

THE VOICE of BUSINESS



## 2017 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

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success rate on the Virginia Chamber's legislative priorities during the 2017 session

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are pleased to present the Virginia Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Legislative Report Card, which grades members of the Virginia General Assembly on their voting record on key business issues. In the following pages, we report on legislators' support for initiatives that will spur long-term economic growth, and their willingness to stand up against legislation that would harm our business climate.

Over the course of 2013, the Virginia Chamber worked with over 7,000 business and community leaders from across the Commonwealth to develop *Blueprint Virginia*, a comprehensive initiative to provide business leadership, direction and long-range economic development planning for Virginia. Each year, the Virginia Chamber evaluates pending legislation on the basis of whether it is consistent with the goals in our *Blueprint Virginia* business plan for the Commonwealth. This year, we are updating that plan and will present the final product to Virginia's new Governor following the 2017 election.

During the 2017 General Assembly session, the Virginia Chamber tracked more than 500 bills and 750 budget amendments and weighed in on more than 80 bills that would affect our economic competitiveness. The Virginia Chamber provided legislators and the general public with a weekly "Bills We're Watching" report noting the Chamber's position on bills of interest to the business community. I encourage you to visit our website at www.vachamber.com for an overview of this year's legislative proposals and their outcomes.

The Legislative Report Card recognizes legislators for their support of initiatives that will help move Virginia forward, and singles out for special recognition legislators who showed leadership on key initiatives. With the help of Virginia's pro-business legislators, we achieved a 94% success rate on our legislative priorities during the 2017 session, which saved Virginia employers \$6 billion. With the strong support of pro-business legislators, we can continue to strengthen Virginia's business climate and help maintain Virginia's status as one of the best states for business.

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Barry DuVal, President & CEO Virginia Chamber of Commerce

# 2017 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

### SENATE LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR



Senator Bill Stanley

For his vocal support of pro-business policies throughout the 2017 General Assembly session, **Senator Bill Stanley** earned the Senate Legislator of the Year Award. Senator Stanley was instrumental in protecting private sector businesses and their employees from legislation that would have made it more difficult to start or expand a business in Virginia. He persuasively argued for the importance of protecting companies in Virginia from an onslaught of new burdens.

We are fortunate to have many legislators who introduced pro-business legislation and who consistently voted for policies that improve our business climate, but Senator Stanley distinguished himself this year with his depth of knowledge of business issues and his effective advocacy for those policies. Senator Stanley has been a tireless champion for construction of I-73, which is a priority in the Chamber's long-term jobs plan, *Blueprint Virginia*. The Virginia Chamber is pleased to recognize Senator Bill Stanley with the top honor for pro-business advocacy as **Senate Legislator of the Year**.

The Virginia Chamber's Legislator of the Year Award is the business community's premier legislative award honoring the lawmaker who demonstrates outstanding leadership on pro-business issues. The award recognizes a leader for distinguished advocacy of the free enterprise system.

### HOUSE LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR



In 2017, Delegate Tim Hugo earned the House Legislator of the Year Award for his leadership in building support for critical pro-business legislation. Delegate Hugo's extensive knowledge of issues that came before the House Commerce and Labor Committee and proposals that came to the House floor benefited all of his colleagues in the House of Delegates.

Among his accomplishments in the 2017 General Assembly is legislation signed by the Governor that

protects defense sector manufacturers in Virginia from new potential tax burdens. Delegate Hugo also played a key role in the passage of many pro-business bills that did not bear his name as a patron, and we applaud his successful efforts to work in a bipartisan manner to advance good policies. For building support for legislation to improve Virginia's business climate, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce is pleased to award Delegate Tim Hugo with the highest honor from the business community as House Legislator of the Year.

## SENATE GRADES

	2017 LIFETIME*		TIME*		20	2017		LIFETIME*		
MEMBER NAME	%	Grade	%	Grade	MEMBER NAME	%	Grade	%	Grade	
Barker, George	84%	В	80%	B-	McClellan, Jennifer	77%	C+	78%	C+	
Black, Dick	94%	А	94%	А	McDougle, Ryan	100%	A+	98%	A+	
Carrico, Charles	99%	A+	98%	A+	McPike, Jeremy	75%	С	75%	С	
Chafin, Ben	99%	A+	98%	A+	Newman, Steve	98%	A+	95%	А	
Chase, Amanda	94%	А	91%	A-	Norment, Tommy	98%	A+	98%	A+	
Cosgrove, John	98%	A+	98%	A+	Obenshain, Mark	99%	A+	94%	А	
Dance, Rosalyn	74%	С	80%	B-	Peake, Mark	100%	A+	-	-	
Deeds, Creigh	70%	C-	78%	C+	Petersen, Chap	71%	C-	73%	С	
DeSteph, Bill	100%	A+	98%	A+	Reeves, Bryce	99%	A+	98%	A+	
Dunnavant, Siobhan	98%	A+	97%	A+	Ruff, Frank	100%	A+	98%	A+	
Ebbin, Adam	76%	С	72%	C-	Saslaw, Dick	80%	B-	80%	B-	
Edwards, John	85%	В	78%	C+	Spruill, Lionell	79%	C+	81%	B-	
Favola, Barbara	79%	C+	80%	B-	Stanley, Bill	96%	А	94%	A	
Hanger, Emmett	95%	А	96%	А	Stuart, Richard	91%	A-	95%	А	
Howell, Janet	82%	B-	80%	B-	Sturtevant, Glen	98%	A+	99%	A+	
Lewis, Lynwood	85%	в	86%	В	Suetterlein, David	90%	A-	88%	B+	
Locke, Mamie	75%	с	77%	C+	Surovell, Scott	79%	C+	75%	С	
Lucas, Louise	75%	с	78%	C+	Vogel, Jill	93%	А	96%	А	
Marsden, Dave	83%	в	80%	B-	Wagner, Frank	92%	A-	98%	A+	
Mason, Monty	78%	C+	84%	В	Wexton, Jennifer	80%	B-	82%	B-	

Champion of Free Enterprise

Distinguished Advocate for Virginia Business

### **HOUSE OF DELEGATES GRADES**

	2017 LIFETIME*		TIME*			2017		LIFETIME*		
MEMBER NAME	%	Grade	%	Grade		MEMBER NAME	%	Grade	%	Grade
Adams, Les	98%	A+	95%	А		Davis, Glenn	99%	A+	98%	A+
Aird, Lashrecse	76%	С	81%	B-		Dudenhefer, Mark	94%	А	96%	А
Albo, Dave	96%	А	96%	А		Edmunds, James	93%	А	94%	А
Anderson, Richard	100%	A+	97%	A+		Fariss, Matt	87%	B+	91%	A-
Austin, Terry	100%	A+	98%	A+		Farrell, Peter	88%	B+	95%	A
Bagby, Lamont	77%	C+	79%	C+		Filler-Corn, Eileen	76%	С	80%	B-
Bell, John	74%	С	76%	С		Fowler, Buddy	93%	А	97%	A+
Bell, Dickie	98%	A+	96%	А		Freitas, Nick	95%	А	87%	B+
Bell, Rob	100%	A+	96%	А		Garrett, Scott	100%	A+	99%	A+
Bloxom, Rob	88%	B+	96%	А		Gilbert, Todd	100%	A+	97%	A+
Bourne, Jeff	88%	B+	-	-		Greason, Tag	100%	A+	97%	A+
Boysko, Jennifer	68%	D+	74%	С		Habeeb, Greg	92%	A-	96%	A
Bulova, David	75%	С	80%	B-		Hayes, Cliff	78%	C+	-	-
Byron, Kathy	100%	A+	97%	A+		Head, Chris	98%	A+	97%	A+
Campbell, Jeff	89%	B+	92%	A-		Helsel, Gordon	93%	А	96%	А
Carr, Betsy	71%	C-	77%	C+		Heretick, Stephen	74%	С	80%	B-
Cline, Ben	98%	A+	94%	А		Herring, Charniele	74%	С	77%	C+
Cole, Mark	96%	А	89%	B+		Hester, Daun	68%	D+	80%	B-
Collins, Chris	99%	A+	99%	A+		Hodges, Keith	98%	A+	99%	A+
Cox, Kirk	100%	A+	99%	A+		Holcomb, Rocky	100%	A+	-	-

\* = The lifetime grade is an average of the legislator's scores from the 2012-2017 VA Chamber Report Cards. Freshman legislators were not issued a lifetime grade.

### **HOUSE OF DELEGATES GRADES**

	2017		LIFETIME*			2017		LIFETIME*		
MEMBER NAME	%	Grade	%	Grade	MEMBER NAME	%	Grade	%	Grade	
Hope, Patrick	69%	D+	74%	С	Marshall, Danny	100%	A+	98%	A+	
Howell, Bill	100%	A+	99%	A+	Marshall, Bob	96%	А	92%	A-	
Hugo, Tim	90%	A-	95%	А	Massie, Jimmie	100%	A+	98%	A+	
Ingram, Riley	100%	A+	99%	A+	McQuinn, Delores	76%	С	79%	C+	
James, Matthew	76%	С	80%	B-	Miller, Jackson	90%	A-	95%	А	
Jones, Chris	100%	A+	97%	A+	Minchew, Randy	96%	А	95%	А	
Keam, Mark	79%	C+	81%	B-	Miyares, Jason	100%	A+	98%	A+	
Kilgore, Terry	98%	A+	97%	A+	Morefield, Will	83%	в	90%	A-	
Knight, Barry	100%	A+	100%	A+	Morris, Richard	76%	С	90%	A-	
Kory, Kaye	64%	D	73%	с	Mullin, Michael	73%	С	-	-	
Krizek, Paul	73%	С	76%	С	Murphy, Kathleen	76%	С	77%	C+	
Landes, Steve	100%	A+	99%	A+	O'Bannon, John	100%	A+	99%	A+	
LaRock, Dave	99%	A+	97%	A+	O'Quinn, Israel	90%	A-	94%	А	
Leftwich, Jay	95%	А	98%	A+	Orrock, Bobby	100%	A+	98%	A+	
LeMunyon, Jim	99%	A+	95%	А	Peace, Chris	96%	А	97%	A+	
Levine, Mark	55%	F	65%	D	Pillion, Todd	93%	А	93%	А	
Lindsey, Joe	76%	С	79%	C+	Plum, Ken	66%	D	78%	C+	
Lingamfelter, Scott	95%	А	97%	A+	Pogge, Brenda	100%	A+	96%	А	
Lopez, Alfonso	74%	С	77%	C+	Poindexter, Charles	100%	A+	99%	A+	
Loupassi, Manoli	98%	A+	98%	A+	Price, Marcia	75%	С	78%	C+	

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\* = The lifetime grade is an average of the legislator's scores from the 2012-2017 VA Chamber Report Cards. Freshman legislators were not issued a lifetime grade.

MEMBER NAME	20	2017		TIME*	MEMBER NAME	2017		LIFET	
	%	Grade	%	Grade		%	Grade	%	ļ
Ransone, Margaret	99%	A+	95%	А	Tyler, Roslyn	70%	C-	77%	
Rasoul, Sam	69%	D+	77%	C+	Villanueva, Ron	99%	A+	99%	
Robinson, Roxann	100%	A+	99%	A+	Ward, Jeion	74%	С	77%	
Rush, Nick	98%	A+	97%	A+	Ware, Lee	85%	в	90%	
Sickles, Mark	75%	С	79%	C+	Watts, Vivian	76%	С	79%	
Simon, Marcus	64%	D	75%	С	Webert, Michael	95%	А	93%	
Stolle, Chris	100%	A+	99%	A+	Wilt, Tony	100%	A+	98%	
Sullivan, Richard	77%	C+	76%	С	Wright, Tommy	94%	А	93%	
Torian, Luke	78%	C+	82%	B-	Yancey, David	100%	A+	98%	
Toscano, David	78%	C+	78%	C+	Yost, Joseph	86%	В	93%	

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD SPEAKER BILL HOWELL



Speaker Bill Howell

Speaker Bill Howell has been a great friend to the business community during his thirty year tenure in the Virginia House of Delegates, serving for the last fifteen years as Speaker. On a diverse range of issues, including transportation funding and tort reform, Speaker Howell has been a leader in improving Virginia's economy and supporting pro-business policies to encourage growth and competitiveness. Upon his retirement, the Virginia Chamber recognizes him with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his exemplary public service.

### **CHAMPIONS OF FREE ENTERPRISE**

The Virginia Chamber recognizes the following legislators as Champions of Free Enterprise, having voted 100% for the Chamber's legislative priorities in support of *Blueprint Virginia*. These legislators are key in advancing the free enterprise system and improving our environment for job growth. Their continued leadership ensures that Virginia remains one of the top states for business.





Del. Rob Bell

Del. Rocky Holcomb





Del. Riley Ingram



Sen. Frank Ruff





Del. John O'Bannon







Del. David Yancey





Del. Danny Marshall

Del. Charles Poindexter



Del. Roxann Robinson





Del. Terry Austin



Del. Tag Greason



## More than 29000 bills and resolutions were

introduced during the 2017 General Assembly session.

The Virginia Chamber tracked more than **500** bills and **750** budget amendments with a potential impact on business and took a position on more than **80** pieces of legislation.

### **LEGISLATIVE AWARDS**

## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

SENATOR SIOBHAN DUNNAVANT SENATOR MARK OBENSHAIN SENATOR CHAP PETERSEN SENATOR FRANK RUFF DELEGATE DICKIE BELL DELEGATE DAVID BULOVA DELEGATE EILEEN FILLER-CORN DELEGATE TAG GREASON DELEGATE STEVE LANDES

When asked to rank various economic drivers in order of importance, business leaders across Virginia put education and workforce development at the top. They know that the success of their business depends on the skills of their employees. The Excellence in Education and Workforce Development Award recognizes legislators who worked to give Virginians better opportunities to develop skills that align with the workforce needs of businesses.

This year, legislators made bipartisan progress in several areas. Delegate Steve Landes championed a bill to bring valuable private sector business experience to the Virginia Board of Education as the Board considers policies that will prepare students for success in the workplace. Delegate Steve Landes, Senator Mark Obenshain, and Senator Chap Petersen played instrumental roles in the passage of legislation enabling regional charter schools. Delegate Dickie Bell and Senator Siobhan Dunnavant sponsored legislation to make Virginia more friendly to virtual schools, which would provide additional education tools for Virginia students, particularly those in military-connected families who face frequent moves and benefit from the portability of virtual learning. Delegate Tag Greason advanced legislation to give schools more autonomy in delivering instruction and allocating resources to meet the diverse needs of their students. Senator Frank Ruff's legislation would award academic credit for state-approved apprenticeship programs, a top priority of the business community. Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn and Delegate David Bulova sponsored legislation to further enhance and highlight options for career and technical education programs in Virginia's high schools.





en. Siobhan Dunnavan

Sen. Mark Obenshain





en Sen. Frank Ruff







el. Eileen Filler-Corn



Del. Tag Greason



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#### CHAMPIONS OF REGULATORY REFORM AWARD

SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS SENATOR BRYCE REEVES DELEGATE CHRIS HEAD DELEGATE CHRIS PEACE DELEGATE MARGARET RANSONE DELEGATE LEE WARE

In our polling of business leaders across the state, more than half of businesses have told us that recent or pending regulations have slowed their plans for growth. A fair and predictable regulatory framework allows businesses to plan for the future and hire more Virginians. This year, Delegate Chris Peace, Delegate Chris Head, Delegate Margaret Ransone, Delegate Lee Ware, Senator John Edwards, and Senator Bryce Reeves championed legislation that ensures economic impacts to Virginia businesses are understood by regulators, and that all regulatory information upon which agencies rely is made available to the public. It is imperative to have transparency and accountability in the regulatory process, with an opportunity for the private sector to express concerns before new regulations are promulgated. The Virginia Chamber applauds these legislators for working to improve our business climate by preventing regulations from having unintended consequences that slow business growth.



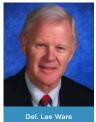












#### **DEFENDER OF FREE MARKETS AWARD**

DELEGATE KATHY BYRON

When public sector entities use taxpayer dollars to compete with services provided by private firms, it is incumbent on them to meet high standards for transparency and disclosure. In the 2017 General Assembly, Delegate Kathy Byron championed legislation to safeguard taxpayer dollars spent on broadband initiatives. She also exhibited admirable leadership in listening to and working with groups who had concerns with her initial bill. We are pleased to recognize Delegate Kathy Byron as a Defender of Free Markets for her work on broadband legislation.



### **LEGISLATIVE AWARDS**

### ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AWARD

SENATOR EMMETT HANGER DELEGATE MATTHEW JAMES

This year's Economic Competitiveness Award recognizes legislators who are working to ensure that businesses seeking to locate and expand in Virginia have access to site options across the Commonwealth. Delegate Matthew James and Senator Emmett Hanger sponsored bipartisan legislation that helps make industrial sites in Virginia more competitive. Recognizing market realities, their legislation lowers the minimum threshold for industrial sites to be included in the Site and Building Assessment Program from 250 acres to 100 acres. This new standard will allow more communities in Virginia to benefit from the program, and provide new avenues for economic development in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Chamber applauds Delegate Matthew James and Senator Emmett Hanger for their leadership in making Virginia more economically competitive.





ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AWARD

SENATOR BEN CHAFIN SENATOR BILL DESTEPH DELEGATE GLENN DAVIS DELEGATE TERRY KILGORE DELEGATE TODD PILLION DELEGATE RON VILLANUEVA

Virginia has fallen below the national average in economic growth for several years. Reversing that trend will require us to take the lead in emerging technologies and innovation. This year, Delegate Ron Villanueva, Senator Bill DeSteph, and Delegate Glenn Davis helped lay the groundwork for emerging technologies with legislation that provides a framework for personal delivery devices to operate in Virginia. Similarly, Delegate Terry Kilgore, Delegate Todd Pillion, and Senator Ben Chafin sponsored legislation that allows power companies to explore innovative uses of energy storage in Southwest Virginia that could allow them to use energy more efficiently through pumped hydroelectricity generation. The Virginia Chamber applauds these legislators for their leadership in emerging technologies and innovation.





Sen. Ben Chafin

Sen. Bill DeStep



Del. Glenn Davis

Del. Terry Kilgore





### **GRADING CRITERIA**

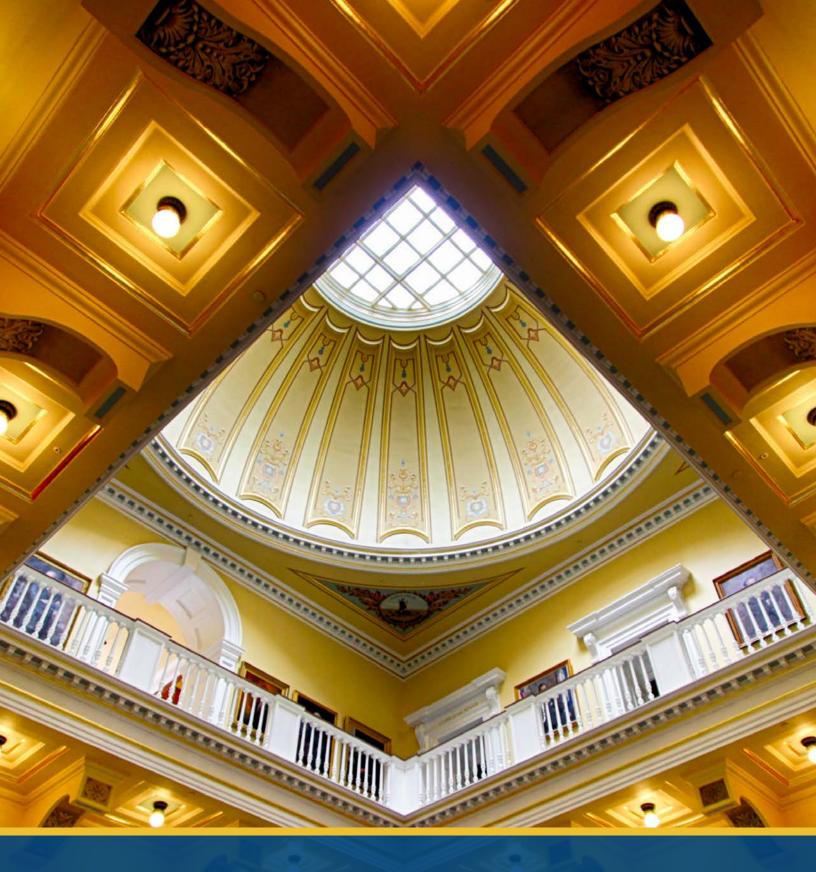
The weight of each vote was determined by dividing 100 by the total number of bills.

Legislators were docked 1 point for not voting on a bill. However, since legislators refrain from voting in cases of an ethical conflict, if a legislator abstained from a vote, this was not counted against him or her.

### **GRADING SCALE**

<b>A+</b> = 100-97	<b>B+</b> = 89-87	<b>C+</b> = 79-77	<b>D+</b> = 69-67
<b>A</b> = 96-93	<b>B</b> = 86-83	<b>C</b> = 76-73	<b>D</b> = 66-63
<b>A-</b> = 92-90	<b>B-</b> = 82-80	<b>C-</b> = 72-70	<b>D-</b> = 62-60
			<b>F</b> = 59 & below







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