Legislative Report, Virginia General Assembly 2023
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January 21, 2023 Greetings from your loyal, hard-working legislative committee!

Virginia's General Assembly began on January 11th for a 46 day "short" session (projected to end February 25th). We are represented in Richmond by a divided government right now, with a Republican majority in the House this year, and a Democratic majority in the Senate. This session's discussions will be focused on amendments to ***The Budget***, in addition to all the discussions of the thousands of bills typically filed by legislators during an election year.

Here is the **general link** to the welcome page of the General Assembly's very informative website. From there you may wish to explore in more detail:

- **Member Listings**
- **Videos**
- **Meeting schedules, Calendars,and Status Updates**

Here are some "Key Issues" last week, from the news:

House Democratic leader pushes for stricter gun laws in Virginia –

- *Virginia Political Newsletter* January 12, 2023

The Democratic leader in the Virginia House of Delegates said his party hopes to pass gun restrictions this year, including proposals for waiting periods for firearm purchases and a ban on assault weapons, calling out Gov. Youngkin for his response to recent shootings in Virginia.
NOTE: We suggest that our members look up gun control bills by topic and get more informed about these proposals. (suggested keyword searches: ammunition, firearms, violence)

Republicans pursue abortion bill approaches: the realistic and the long shot –

- *Cardinal News* January 13, 2023.

Republican legislators from Bedford County are proposing bills **HB 2278** and **SB 1385**, which would make it a Class 4 felony to perform an abortion after 15 weeks, with only some exceptions. Our governor renewed his well-publicized promise of support last week in his *State of the Commonwealth* speech. Legislators from Floyd and Tazewell counties have already introduced even more extreme bills, which would define life as "*beginning at conception*" and would make abortion completely illegal in Virginia.
NOTE: Abortion is currently still legal in Virginia during the first and second trimester.

~ What can you expect from us, your legislative reporters? Well… updates, information and action items. Bills by our area's legislators will be featured in upcoming updates.

~ What do we want from you? Please **email Sandra** with issues of importance to you and bills you'd like us to follow… we want to know what's on your mind! We are more than happy to dig a little deeper, find explanations, and get answers!

Yours truly, Sandra, Becky, Jessica and Barb