



April 17, 2026

Governor's Actions on Legislation - Bad News for Association Members

This week Governor Abigail Spanberger acted on legislation that passed the General Assembly during the session that concluded last month. Unfortunately, we have no good news to report, specifically on three issues that will significantly impact the industry.

Skill Games- VETOED

This legislation passed with bi-partisan majorities in both the House and Senate. As predicted, the governor said in her veto message that the establishment of a Virginia gaming commission bureaucracy is necessary before expanding gaming. However the fact is that we now have billions of dollars gambled annually in Virginia after passing internet lottery, legalizing sports betting, opening five casinos, and installing thousands of slot machines at Rosies locations across Virginia. All of this is being overseen by strong regulatory oversight by the Commonwealth. The administration's rationale in vetoing skill games does not pass the smell test.

Legislation Targeting Elimination of Heating Oil and Propane -SIGNED

Two bills will now allow the state's utilities to electrify the homes of 20 percent of Virginia's low-income households - but only if these residences are now served by "fuel delivered to the premises and stored on-site." This legislation was promoted as a part of the administration's so-called "affordability agenda." They are silent on how this will impact affordability for Virginia based heating oil and propane companies.

\$300 Tax and Undisclosed Annual Taxes for Every Tobacco Outlet- SIGNED

Despite the fact that underage sales of tobacco products in Virginia have decreased exponentially, and are now the lowest in the South, Governor Spanberger signed legislation that will impose the first-ever \$300 registration tax on every store selling tobacco in the Commonwealth. Further, the bills require the ABC Department to conduct underage sting operations at every location at least once every 24 months, and allows ABC to set a new undisclosed annual tax for each location. Once again, the administration is silent on how these two new taxes will impact affordability for the convenience store industry.

EMA Washington Conference and Day on the Hill – May 13-15, 2026: Please Make Your Hotel Reservation and Register Now

EMA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in Washington, DC from May 13-15 at [The Mayflower Hotel](#). Our industry continues to have many important legislative and regulatory issues to discuss and the Day on the Hill remains the primary focus of this conference for you to meet with your members of Congress and network with other marketers from across the country!

Hotel reservations will close April 30 at 6:00 pm Eastern or when the room block is sold out.

[Click here to Register and Book your Hotel Room for EMA's DC Conference and Day on the Hill](#)

2026 VPCMA Scholarship Applications Now Accepted

We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the VPCMA 2026 Scholarship Program. This program is open to VPCMA members, their employees, and the children of VPCMA member company employees. Awards are made after review by the Association's scholarship committee, which considers need as well as academic achievement in their evaluations. Recipients **must be Virginia residents**, high school graduates by June of this year, and attend a post secondary institution of higher education in the fall of 2026. You can view the [application here](#). Complete applications must be received by May 15. You may also distribute or post [this flyer](#) for your employees.

EMA Regulatory Alert: EPA Finalizes 2026–2027 Renewable Fuel Standards Obligations

From EMA

On April 1, 2026, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized its Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) "Set 2" Rule, establishing renewable fuel volume requirements for 2026 and 2027 at the highest levels in the program's 20-year history. The rule increases volume mandates across all fuel categories, reallocates a significant portion of previously granted small-refinery exemptions (SREs), eliminates renewable electricity as a qualifying fuel pathway, reduces equivalence values for renewable diesel, and introduces new structural changes affecting heating oil and biogas. With an effective date of June 15, 2026, EMA marketers should begin reviewing compliance and commercial strategies now.

[CLICK HERE TO READ EMA'S REGULATORY COUNSEL'S DETAILED ANALYSIS](#)

Save the Date

VPCMA 78th Annual Meeting
September 20-22, 2026

The Greenbrier Resort
White Sulphur Springs, WV

Details available in June.

Sincerely,

Mike O'Connor
President, VPCMA



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