



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 has officially begun. There are a few items museums should keep an eye on.

#### Budget Amendments

Many of the members of the General Assembly propose amendments to the 2nd year of the biennium budget. Here are some you should watch:

- Funding for the Virginia Centennial Commission of Women's Suffrage has been 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.
- Both Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and Frontier Culture Museum have proposed funding increases on the table.
- A small amount of money has been proposed for the Department of Historic Resources to help with restoration of Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portsmouth, an historic African American cemetery.
- 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. 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.

#### 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. This bill would simply be to create the fund, not fund it.



#### Virginia Museum Advocacy Day

Save the date now to join us for Virginia Museum Advocacy Day on February 7th. We have a full day planned complete with training, visiting legislators, and an evening reception honoring our Top Ten Endangered Artifacts winners!

[Register Now!](#)

Interested in advocacy but nervous about making visits? Take the fear out of the day- [check out our "sample visit" video](#) today!

[Review the budget bill](#)

[Review all proposed legislation](#)



## Want to take your advocacy efforts to the next level?

Think about joining VAM at the American Alliance of Museums' Museum Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Museum leaders from across the country will come together in Washington on February 25 and 26 to advocate for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NEA, NEH, and more. [Find out more.](#)

**The registration deadline for AAM Advocacy Day is January 25th. Sign up now!**

