



January 15, 2023

Two Bills Seek to Define Jobber/Distributors as Refiners

The 2023 General Assembly opened last Wednesday. Unfortunately, we have seen two Democratic legislators introduce identical bills that would redefine Virginia law to define motor fuel jobber/distributors as major oil companies.

The Senate bill can be [found here](#).

The House bill can be [found here](#).

If successful these bills will have the immediate effect of substantially reducing the net worth of every petroleum marketing business in the Commonwealth. If the bills pass, jobber/distributors/refiners will be required to give dealers the right of first refusal to purchase their premises, not locate one of your own stations within a mile and a half of a dealer location, and numerous other unfavorable provisions. These bills are being carried by legislators from Manassas: Senator Jeremy NC Pile and Delegate Michelle Maldonado. To date we have been unable to ascertain why they have chosen to put a bull's eye on such an important part of Virginia's economy.

If you have business in Prince William contact Senator McPike. His information may be [found here](#). [Here is the information](#) for Delegate Maldonado

You can make the following points:

- Tell them that you oppose Senate Bill 1047 and House Bill 2363.
- We have never refined a drop of crude oil. We buy from the major oil companies and then distribute that product to our customers.
- This bill will have an immediate effect of devaluing a Virginia based business that has taken generations to build.
- Our businesses as Virginia distributors are part of Main Street not vertically integrated refiners traded on Wall Street.

Skill Games

This year there will be a substantive discussion of the future of skill games. The bill can be [found here](#).

House Majority Leader Terry Kilgore of Scott has filed legislation to legalize up to five skill games per convenience store and 10 for truck stops. The per month fee will also be restored at \$1,200. The fate of the bill is somewhat uncertain at this point in that litigation is still pending in Southside Virginia, a situation that has allowed the games to continue without taxation. The Kilgore bill will likely be opposed by Virginia's growing Casino industry, and Rosie's historical horse racing slot parlors.

California Cars

As we have reported on numerous occasions Virginia is the only southern state to have abandoned their regulatory oversight and adopted as written California standards that will prohibit the sale of internal combustion vehicles in two years. In response, our National Associations have sued in federal court holding that individual states outside of California are bound by Federal regulations and cannot make up their own fuel economy standards. A decision on that case is expected in the Spring. In the meantime, Senator Steve Newman has introduced Senate bill 779 that would overturn Virginia law delegating our regulatory authority to California. However, the chances for success this year are slim. The law defaulting to California standards passed in 2020 during one party control of state government. While Republicans have since taken over the House and Governor's office, Democrats now control the Senate 22-18 and have pledged to defeat any bill that would change the status quo. The ultimate fate of this issue will be decided at ballot box in November when all 40 senators and 100 delegates will be up for reelection.

All the Miles are Free for EV's After 11,600

Few people in Virginia realize that electric vehicles are assessed a road user fee on only the first 11,600 miles driven per year. Every additional mile is free. Further, for those 11,600 miles EV drivers pay only 23.7 cents per gallon in road tax. Ordinary Virginians who can't afford an expensive electric vehicle pay 36.8 cents per gallon. If this policy continues, revenue to the highway trust fund will decrease precipitously as the number of EV's increases. Senator Steve Newman has sponsored Senate bill 862 that would eliminate woke highway funding and restore a system where everyone pays their fair share.

While we wont know the total number of bills we will be facing until Friday's introduction deadline, here is a list of [2023 bills](#) to date we are following.