

2009 House of Delegates Taxpayer Scorecard

1. **Spend stimulus money efficiently and without future liability** Amendment to expend stimulus funding in the most efficient and effective manner possible and in a way that not burden the taxpayers with new or expanded programs that would continue when the federal funding runs out with state and local governments having to pick up the cost. (H.R.18) 3/4/09 RC#22 (27-69).
2. **Motion to discharge the drug testing bill for those on welfare** or unemployment compensation from committee so it could be discussed and taken up. Eight other states are considering similar legislation and since 1996 federal legislation has allowed drug testing for welfare and food stamps. (HB 3007) 3/31/09 RC#159 (30-70).
3. **Requiring mandatory standards for energy efficient new homes** although the standards and codes have not been adopted and the cost has not been determined. This could price new homeowners out of the market by adding \$7500 to \$10,500 to a new 1800 square foot home, especially since the standards have not been adopted by the state Fire Marshall (HB 2976) 3/31/09 RC#177 (73-26).
4. **Impose transfer tax of up to \$100 on real estate** located in a municipality for the purpose of demolishing condemned buildings. (HB 2986 4/1/09 RC#235 (68-30).
5. **No bid contract extension for 10 years** which takes away competition and favors existing stand alone liquor store owners. These stores would have their licenses extended for 10 years and only have to pay up to 10% over what they paid 10 years earlier, possibly costing the state millions in additional revenues by avoiding the competition. (SB 282) 4/10/09 (Good Friday) RC#366 (51-49).
6. **Alternative and Renewable Energy Portfolio** requiring utility companies to have a portion of their energy from alternative or renewable sources by 2015 (10%) and 2020 (15%) and 25% by 2025. (SB 297) 4/11/09 RC#408 (72-28).
7. **Amendment to exempt small "Mom & Pop" businesses** with 19 or less employees from the Unemployment tax increase – they would stay the same. This would apply to restaurants, convenience stores and other small businesses (SB 246) 4/11/09 RC#418 (32-68).
8. **Budget Bill passage** of House version. The state budget and state spending has continued to grow with gas and other taxes and fee increases as well as federal funds being used to "backfill" state revenues. Hard spending choices are being postponed to the future. (HB 2010) 5/27/09 RC#523 (82-13).
9. **Amendment to maintain automatic 5 cent gas reduction** scheduled to go into effect in 2013. Eliminating that reduction option 3-4 years in advance would keep us the highest in the region and the 13th highest in the nation. (SB 4004) 11/19/09 RC#627 (30-66).
10. **Gas tax increase** Elimination of the 5 cent gas tax reduction scheduled to go into effect August 1, 2013 and elimination of the 1.7 cent reduction scheduled to go into effect January 2010 when the summer/fall average percentage kicks in. (SB 4004) 11/20/09 RC#634 (64-23).