



# The Virginia Network

for Women in Higher Education  
American Council on Education

**Senior Seminar**  
**Government Relations Homework for the 2017 Session**  
12-6-2016

- 1) Sign up to receive the Governor's press releases. Some will be more interesting than others. But as we near his budget announcement on December 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be some of particular interest.  
<http://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/>

*Here is a link to the press releases from last December:*

<http://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=13714>

- 2) Check out and become familiar with the General Assembly website. You can use it to find out who your reps are, track bills, find committee meeting times, etc.  
<http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/>
- 3) Determine which Delegate and Senator represents you. You will be encouraged to go to see your legislator and/or aide during your Senior Seminar visit in January.  
<http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>  
And, find out more information about your representatives – committees, personal information, etc. This is available on the GA website.
- 4) Review the information at the following link on how a bill becomes a law -  
<http://capclass.virginiageneralassembly.gov/Middle/HowABill/HowABill.html>  
(Or sing the School House Rock jingle to yourself.)
- 5) Check out SCHEV's list of higher education-related bills. Up there now are the lists from last year and are worth getting familiar with as many similar bills are likely to be introduced. They will add bills for the 2017 Session as it gets closer, so check back in December. We will discuss a number of these bills in January. Feel free to begin tracking them yourself and come with any questions.  
<http://www.schev.edu/index/agency-info/legislative/higher-education-legislation>
- 6) The Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (the Governor's budget agency), and the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees (the General Assembly "money committees") regularly post information. Check out their most recent documents to get a sense of current budget situation. We will discuss the status of the budget in January.  
DPB: <http://dpb.virginia.gov/>  
House Appropriations: <http://hac.state.va.us/>  
*Here is a link to the higher ed presentation at their November retreat -*  
[hac.state.va.us/Committee/files/2016/11-15-16/III%20-%20Higher%20Education%20Affordability.pdf](http://hac.state.va.us/Committee/files/2016/11-15-16/III%20-%20Higher%20Education%20Affordability.pdf)  
Senate Finance: <http://sfc.virginia.gov/>

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**Extra Credit:**

Go to the General Assembly website (<http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>). Go to Session Tracking (bottom middle) and select "2017 Bills and Resolutions." This will give you an option of putting in a bill number. Using this, track the following bills through last session to see how they fared, how they were changed, and which committees they went to: HB 515, HB 961, HB1160, SB 338, SB 568, SJ96.

**Other Links or Activities:**

The 2017 Session Calendar will be up after Christmas. Currently you can view the "2017 Session Prefiling Calendar" here:

[http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/calendar/cal2017\\_1.pdf](http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/calendar/cal2017_1.pdf)

In the meantime, you can view the 2015 Session calendar. Since this will be an odd-year, 45-day, session, this will approximate the 2015 calendar:

[http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/calendar/cal2015\\_2.pdf](http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/calendar/cal2015_2.pdf)

You can view the Senate and House online when they are in Session. Session begins January 11<sup>th</sup>. They usually are on the floor by noon.

Senate: [http://virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=3](http://virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3)

House: [http://virginia-house.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=3](http://virginia-house.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3)

**Upcoming Dates of Note:**

- December 16<sup>th</sup> - Governor's Budget Announcement (*Amendments to the FY17-18 budget. Potential FY18 cuts announced.*)
- January 4<sup>th</sup> - Budget hearings at locations across the state
  - Fairfax County** - Northern VA Community College at Annandale, Ernst Center Theater (10am)
  - Abingdon** - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Grand Hall (10am)
  - Newport News** - Christopher Newport University, David Student Union, Ballroom (12 noon)
  - Central Virginia** - City of Richmond, General Assembly Building, House Room D (12 noon)
- January 11<sup>th</sup> - Session begins at noon
- February 24<sup>th</sup> - Session scheduled to end

If you have any questions about the above or what you find, contact Fran Bradford at [fcbrad@wm.edu](mailto:fcbrad@wm.edu).