

## Virginia Legislative Information

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#### VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

The Virginia General Assembly meets once again in January and, besides the controversial question of a tax increase, there will certainly be a number of environmental bills before the legislators. If you desire to get any information about a bill, including a copy, which is before the General Assembly, there is an extremely helpful individual who can be of service. Her name is Lois K. Gray and she is the Information Officer for the House of Delegates. Her office is on the ground floor of the Capitol Building, but while the Assembly is in session there will be a desk by the Great Seal on the ground floor. You can also call either 804 786-6530 or 804 786-6538.

Though of course all the bills have not been filed yet, it is apparent that the General Assembly will be kept busy in the environmental field. Some indications of what will be upcoming can be seen in the bills which have been carried over from last January's session, and some of these are summarized below:

There are a plethora of bottle bills with several types of methods to eradicate the use of non-returnable cans and bottles, but they all have one thing in common --

a tax on bottles and cans, see House Bill 1074 and Senate Bills 72, 132, and 203.

There are a number of bills dealing with traditional environmental concerns like noise, solid wastes, surface mining, and nuclear energy. One bill (H. B. 1243) would set noise limits on vehicular traffic, and a similar bill, (H. B. 631), is proposed that would provide a statutory scheme of enforcement. When a locality is unable to find a site for solid waste disposal one bill (H. B. 854) provides a framework that would involve the assistance of the State Health Commissioner to help locate a site. Interesting aspects of the bill include appeal and review by a three-judge panel and the possible takeover of property prior to the final determination of value and payment. In the surface mining of minerals (other than coal), H. B. 510 would amend provisions providing for reclamation of land, including a regulatory and enforcement scheme. And one bill (H. B. 948) would require the approval of the General Assembly before granting a certificate of public convenience and necessity for nuclear power plants.

In reaction to Kepone contamination no doubt, is H. B. 1235 which would establish a Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee within the State Department of Health. Also an amendment (H. B. 787) to the Commonwealth's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) law would extend the requirement for an EIS to all portions of the government and would require an EIS for land acquisition and expansion of an existing facility. And finally it should be noted that a proposed amendment (H. B. 849) to the subdivision law would allow localities to require developers to pay a pro rata share toward local schools.