

2011 Virginia General Assembly  
Final Legislative Report  
2/28/2011

The 2011 regular session of the Virginia General Assembly adjourned late yesterday afternoon, running one day past the scheduled adjournment date due to disagreement on budget issues. You will note from the attached matrix that there were only two significant issues of interest to VCCA.

The first (HB 1960 and SB 1439) had to do with clarifying the applicability of TAG grants and while it would appear that these two companion bills were aimed at us, they were in fact introduced in an effort to keep out-of-state not-for-profits from having access to TAG funding. In the process of accomplishing that the language governing access to TAG was tightened up. But the genesis of these changes had absolutely no nexus to our sector.

The second issue is much more substantial, and involves legislation (SB 1459 and HB 2510) introduced at the request and on behalf of the governor creating major new initiatives and criteria regarding how higher education in Virginia will be managed and measured in the future. These identical bills evolved from the recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education Reform which met for many months before issuing its report - much of which is reflected in the legislation.

This legislation is really focused on the public sector, but in a few instances the not-for-profits crept into the bill. Inclusion of the career college sector was specifically mentioned in the Governor's Executive Order creating the commission, but completely left out of the legislation that was finally approved by both the House and the Senate. (As introduced, the both bills did contain three lines which appeared to keep the door cracked for our sector by allowing the state to "incentivize" private institutions of higher education. But that language was stripped out before final passage of both bills.)

That leaves VCCA with no net gain and no net loss as a result of this legislation. But it does raise the issue of whether the Reform Commission's recommendations and ultimately the legislation approved by the Assembly were in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order. VCCA argues that they was not, and is exploring attempting to have the "incentivize" language re-inserted in the legislation in the form of an amendment offered by the governor at the upcoming Veto Session on April 6th, or continuing to work with the governor and his administration on future initiatives such as workforce training where we may be able to play a more prominent role.

One thing is for sure. We have learned that we cannot rely on future promises to meet and serve the needs of our students today. VCCA is continuing to dialogue on this matter and will endeavor to keep our members informed of our progress.

Thank you for your continued support of our legislative efforts and for those of you who have and continue to support our PAC, a special thanks!

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Composite view with notes

<b>Bills</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Last action</b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<a href="#">HB 1465</a> - <a href="#">Peace</a> - Higher educational institutions; policies prohibiting admission of illegal aliens.	<a href="#">(H) Committee for Courts of Justice</a> <hr/> <a href="#">(S) Committee for Courts of Justice</a>	(S) Left in Courts of Justice	02/22/11
<a href="#">HB 1505</a> - <a href="#">Putney</a> - Higher Educational Institutions Bond Act of 2011; created.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Appropriations</a> <hr/> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Finance</a>	(G) Approved by Governor-Chapter 11 (effective 2/24/11)	02/24/11
<a href="#">HB 1604</a> - <a href="#">Albo</a> - Income tax, corporate; market-based sourcing.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Finance</a>	(H) Left in Finance	02/08/11
<a href="#">HB 1960</a> - <a href="#">Rust</a> - Tuition Assistance Grant Program; amends criteria to be eligible to receive tuition assistance.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Education</a> <hr/> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Education and Health</a>	(H) VOTE: ADOPTION (91-Y 8-N)	02/25/11
<a href="#">HB 2328</a> - <a href="#">Lingamfelter</a> - Six-Year Capital Outlay Plan; process by which agencies' requests for capital project are presented.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Appropriations</a> <hr/> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Finance</a>	(S) Signed by President	02/20/11
<a href="#">HB 2510</a> - <a href="#">Cox, M.K.</a> - Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011; established, report.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Appropriations</a> <hr/> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Finance</a>	(H) VOTE: ADOPTION (97-Y 0-N)	02/22/11
<a href="#">SB 819</a> - <a href="#">Edwards</a> - Two-Year College Scholarship Match Program; established.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Appropriations</a> <hr/> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Education and Health</a>	(H) Left in Appropriations	02/22/11
<a href="#">SB 1363</a> - <a href="#">Stosch</a> - Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program; increases amount,	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Appropriations</a>	(H) Left in Appropriations	02/22/11

students enrollment requirements.	<a href="#">(S) Committee on Finance</a>		
<b><a href="#">SB 1371</a></b> - <a href="#">Colgan</a> - Capital outlay plan; sets forth 6-year plan for project funded entirely from general fund resources.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Appropriations</a> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Finance</a>	(S) Failed to pass in Senate	02/27/11
<b><a href="#">SB 1439</a></b> - <a href="#">Herring</a> - Tuition Assistance Grant Program; amends criteria for higher educational institutions.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Education</a> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Education and Health</a>	(S) House amendment agreed to by Senate (40-Y 0-N)	02/24/11
<b><a href="#">SB 1459</a></b> - <a href="#">Houck</a> - Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011; established, report.	<a href="#">(H) Committee on Appropriations</a> <a href="#">(S) Committee on Finance</a>	(S) Title replaced 11105403D-H1	02/23/11

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