

VDFP 2013 Legislative Summary

The 2013 General Assembly Session was another busy legislative session for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. The 2013 Regular Session tackled over 2,000 pieces of legislation and adjourned on Saturday, February 23, 2013. The 2013 Reconvened Regular Session was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2012.

Below you will find a listing of legislation passed during the 2013 Virginia General Assembly session that will have an influence on Virginia's fire and emergency services. The below legislation becomes effective on July 1, 2014.

By clicking on the bill number, you can access the complete legislative information.

- **HB 1383 (Pogge)** – Criminal history record information; emergency medical services providers. Provides that the State Board of Health shall require each person who, on or after July 1, 2013, applies to be a volunteer with or employee of an emergency medical services agency to submit fingerprints and provide personal descriptive information for the purpose of a state and national criminal history record check. This bill is identical to **SB 1288 (Carrico)**.
- **HB 1527 (Rust)** – Fire insurance; clarifies that excess insurance may be written on an endorsement. Clarifies that excess fire insurance may be written on an endorsement and on a separate policy. The measure also deletes references to primary policies and a requirement that insurers indicate in the heading or title of a readable policy whether the coverage applies on a primary or excess basis.
- **HB 1783 (Gilbert)** – Contraband cigarettes, tax-paid; increases penalty for possession with intent to distribute. Increases the penalty for possession with intent to distribute more than 25 but fewer than 500 cartons of tax-paid cigarettes by a person excluding an authorized holder from a Class 2 to a Class 1 misdemeanor for a first offense and from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony for a second or subsequent offense. This bill is identical to **SB 1017 (Howell)**.
- **HB 1820 (Ware, O)** – Cigarettes; sale, purchase, possession, etc., for purpose of evading taxes, penalties. Provides that it is a Class 6 felony to sell, purchase, transport, receive, or possess 500 or more packages of unstamped cigarettes and a Class 5 felony for a second offense; under current law, the threshold is 3,000 or more packages and there is no heightened penalty for a second offense. The bill also provides that it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to sell fewer than 500 packages of unstamped cigarettes; under current law the threshold is fewer than 3,000 packages and is a Class 2 misdemeanor.
- **SB 881 (Deeds)** – Volunteer fire/EMS departments; localities may have ordinances that include billing property owners. Allows localities to bill homeowners on behalf of local volunteer fire departments under certain circumstances. The bill is identical to **HB 2301 (Cline)**.