

# Brenda POGGE

★ DELEGATE ★

96th District, Virginia House of Delegates

January 15, 2016

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### Legislative Aide

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With the 2016 session underway, my schedule is increasingly busy. At this time, I am carrying 21 bills. Because each bill typically is heard in both subcommittee and full committee, my calendar is rapidly filling.

Additionally, my House colleagues and I received our committee assignments earlier this week. I am excited to again be serving on the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee. I also remain a member of three additional committees: Finance, Education, and Health, Welfare and Institutions. I will also be serving on at least one subcommittee associated with each of these four committees.

In short, I'll be attending MANY meetings during the upcoming weeks! I am excited about this year's session, and I look forward to providing you with updates from Richmond. Each week I will share insight about the legislative process and details about a bill (or bills) I am carrying. As a reminder, a full list of my legislation can be viewed online [HERE](#).

## HB344: Health Benefit Plans-Large & Small Employers

Have you ever wondered what happens when more than one legislator introduces the exact same bill? My [House Bill 344](#) is an excellent example of this occurrence. I'll provide an explanation of my bill as well as its likely fate.

House Bill 344 redefines the terms "large employer" and

"small employer" for purposes of a group health plan or health insurance coverage. The bill defines a "large employer" as an employer with an average of more than 50 employees. A "small employer" has an average of 50 or fewer employees. Prior to introduction of this bill, small employers were defined as having 100 or fewer employees. This law is in accordance with revised federal regulations.

Why does this matter? Large employer groups are able to secure lower insurance premiums and are not subject to many of the onerous regulations applying to small employer groups. Expanding the definition of a large employer therefore reduces costs to both the employer and the employee.

This commonsense fix was indeed common. Four identical bills were introduced this year to address the issue. Only one will move forward. In this case, the bill moving forward will be Delegate Kathy Byron's House Bill 58, which carries the recommendation of the Health Insurance Reform Commission. I've signed on as a chief co-patron of House Bill 58, and no action will be taken on my bill.

### Have you taken my survey?

If you have not already done so, please [take my online legislative survey](#). I look forward to receiving your input. As always, if you need detailed information about a bill, please contact my office by calling 804-698-1096 or emailing [DelBPogge@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelBPogge@house.virginia.gov).

### Make your voice heard! Partner with Americans for Prosperity on Monday, January 18.

Are you ready to tell Governor McAuliffe that we won't give up our freedoms or pay higher taxes to fund his reckless, big-government agenda?

Then participate in

**Americans for Prosperity 2016 Virginia Lobby Day!**

**When: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 18**

**Where: Virginia State Capitol**

**Breakfast, lunch, dinner, training, and bus transportation  
provided!**

**All expenses are covered, but please RSVP TODAY!**

**I look forward to hearing from you!**

The legislative session is fast-moving, with thousands of bills being considered during a 60 day period. If you have questions about a bill or policy proposal, please email [DelBPogge@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelBPogge@house.virginia.gov) or call 804-698-1096. My door is always open, and I hope you will visit me in Richmond.

Sincerely,



Delegate Brenda Pogge

Paid for and Authorized by Brenda Pogge for Delegate