



The Locke Report



Senator Mamie E. Locke
2nd Senatorial District
(Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, Suffolk)

David Russell
Legislative Assistant

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The 2011 legislative session adjourned one day past schedule as last minute flurries with the budget were completed. Unlike 2010, there was not a budget shortfall, but unanticipated funds to be used for various services. The FY2010 budget reflects the commitment of Senate Democrats to addressing the needs of Virginia’s families through bipartisan solutions. I applaud the Senate conferees and the Senate Finance staff on their diligence and hard work in making the outcome of this process beneficial to citizens of the Commonwealth. I have outlined below highlights from the budget. The session adjourned and a special session was immediately called to address redistricting. We are currently in recess until April 4. Please feel free to contact me with questions or issues of concern. Through dialogue and a commitment to good government, we can make the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the 2nd Senatorial District, the best.



Senator Mamie E. Locke

Mamie



2011 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Following are highlights from the 2011 State Budget.:

K-12 Public Education:

The final budget adds \$75.5 million to the introduced budget for education. The Senate version added \$100.6 million to the introduced budget while the House budget reduced funding for education. The final budget provides \$87.7 million for “Supplement Support for Operations Costs” to all school divisions based on the state’s share of \$130 per pupil, combined with another \$16.6 million to “make whole” all schools for Composite Index hold harmless payments in the 2010 budget.

Health and Human Resources: Adds \$110 million over the introduced budget for health and human resources. The Senate budget adds \$114.3 million to HHR for restorations to Medicaid providers and services; appropriates \$30 million to the Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Trust Fund; and restores \$12.5 million in CSA to prevent cost shift to localities.

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2011 Budget Highlights (cont)

Higher Education: The final budget adds \$16.3 million over the biennium above the introduced budget, or a total of about \$97 million.

Public Safety: The final budget adds \$15.1 million over the biennium above the introduced budget for public safety; partially restores HB 599 state aid to localities with police departments; adds state police overtime; provides \$800,000 for the local juvenile diversion and crime control.

Transportation

There was a transportation plan passed; however, I did not support the legislation. The plan requires borrowing and elevating the debt service which has to be paid. The legislation borrows billion of dollars from the future, especially public safety, health care, education (K-12 and higher), and other core issues supported by the general fund. This is not the way to pay for transportation.

Payday Lenders Allowed to Continue

Legislation was introduced to attempt to reign in payday and car title lenders. **SB 751** would have capped finance charges (36%) and fees that may be charged on car title loans.. **SB 752** would have likewise capped the finance charges to 36% as maximum rate on a payday loan. Both bills were killed in Senate Commerce and Labor. There is no will in this committee to stop the scourge on Virginia citizens by these businesses.



Legislation Introduced and Passed

SB 772: Assesses a penalty when there is assault and battery on a fire marshal with police powers.

SB 773: Allows any locality which has a licensed airport or United States government or military air facility to adopt and enforce building regulations relating to the provision or installation of acoustical treatment measures applicable to buildings and structures or portions thereof as defined in the International Building Code.

SB 829: Incorporates sections from the Virginia Residential Landlord Act into the Virginia Landlord Tenant Act to more clearly direct a tenant on procedure when the tenant asserts that adverse conditions exist on the leased premises; provides for rent to be placed in an escrow account before the judge determines the parties' responsibilities.

SB 985: Removes requirement that a lender reinvest sales proceeds and make certification of prudent investment in the case of single family loans that when made by the lender will be purchased by a housing development authority.

SB 986: Exempts any facility of the Department of Veterans Services from the certificate of public need requirements.

SB 1369: Clarifies that clerks may provide official certificates and certified records in digital form ; confirms the clerks' authority to perform notarial acts; and makes various changes to clerks' duties regarding electronic filing.

SB 1399: Clarifies that the number of employees assigned to the processing of benefit claims shall be sufficient to maintain a ration of one staff person for every 26,212 veterans residing in the Commonwealth.

SB 1424: Provides that any claimant with a direct contractual relationship with any subcontractor but who has no contractual relationship with the contractor, may bring an action on the contractor's payment bond with written notice to the contractor within 90 days from the last day labor or materials were provided.

SB 1425: Clarifies the procedure for withdrawal of a bid with a public body.

SEE SB 1400 ON PAGE 3

LEGISLATION PASSED TO ESTABLISH FORT MONROE—CITY OF HAMPTON RELATIONSHIP

SB 1400 makes adjustments to legislation that was passed in 2010 regarding Fort Monroe. The legislation provides a formula detailing the fees that Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) will pay the City of Hampton each year for providing municipal services (e.g. fire and police) and clarifies that individuals living on Fort Monroe are citizens of Hampton entitled to all the rights and privileges of other citizens (schools, voting, etc.). The legislation also clarifies that property cannot be sold without approval of the General Assembly and the Governor, except if transferred to the National Park Service which will require only the approval of the Governor. The legislation also makes clear that any development will adhere to the Reuse Plan and the Design Standards adopted by the Authority and the Programmatic Agreement.



Slaves escape to the fort after Gen. Butler's decree that all slaves behind Union lines would be protected. The policy was called the "Fort Monroe Doctrine" alluding to Butler's headquarters at the Fort

Legislation Introduced and Failed

- ◆ **SB 751:** Motor vehicle title loans; caps interest rate
- ◆ **SB 752:** Payday loans: permitted interest
- ◆ **SB 796:** Rehabilitative programming: earned sentence credits
- ◆ **SB 797:** Human Rights Act: adds sexual orientation to definition of unlawful discriminatory practice
- ◆ **SB 839:** Fair Housing Law: unlawful discriminatory practice on applications that are for affordable housing. (Sent to Housing Commission for study)
- ◆ **SB 1460:** Workforce skills enhancement training program: established for unemployed workers. (Sent to Unemployment Commission for study)

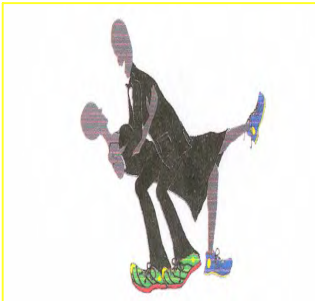
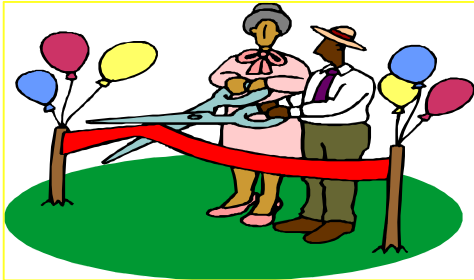


Senator Mamie Locke chairing General Laws and Technology Committee

Locke for State Senate
P. O. Box 9048
Hampton, VA 23670
senlocke02@msn.com
757-825-5880; 757-825-7327

Future Events

- ◆ **Campaign Kickoff: 8 am May 21, 2011. Location TBA**
- ◆ **Grand Opening of Campaign and District Office, 47 E. Queens Way, Suite 201, 10:30 am, May 21, 2011**



Save the Date

8th Annual Sneaker Ball

September 17, 2011

Location: Hampton Roads Convention Center

For more information
call 757-846-1085

