



GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE



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General Assembly Focuses on Budget

With two weeks to go in the 2016 session, attention has moved from individual legislation to adoption of a two year budget which will take effect on July 1. We are fortunate that this year the budget process does not include legislation that had previously been defeated or new fees impacting the membership. Both branches have included provisions for additional resources for weights and measures inspections so we can look for the frequency of inspections to increase. On a related note, the Senate Finance Committee rejected [House bill 1089](#) which would have capped lottery expenses at 8 percent rather than the current 10 percent.

Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads Fuel Tax Bills Carried Over to 2017

This morning, a House of Delegates subcommittee carried over, until the 2017 session, legislation ([SB 742](#)) that would have increased the local fuels tax in Northern Virginia from 2.1 to 3 percent and set up a variable rate (starting out at 14 cents per gallon) in Hampton Roads. Carrying over a bill means that it may be acted upon during a committee meeting later in the year, and almost certainly means that this issue will be back before the General Assembly in the 2017 session. The bill that was considered today contained language we proposed that would have assessed the local taxes to a cents per gallon basis, adjusted twice annually - just as the statewide tax is collected and remitted. As this issue is considered in future sessions we will try to assure that future versions contain the cents per gallon language.