



LINDSEY BY- LINE

2016 General Assembly Update

March 2016

About Delegate Joseph Lindsey

Delegate Lindsey represents the 90th House District of the General Assembly, an area covering part of Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Delegate Joe Lindsey is an attorney who has practiced before the Hampton Roads courts for over 30 years. Prior to being elected to the House of Delegates in 2014 he spent the last 15 years serving as a substitute judge in various general district and juvenile and domestic relations district courts throughout Hampton Roads.

Committee Assignments

Appropriations:

Subcommittees:

- * Elementary & Secondary Education
- * Transportation

Education:

Subcommittee:

- * Higher Education

Privileges and Elections:

Subcommittees:

- * Appointments

Communication To Constituents

The only way that I can be an effective legislator is to make myself aware of the issues and concerns of the people that I serve. In this regard I have maintained regular office hours at the General Assembly and my district office. In addition we have sent out constituent surveys to gain an appreciation from the people of the district as to which issues are most important to them. Among visitors received at the legislative offices have been members of the Youth Outreach Urban Resources Services (YOURS), Zeta Phi Beta sorority, students from Norfolk State and Old Dominion Universities, members of the Girl Scouts, The Jewish Federation, National Patient Advocate Foundation and the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia, Children's Health Investment Program of South Hampton Roads (CHIP) and American Association of Retired People (AARP).

Legislation Introduced

In my calls, meetings, and other contacts with the people of the 90th House District you've informed me of the issues important to you. This session, I was the chief patron or chief co-patron of ninety-two pieces of legislation designed to address issues of law enforcement civil rights, health, public safety, education, veteran educational and entrepreneurship opportunities to name a few. I worked with my republican and democratic colleagues to try to accomplish objectives for the benefit of my constituents. With many of the pieces of legislation I introduced, that battle continues.

Delegate Lindsey introduced seven pieces of legislation and proposed budget amendments. Some of the legislation included:

HB387 Adds the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs to the Secure Commonwealth Panel and changes from quarterly to annual the Panel's report to the Governor.

HB1143 Requires localities to adopt and establish a written policy for the operation of a body-worn camera system that conforms to the model policy established by the Department of Criminal Justice Services prior to purchasing or deploying a body-worn camera system.

HB1256 States that a jury hearing a case involving a person charged with reckless driving where the accused degree of culpability is slight may find the accused not guilty of reckless driving but guilty of improper driving, which is punishable as a traffic infraction.

Proposed Budget Amendments to HB 30:

Item 138 #13h Direct Aid to Public Education: provides \$50.0 million each year from the general fund for school construction grants.

Item 138 #22h Direct Aid to Public Education: provides \$2.0 million the first year and \$10.0 million the second year from the general fund that would pay grants to teachers and principals in hard-to-staff schools.

Item 370 #2h Department of Environmental Quality: provides \$50.0 million in the first year to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund administered by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Education

Elementary & Secondary Education

Elementary & Secondary Education received budget funding that provide a two-year net increase of \$897.7 million above the current adopted FY 2016 public education base budget. This will increase the state's revised budget for public education to a total of \$15.2 billion for the next biennium.

Public education continues to be the single largest financial investment in the budget and comprises almost 30% of the general fund spending. This is money that is well spent on educating the 1.2 million students attending our public schools to become ready to enter the workforce or go on to higher education.

These budget recommendations further demonstrate commitment to public education and work in concert with: (1) supporting our teachers, (2) promote greater choice and flexibility for schools, parents and students; and (3) encourages access to early childhood education through private partnerships.

The majority of this funding, \$83.2 million, is for the state's share of a 2.0% teacher and support staff pay increase that is calculated on an effective date of July 10, 2017.

With higher education \$52.7 million is recommended for new financial aid funding on how to lower the cost of college and how to best address student financial needs for a 3% tuition cap.

Budget

Public Safety

Public Safety recommends restoring \$34.5 million over the biennium for the costs to the Department of Corrections of providing inmate health care that were not included in the introduced budget due to the assumed expansion of Medicaid. In addition, \$5.0 million is recommended to be provided each year to the Department of Corrections in order to hire 89 additional correctional officers.

I am happy to report that the recommendations of the Subcommittee include \$3.2 million in support of House bills passed to address a number of issues relating to domestic violence, including expanding and toughening penalties for repeat violations of protective orders, and expanding penalties for those who use stalking as a way to intimidate and abuse their victims.

Transportation

This session, the Subcommittee also has worked to ensure that tolling can be used to help finance high-cost projects that could not be implemented. Limits are imposed to protect our taxpayers from existing open lanes and from excessive penalties for what often are inadvertent toll violations.

The provisions stipulated there will be no tolls on any non-limited access highways without approval from the General Assembly, no tolls on any existing lanes open to all traffic 24/7 without approval from the General Assembly, and continue tolling restrictions already in law for I-81 and I-95. It also ensures Virginia EZ pass holders are not charged with toll violations due to equipment malfunctions or accidental low balances, caps civil penalties and administrative fees that can be recovered for first time offenders at \$2,200 regardless of the number of violations, and extends the period of time before administrative fees can increase from \$25 to \$100 from 30 days to 60 days.

\$350 million in Virginia Port Budget Amendment (VPBA) bonding authority to allow the Virginia Ports Authority to proceed with much needed capacity improvements at Norfolk International Terminals.

Both chambers have proposed increases to the Governor's Opportunity fund which is key for job creation and economic development. Additionally, there is increased K-12 per pupil spending and additional funds put into our Revenue Stabilization Fund, also known as the rainy day fund.

I've only written about a few of the initiatives that I have patroned this session. It is an honor to serve you in the House of Delegates and I am proud of the work that we have accomplished together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at Lindseyfordelegate@gmail.com or Deljilindsey@house.virginia.gov. Visit me on our website DelegateJoeLindsey.com or keep up with us on [Facebook.com/Joseph.Lindsey.79](https://www.facebook.com/Joseph.Lindsey.79).

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