions are denoted in italics)*

**Speaker of the House** - William J. Howell  
**Majority Leader** - Morgan H. Griffith  
**Majority Whip** - Kirk Cox  
**Majority Caucus Chair** - Terry G. Kilgore

**Minority Leader** - Ward L. Armstrong  
**Minority Caucus Chairman** - Brian J. Moran  
**Minority Caucus Vice Chair** - Lionell Spruill, Sr.  
**Minority Caucus V. Chair - Operations** - Kristen Amundson  
**Minority Caucus Sergeant at Arms** - Onzlee Ware  
**Minority Caucus Secretary** - Mark D. Sickles  
**Minority Caucus Treasurer** - Jeion A. Ward

**House Committee on Transportation**

Republicans (13)

Joe May (Loudoun) (*Chairman*)  
Glenn Oder (Newport News)  
*(Vice-Chair)*  
Subcommittee Chairs  
Chris Saxman (Augusta)  
Bill Carrico (Grayson Co.)  
Ed Scott (Culpeper)

Members

John Cosgrove (Chesapeake)  
Tom Gear (Hampton)  
Thomas Davis Rust (Fairfax)  
Tim Hugo (Fairfax)  
William Fralin (Roanoke)  
*Bob Tata* (Virginia Beach)  
*Jeff Frederick* (Prince William)  
*Manoli Loupassi* (City of Richmond)

Democrats (9)

Dwight Jones (City of Richmond)  
Jeion Ward (Hampton)  
Adam Ebbin (Alexandria)  
Mayme BaCote (Newport News)  
David Marsden (Fairfax)  
Shannon Valentine (Lynchburg)  
*Robert Brink* (Arlington)  
*David Toscano* (Charlottesville)  
*Paul Nichols* (Prince William)

**House Committee on Finance**

Republicans (13)

Bob Purkey (Va. Beach) (*Chairman*)  
Robert Orrock (Spotsylvania)  
*(Vice Chairman)*  
Lee Ware (Powhatan)  
Kathy Byron (Campbell Co.)  
Mark Cole (Stafford Co.)  
Tim Hugo (Fairfax)  
Ben Cline (Lexington)  
Jeff Frederick (Prince William)

Members

Tom Gear (Hampton)  
*Bob Marshall* (Prince William)  
*Matt Lohr* (Rockingham)  
*Chris Peace* (Hanover)  
*Jimmie Massie* (City of Richmond)

Democrats (9)

Joe Johnson (Abingdon)  
Ken Melvin (Portsmouth)  
Bob Hull (Fairfax)  
Vivian Watts (Fairfax)  
Frank Hall (City of Richmond)  
Linwood Lewis (Accomac)  
Charles Caputo (Fairfax)  
*Ward Armstrong* (Henry Co.)  
*Brian Moran* (Alexandria)

**House Committee on Commerce & Labor**

Republicans (13)

Terry Kilgore (Scott Co.) (*Chairman*)  
Frank Hargrove (Hanover)  
*(Vice Chairman)*  
Harvey Morgan (Gloucester)  
Bob Purkey (Va. Beach)  
Kathy Byron (Campbell)  
Lee Ware (Powhatan)  
Sam Nixon (Chesterfield)  
Tim Hugo (Fairfax)

Members

*Bill Janis* (Henrico)  
*Tom Rust* (Fairfax)  
*Danny Marshall* (Danville)  
*Chris Saxman* (Augusta)  
*Ben Cline* (Lexington)

Democrats (9)

Ken Plum (Fairfax)  
Joe Johnson (Abingdon)  
Dwight Jones (City of Richmond)  
Johnny Joannou (Portsmouth)  
Ken Melvin (Portsmouth)  
Ken Alexander (Norfolk)  
Mark Sickles (Fairfax)  
Jennifer McClellan (City of Richmond)  
*Jeion Ward* (Hampton)

**2008 Senate of Virginia Leadership and  
Committees of Importance to the Trucking Industry**  
*(New committee members/positions are denoted in italics)*

**President pro tempore** - Charles J. Colgan

**Majority Leader** - Richard L. Saslaw

**Deputy Floor Leader** - Roscoe Reynolds

**Democratic Caucus Chair** – Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple

**Democratic Caucus Vice Chair** - Phillip Puckett

**Democratic Caucus Treasurer** - Henry Marsh III

**Democratic Caucus Secretary** - Yvonne B. Miller

**Majority Whip** - John Edwards

**Majority Whip** - Janet Howell

**Minority Leader** - Thomas K. Norment, Jr.

**Minority Leader Emeritus** - Walter A. Stosch

**Minority Leader pro tempore** - Kenneth Stolle

**Minority Whip** - Frank Wagner

**Minority Whip** - Mark Obenshain

**Republican Caucus Chair** - Steve Newman

**Senate Committee on Transportation**

Democrats (8)

Chairman - Yvonne B. Miller(Norfolk) (*Chairman*)

Edd Houck (Spotsylvania)

Henry Marsh (City of Richmond)

Philip Puckett (Tazewell)

Creigh Deeds (Bath County)

*Patsy Ticer* (Alexandria)

*Chap Petersen* (Fairfax)

*John C. Miller* (Newport News)

Republicans (7)

Steve Newman (Lynchburg)

John Watkins (Chesterfield)

Frank Wagner (Virginia Beach)

Harry Blevins (Chesapeake)

Ryan McDougale (Hanover)

*Ken Cuccinelli* (Fairfax)

*Ralph Smith* (Roanoke)

**Senate Committee on Finance**

Democrats (9)

Charles Colgan (Prince William) (*Chairman*)

Edward Houck (Spotsylvania)

Janet Howell (Fairfax)

Richard Saslaw (Fairfax)

*Yvonne B. Miller* (Norfolk)

*Henry Marsh* (City of Richmond)

*Louise Lucas* (Portsmouth)

*Mary Margaret Whipple* (Arlington)

*Roscoe Reynolds* (Henry County)

Republicans (7)

William Wampler (Bristol)

Walter Stosch (Henrico)

Ken Stolle (Virginia Beach)

Fred Quayle (Chesapeake)

Tommy Norment (Williamsburg)

Emmett Hanger (Augusta)

John Watkins (Chesterfield)

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor**

Democrats (8)

Richard Saslaw (Fairfax) (*Chairman*)

Charles Colgan (Prince William)

Yvonne B. Miller (Norfolk)

John Edwards (Roanoke)

*Philip Puckett* (Tazewell)

*Linda “Toddy” Puller* (Fairfax)

*Mark Herring* (Loudoun)

*Donald McEachin* (City of Richmond)

Republicans (7)

William Wampler (Bristol)

Tommy Norment (Williamsburg)

Walter Stosch (Henrico)

Ken Stolle (Virginia Beach)

John Watkins (Chesterfield)

Frank Wagner (Virginia Beach)

Steve Newman (Lynchburg)