

Weekly update at the Virginia General Assembly, January 22, 2011

This past week was a blur, beginning with many committees meeting for the first time, bills still being filed, budget amendments sought by patrons being published, and the usual *Strum und Drang* that is the Virginia General Assembly.

Perhaps the highlight of the week was our Advocacy Day on Monday, the 17th. Kelly Waters already has written about that. Thanks to all who attended! From my perspective, it's extremely important for our legislators to see us face-to-face, not only during the "off-session" months, but also at the General Assembly. Remember: they are all citizen legislators, they get paid peanuts for what they do, and we owe them a debt of thanks for their commitment to Virginians (even if we don't always agree with them)!

All of the bills on our legislative list to date are insurance-based. We should be particularly interested in those that come out of the recommendations of the [Virginia Health Reform Initiative](#). I am not entirely sure if we have all of these bills on our list, and I will be checking this week to determine if that is the case. In the meantime, if you review this list, I've highlighted those that have been reported out of committee in **green**. The others are still waiting for committee hearings in their respective houses.

If you have any questions whatsoever, don't hesitate to contact me by email or phone. And again, many thanks for all you do for people with bleeding disorders!

Becky Bowers-Lanier, VHF Advocacy Consultant

becky@b2lconsulting.com, 804-382-0991

Bills	Committee	Last action	Date
HB 1538 - Merricks - Health insurance; multiple employer welfare arrangements.	(H) Committee on Commerce and Labor	(H) Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1538H1	01/21/11
HB 1761 - Cox, M.K. - Human Resource Management, Department of; TRICARE supplemental health coverage to military retirees.	(H) Committee on General Laws	(H) Reported from General Laws with amendment (22-Y 0-N)	01/20/11
HB 1928 - Marshall, D.W. - Health insurance; independent external reviews.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	(H) Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	01/11/11
HB 1958 - Rust - Health insurance; federal market reforms.	(H) Committee on Commerce and Labor	(H) Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor	01/11/11

HB 2394 - Bell, Robert B. - State health insurance plan; state employees who are nonclassified, hourly employees to participate.	(H) Committee on General Laws	(H) Referred to Committee on General Laws	01/14/11
HB 2434 - Kilgore - Health benefits exchange; intent to develop.	(H) Committee on Commerce and Labor	(H) Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor	01/19/11
HJ 618 - Villanueva - Health insurance; small business acting collectively to obtain, report.	(H) Committee on Rules	(H) Assigned Rules sub: #3 Studies	01/18/11
HJ 635 - Kilgore - PPACA; joint subcommittee to study implementation of insurance provisions thereof.	(H) Committee on Rules	(H) Assigned Rules sub: #3 Studies	01/18/11
SB 879 - Reynolds - Pharmacy; conforms elements of State's freedom of choice law to North Carolina's law.	(S) Committee on Commerce and Labor	(S) Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor	01/10/11
SB 1122 - McEachin - State employees; health insurance benefits.	(S) Committee on Finance	(S) Referred to Committee on Finance	01/11/11
SB 1366 - Saslaw - Health benefits exchange; intent to develop.	(S) Committee on Finance	(S) Referred to Committee on Finance	01/12/11
SB 1390 - Howell - Life insurance; specified disease coverage or limited benefit health coverage.	(S) Committee on Commerce and Labor	(S) Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor	01/17/11