



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE



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## Two Days Before Session Opens Two Problematic Bills Emerge

While the 2018 General Assembly session does not open until Wednesday, we have identified two concepts that if adopted would negatively impact the membership. The first has been offered by incoming Democratic Delegate David Reid of Loudoun. This bill ([HB355](#)) would expand disruptive technology by allowing the practice of mobile fueling for gasoline.

Readers will recall that a startup SIMPFUEL began in Loudoun County in 2016. Because of safety concerns and the fact that this practice is specifically prohibited in the code, the county's fire marshal shut the business down early last year. Over the summer we worked with the fire services representatives to amend the fire code to prohibit mobile fueling. However, unrelated controversies have held up final approval of fire code changes, and we are uncertain when this change will become effective.

The second concept also falls within the disruptive technology category, and is being pushed by lotto.com. It would allow multi-state lotto games to be sold on a mobile device or smart phone. The goal being to move these sales from your stores to online where lotto.com will be taking your sales and commissions. There is an existing section in the code that prohibits selling lottery tickets on-line or by credit card which would have to be repealed for this to occur. The lotto bill has not been filed to date.

When the gavel falls noon on Wednesday at the Virginia General Assembly, there will be multiple changes at the Capitol. The most pronounced will be in the House of Delegates where Republicans have gone from 64 to 51 seats and Democrats have increased their representation from 34 to 49. On the Senate side changes are limited to the swearing in of new Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, who presides over the Senate and votes to break ties, which are likely in a body divided 21-19. For legislators, the lobbying community and general public will discover that the entire general assembly apparatus has been moved three blocks down the hill for a four year period while the Old General Assembly building is torn down and a new one constructed. The temporary facilities in the Pocahontas building will mean the same number of people will be working or visiting in about 1/3 less space.

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