



VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
of MUSEUMS

Advocacy News 2019

While advocacy is a year-round task, we always gear up for the General Assembly to convene in January each year. Stay tuned for updates on their work throughout the session this year, and in the meantime, check out our advocacy resources on our website for more information about how you can advocate for your museum!

VAM Advocacy Resources

Session Update

The 2019 legislative session is now past the crucial "crossover" point. Any bill that did not pass from one house to the other during crossover is now dead for the session. Below, take a look at the status of some of the bills we've mentioned so far this year.



Budget Amendments

- Additional funding proposed for the Virginia Humanities did not pass the House, and so did not survive crossover. The Senate budget bill did not eliminate the extra funding requested by the Governor, so it will be up to the conference committee to decide how to reconcile this difference when they meet.
- Funding for the Virginia Centennial Commission of Women's Suffrage was proposed by Delegate Carr in the House and Senator Ebbin in the Senate. The funding would be used by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture and the Library of Virginia. STATUS: The Senate did not add this funding to their budget bill, but Carr's amendment did pass the House (in the non-state agency funding section).
- Both Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and Frontier Culture Museum have proposed funding increases on the table. STATUS: the Senate and House each included some funding for both sites in their approved budget; the amounts were different, so that remains to be resolved.
- A couple of interesting amendments have been proposed for Department of Education funding. Delegate VanValkenburg is suggesting \$250,000 for a competitive grant program to fund civics programming in classrooms. DOE would administer the grant. STATUS: This amendment did not survive the house, and was not included in the approved House budget.
- Delegate LaRock is proposing an amendment that would fund a new full-time position at DOE to work on the "School Division of Innovation" project. As this project is covered under HB2574, this funding would only pertain if the bill is passed. STATUS: While the bill, HB2574, survived cross over last week, the Senate gave it a pass, so the budget amendment that went with it is a moot point.

Other Bills of Interest

HB 2780 would create a STEAM Education Fund allowing schools that qualify (at least 25% of their students would need to be free or reduced lunch students) to apply for grant funding to provide STEAM-related programming at school.

STATUS: This bill did not succeed in the House, so it has been tabled.

HB2662 is a bill that would require high school graduation requirements to include both a work experience (an internship or service-based learning experience, for example) and a capstone project related to this experience.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the House, and has now been assigned a committee in the Senate.

HB2699 would update the Virginia Humanities task force established to assist in its work regarding the history of formerly enslaved African Americans in Virginia; the bill would add VTC and Virginia Outdoors Foundation, as well as three other appointees, to the task force.

STATUS: This bill has survived cross over, and has been approved by both the House and Senate at this point.

[Review the budget bill](#)

[Review all proposed legislation](#)
