



January 20, 2012

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Governor's Proposals CUT State Pay
YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED!

VGEA IS OPPOSED!

The Governor's budget and VRS proposals include provisions that would CUT state employees take home pay. The VGEA opposes **any** proposal that **reduces the take home pay of state employees. Our top priority is a state employee pay raise.** We are working vigorously with key legislators to defeat the pay cuts and get a pay increase.

- [HB 30/ SB 30](#) (budget Bill for 2012-14) would raise health insurance premiums for active employees by an estimated \$10-\$15 per month for family coverage (depending on the plan selected) while the premiums for non-Medicare eligible retirees could increase by about \$65 per month for family coverage.
- [House Bill 1129](#) would cut take-home pay by requiring state employees to contribute an additional .5% in 2013 and another .5% in 2014 toward their retirement, bringing the total state employee contribution to 6% of their pay.

Call and Send E-Mails to YOUR Delegate and Senator!

The Governor's proposals will cut take home pay that has not increased in five years and also increase the cost of your health insurance premiums! **YOUR Delegate and Senator need to hear from you now!** It is the time to be heard, and this is the first step.

Let YOUR Delegate and Senator know that you and your family would be hurt by these actions, and ask them not to cut your pay. Tell them **it has been five years since your take home pay has increased and that we need a raise - not more cuts!** Every state employee and their immediate family members **must get involved**

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VGEA is your

Voice at the Capitol!

Share this newsletter with your fellow employees and remind them that the VGEA is the **only** organization working to protect state employee salaries and benefits. The work of the VGEA is supported by its member dues.

[Click here to join now.](#) At only \$4 per pay period, it's a worthwhile investment in yourself and your future.

in this effort!

[Click here](#) to find the name and e-mail address/telephone number of YOUR Delegate and Senator. Simply enter your home address and click on the "Lookup" box at the bottom of the page. It will return the name and contact information for your Delegate and Senator. At the bottom of the page, click the "Send a message to your Delegate and Senator" box. It will bring up a formatted email page. Then enter your name (which is the only personal information required), the subject (STATE EMPLOYEE PAY CUT) and your message. Below is a suggested message you can copy, but please feel free to choose your own words.

Dear Delegate/Senator _____:

I work for the Department of _____ and have been a state employee for over _____ years. My take home pay has not increased in five years, but I think can honestly say that I am doing my best for the citizens of the Commonwealth and am working harder and longer to do so in the face of continuing staff reductions and budget cuts.

Now I read that the Governor wants to CUT MY PAY by raising my health insurance premium and asking me to pay even more to the Virginia Retirement System. I already pay 5% out of my salary to the VRS for my retirement and State employees are the only group being asked to pay more. I am writing to say to you I simply think that is NOT FAIR.

We need a pay raise. We have no merit pay system, step raise or longevity pay; nothing other than the raises you provide. It's been five years. JLARC says the state salaries are no longer competitive for recruiting and retaining good employees. Please help us with a pay increase! If you cannot do that, then at least reject the Governor's proposals that cut my pay.

Sincerely,

At the bottom of the page, click the "Send Your Message" box and you're done.

Please share this message with your co-workers. **Spread the word!** We need thousands of emails from state employees and their families pouring into the General Assembly members over the next two weeks!

**Thank you for your support of VGEA -
The VOICE for Virginia's State Employees and Retirees!**

2012 Legislative Bills Affecting State Employees

To date, 2,198 bills and resolutions have been introduced with the deadline for introduction at 5 p.m. today. Over the next two weeks, House and Senate committees will be working long hours as they listen to arguments pro and con about these many legislative requests.

Budget amendments that were submitted by members of the House and Senate were made available for review earlier this week. [Click here](#) to view the budget amendments.

A list of the bills filed to date that we have identified as having a direct affect on most state employees follows:

LEGAL SHIELD

Pre-paid Legal Services

New Through VGEA

Whether you're an employee just starting your career and family and in need of a will or a retiree wanting to establish power-of-attorney, everyone needs sound legal advice. VGEA's partner Peak Performance Group offers a Legal Services Plan and ID Theft Protection to members at special discounted rates and no enrollment fees. There are two affordable plans, which provide an array of the following services: Attorney phone consultations, Contract reviews, Wills, Traffic Violation defense, Litigation defense, IRS audit legal services,

24/7 Emergency access, Identity Restoration by Licensed Investigators, and more. Information and enrollment forms are available by calling 877-588-9961 or go to lauramillen.com.

Bill/Sponsor	Committee	Last action	Date
<u>HB 29</u> - <u>Putney</u> - Budget Bill.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on Appropriations</u>	12/19/11
<u>HB 30</u> - <u>Putney</u> - Budget Bill.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on Appropriations</u>	12/19/11
<u>HB 140</u> - <u>Cole</u> - State Police Officers' Retirement System (SPORS); mandatory retirement requirement exemptions.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Assigned App. sub: <u>Compensation and Retirement</u>	01/16/12
<u>HB 161</u> - <u>Hope</u> - State employees; Director of DHRM to provide next of kin with flag when killed in line duty.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/06/12
<u>HB 163</u> - <u>Hope</u> - Judicial retirement; increases mandatory retirement age to 73.	<u>(H) Committee for Courts of Justice</u>	(H) Subcommittee failed to recommend reporting (4-Y 4-N)	01/16/12
<u>HB 253</u> - <u>Stolle</u> - Virginia Personnel Act; hiring preference for veterans, surviving spouses, and children.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/10/12
<u>HB 350</u> - <u>Cox, M.K.</u> - Virginia Retirement System; modifies disability benefits provided to state employees.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Subcommittee recommends reporting (8-Y 0-N)	01/19/12
<u>HB 384</u> - <u>Cole</u> - Virginia Personnel Act; hiring preference in state employment for members of National Guard.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/10/12
<u>HB 386</u> - <u>Gilbert</u> - Virginia Retirement System; investments in certain companies related to Iran.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Assigned App. sub: <u>Compensation and Retirement</u>	01/16/12
<u>HB 486</u> - <u>Ware, O.</u> - VRS; certain higher educational institution employees in optional retirement plan.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Assigned App. sub: <u>Compensation and Retirement</u>	01/16/12
<u>HB 511</u> - <u>Purkey</u> - VRS; calculation for pension fund		(H) Assigned App.	

liabilities and assumed rate of return on its investments.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	sub: <u>Compensation and Retirement</u>	01/16/12
<u>HB 556 - Albo</u> - Internet; publication of personal information of certain public officials prohibited.	<u>(H) Committee on Science and Technology</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on Science and Technology</u>	01/10/12
<u>HB 613 - LeMunvon</u> - Public employment; prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, etc.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/10/12
<u>HB 637 - Iaquinto</u> - Grievance procedure; eliminates certain steps	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Assigned GL sub: #4 <u>Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process</u>	01/17/12
<u>HB 692 - Plum</u> - Public employment; prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, etc.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/11/12
<u>HB 715 - Kilgore</u> - Human Resource Management, Department of; state health plan.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Assigned GL sub: #4 <u>Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process</u>	01/17/12
<u>HB 738 - Jones</u> - Human Resource Management, Department of; health and related insurance for state employees.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Assigned GL sub: #4 <u>Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process</u>	01/17/12
<u>HB 791 - Tata</u> - Virginia Retirement System; technical changes to programs administered.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Subcommittee recommends reporting (8-Y 0- N)	01/19/12
<u>HB 939 - Lingamfelter</u> - Accounts, Department of; recovery of erroneous or improper payments to state employee.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Assigned GL sub: #4 <u>Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process</u>	01/17/12
<u>HB 949 - Bell, Robert B.</u> - Virginia Retirement System		(H) Assigned App. sub:	

(VRS); optional defined contribution retirement plan for state employees.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	<u>Compensation and Retirement</u>	01/16/12
<u>HB 1003 - Ramadan</u> - Employment discrimination; no employer shall discharge on basis of age.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/11/12
<u>HB 1014 - Comstock</u> - State employee associations; prohibits payroll deductions.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/11/12
<u>HB 1097 - Herring</u> - Judicial retirement; increases mandatory retirement age to 72.	<u>(H) Committee for Courts of Justice</u>	(H) Subcommittee recommends laying on the table	01/18/12
<u>HB 1099-Herring</u> - Employment discrimination; expands circumstances creating an individual cause of action.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/11/12
<u>HB 1129 - Howell, W.J.</u> - Virginia Retirement System; modifies several provisions of defined benefit retirement plan.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Assigned App. sub: <u>Compensation and Retirement</u>	01/16/12
<u>HB 1130 - Howell, W.J.</u> - Virginia Retirement System; new optional hybrid retirement plan created.	<u>(H) Committee on Appropriations</u>	(H) Assigned App. sub: <u>Compensation and Retirement</u>	01/16/12
<u>HB 1175 - Englin</u> - Employment discrimination; prohibited.	<u>(H) Committee on General Laws</u>	(H) Referred to <u>Committee on General Laws</u>	01/17/12
<u>SB 29 - Colgan</u> - Budget Bill.	<u>(S) Committee on Finance</u>	(S) Referred to <u>Committee on Finance</u>	12/19/11
<u>SB 30 - Colgan</u> - Budget Bill.	<u>(S) Committee on Finance</u>	(S) Referred to <u>Committee on Finance</u>	12/19/11
<u>SB 95 - Edwards</u> - Mandatory judicial retirement; increases age from	<u>(S) Committee on Finance</u>	(S) Referred to <u>Finance</u>	01/16/12

70 to 73.

SB 263 - Ebbin - Public employment; prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, etc. (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology (S) Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology 01/10/12

SB 298 - Howell - Virginia Retirement System; fiscal impact analysis of employer contribution rates. (S) Committee on Finance (S) Referred to Committee on Finance 01/10/12

SB 357 - Deeds - Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System; adds conservation officers of DCR as members. (S) Committee on Finance (S) Referred to Committee on Finance 01/11/12

SB 417 - Stanley - Grievance procedure; eliminates certain steps. (S) Committee on General Laws and Technology (S) Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology 01/11/12

SB 498 - Watkins - Virginia Retirement System; optional defined contribution and defined benefit retirement program. (S) Committee on Finance (S) Referred to Committee on Finance 01/11/12

SJ 5 - Howell - Constitutional amendment; contributions to defined benefit retirement plan maintained for employees. (S) Committee on Privileges and Elections (S) Continued to 2013 in Privileges and Elections (15-Y o-N) 01/17/12

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