

General Assembly



"Active citizen participation is an integral part of a functioning representative democracy. Members of the General Assembly want and need citizen input when crafting laws. As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is your right to voice your opinion regarding pending legislation. There are many ways in which citizens can communicate with their legislator: phone calls, letters, email, or through visits to their legislative offices."

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General Assembly



"As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of your greatest responsibilities is to help elect the legislator who represent all Virginians. But your role in the democratic process of government does not end at the polls. By sharing your opinions and ideas with your elected officials, you help them resolve issues and evaluate pending legislation."

Do your homework

- Understand the legislative process
- •Familiarize yourself with the tools for tracking legislation from introduction to final disposition





https://help.lis.virginia.gov/start/index.asp

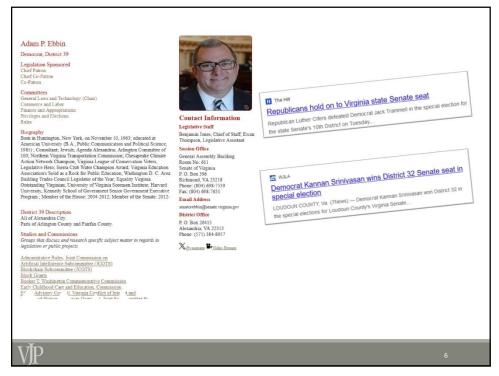
RichmondSunlight
Tracking Virginia's General Assembly Since 2007

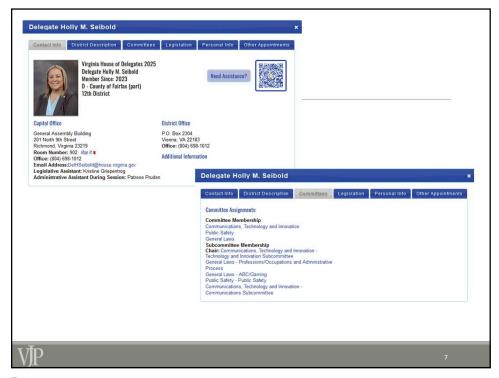
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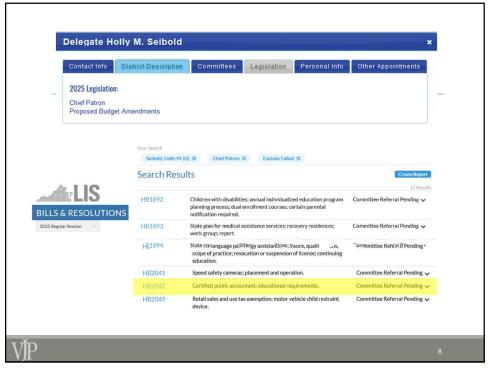


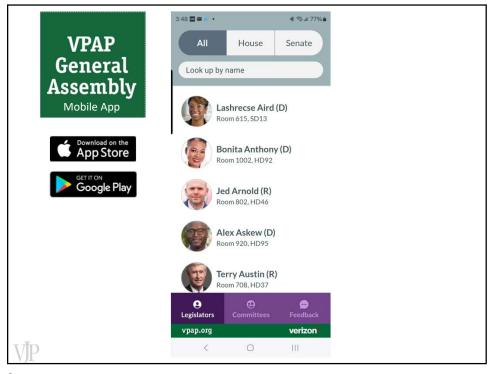
https://www.vpap.org/general-assembly/issues/











Schedule an appointment

- Contact the legislator's office
- Meeting may be in person or virtual
- Legislators are busy during session!



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Tips for meetings



- Arrive early
- •Be flexible
- Mention your connections
- •Be a good representative of the profession
- •If virtual think about background images



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Tips for meetings

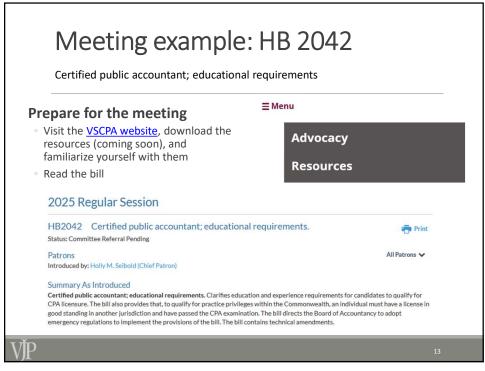
- •Limit your message to about 5 minutes
- •Think big picture, not technical
- •Stories are good
- •Don't discuss:
 - Campaigns
 - Elections
 - Fundraising
 - Politics





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Meeting example: HB 2042 Certified public accountant; educational requirements Introduce yourself · Hello, Del. Glass. My name is Vivian Paige, and I am a member of the Virginia Society of CPAs and your constituent. I'd like to •Mention a few of the talking points speak with you today about CPA provided in the resources educational requirements, House Bill 2042. · As a former educator, I am quite familiar Ask for support with the challenges our profession faces with the CPA workforce pipeline. This bill •Thank the legislator for their time helps by providing another educational option to qualify for CPA licensure. The Virginia Board of Accountancy provided its input in developing the bill language. I hope you will be able to support this legislation. · Thank you, Del. Glass, for meeting with me today.



