

Welcome to the world of a Virginia Legislator:

1. We deal with over 2,000 bills each session.
2. Although Virginia is now the 12th largest state, we are only in session for 2 months. (Arguably, the shortest time of all states.)
3. I seldom leave my office before midnight, because I'm.
 - a. Preparing to present my bills
 - b. Reading bills up before committee the next day
 - c. Preparing a concise power point for newer members on the more controversial bills on the Floor laying out what the bill does and two reasons to vote for and two reasons to vote against it.
4. I have \$57,783 for staff, which essentially translates to one staffer and computer/Internet trouble-shooting. Therefore, I have to do my own homework to relate what I've learned over the years to what the effect is of the bill before me.
5. I get paid \$17,640 per year
6. During the year, I always have to cover \$2,000 to \$3,000 for office expenses (like postage, paper, district mileage, etc.), over the \$15,000 allowance I get.

... Got to run and talk with more people door to door before the election. I hope I find time to finish this after the election with a few thoughts about public service and the pros and cons of the Virginia concept of the citizen legislator.

Vivian