



Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Fireworks bill to be heard tomorrow, Feb. 2, at 5 pm in House General Laws Housing Subcommittee

Action

VACo urges county officials to contact members of [Subcommittee #1-Housing](#) today to communicate opposition to [HB 1834 \(Scott, E.\)](#). **The bill will be heard Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m. in [Subcommittee #1-Housing](#).**

Also please contact members of the [House General Laws Committee](#) to oppose the bill. **[HB 1834 \(Scott, E.\)](#) will be heard in the [House General Laws Committee](#) on Thursday afternoon (Feb. 3).**

Key Information

[HB 1834 \(Scott, E.\)](#) is scheduled to be heard for a second time in [Subcommittee #1-Housing](#) of the House General Laws Committee on Feb. 2. The bill redefines the types of fireworks that are permissible in Virginia expanding the list to include ground based fountains, illuminating torches, wheels, ground spinners and other devices. The bill also prevents localities from adopting ordinances that restrict or prohibit the use, display, storage, sale, or transportation of permissible fireworks, or the setup or supervision of these fireworks.

Talking Points

- The introduced version of the bill removes all local authority over the sale, use, possession, and storage of permissible fireworks.
- If the bill passes, permissible fireworks could be sold and used year-round in every locality in the Commonwealth without any local oversight.
- There are thousands of injuries related to the use of consumer fireworks in the United States each year and the governing bodies are in the best position to determine the regulation of fireworks in their jurisdictions.

- The expansion of the types of permissible fireworks will lead to additional injuries and accidental fires.
- What is safe in a rural county may not be safe in a crowded city neighborhood. The locality should make that decision - one-size-fits-all rules are impractical.
- Every major fire safety organizations in the state, as well as most local fire departments, oppose [HB 1834](#).

VACo strongly opposes [HB 1834](#) because it weakens local authority to control items that are dangerous to public safety.

Key Contacts

[Subcommittee #1 Housing](#): [Comstock \(Chairman\)](#), [Oder](#), [Carrico](#), [Peace](#), [Greason](#), [Dance](#), [Bulova](#).

[House General Laws Committee](#): [Jones \(Chairman\)](#), [Albo](#), [Wright](#), [Oder](#), [Carrico](#), [Scott, E.T.](#), [laquinto](#), [Gilbert](#), [Peace](#), [Comstock](#), [Anderson](#), [Greason](#), [Knight](#), [Abbitt](#), [Phillips](#), [Barlow](#), [Ward](#), [Dance](#), [Bulova](#), [James](#), [Carr](#), [Torian](#).

VACo Contact: [Phyllis Errico](#)