

FAILED LEGISLATION 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

The **VASSP** “wins” were big in the “failed” category, as we worked to defeat many unnecessary and intrusive bills, a number of which would have impeded the ability of administrators to maintain discipline and authority in our schools. Although bills may not be carried over during a short session, many education lobbyists expect to see versions of some of these bills during the 2012 Session. Key to our success in opposing many of these bills was the Senate, whose members stepped up for us numerous times in the Senate Education Subcommittee chaired by Senator Harry Blevins (R), the full Senate Education and Health Committee chaired by Senator Edd Houck (D) and on the Floor of the Senate.

The following Key Education Bills DEFEATED during the 2011 Session

VASSP spoke and lobbied against passage of these bills and worked closely with other major education associations in successfully defeating a number of harmful bills.

- HB 1416 65% “solution”
- HB 1548 Parental notification if student action “is likely to” result in a future suspension; **VASSP** lobbying led directly to reversal of House Floor and Senate committee votes in favor; full Senate voted against on 28 - 12 vote.
- HB 1775 Schools to file special report to state on ESL students (originally included language that school personnel to report number of undocumented parents of ESL students).
- HB 2009 Open enrollment optional (strict and precise) school board policy; original bill mandated school choice upon request of parent
- HB 2314 Tuition tax credits for private school attendance
- HB 1545 Smoking prohibited on school grounds and at off-campus events; at **VASSP** request, patron agreed to pull “off-campus” language; bill later defeated
- HB 1575 Anti-bullying; teacher training included; administrator held responsible if procedures not correctly followed; **VASSP** opposition helped to defeat the bill. DOE study on anti-bullying will be one of the most important studies this year.
- HB 1720 80 hours of training for aides working with students/autism spectrum
- HB 2044 Statewide uniform grading policy; letter to Board of Education
- HB 2395 **VHSL**; allowing participation in public school sports by home schooled students; important legislative study will be conducted by the House Education Committee
- HB 2525 Parent considered “aggrieved” by courts if action taken by school board affects student’s school attendance zone
- SB 967 SOL required for FLE programs
- SB 1194 Corporate tax credits for non-public scholarships