



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
RICHMOND

**R. STEVEN (STEVE) LANDES**

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WEYERS CREEK, VIRGINIA 24486

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
EDUCATION (VICE CHAIRMAN)  
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
APPROPRIATIONS  
RULES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 5, 2010**

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**FOUR JOBS AND ECONOMY BILLS SPONSORED BY DELEGATE LANDES PASS**  
**BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE**

**RICHMOND** – Four bills sponsored by Del. R. Steven Landes, R-Weyers Cave, that will help Virginia create jobs, encourage tourism, and require the Governor to report more often on Virginia’s economic outlook have passed the House of Delegates and Senate unanimously and will now go before the Governor to sign. The bills are House Bill 582, HB 588, HB 943, and HB 944.

“I am pleased to see these four important bills have passed with bipartisan support of both the House and the Senate and move to the Governor’s desk for his signature,” Landes said. “This legislation addresses some of the changes necessary to move Virginia towards economic recovery and a more prosperous future.”

House Bill 582, the *Agri-Tourism Incentives Act*, adds responsibility to the Center for Rural Virginia to help create a rural enterprise opportunity task force to develop strategies that will promote economic opportunities for the agricultural industry throughout the Commonwealth. The task force will be made of representatives from the Virginia Farm Bureau, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Association of Counties, and the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, plus at least one owner of a farm business or rural enterprise interested in expanding economic opportunities.

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House Bill 588, *Alcoholic beverage control; wine liter tax*, is not a new tax. This bill only requires that the portion of the tax collected from the sale of wine produced by farm wineries be deposited in the Virginia Wine Promotion Fund for use by the Wine Board. This fund aids wineries in the promotion and expansion of jobs related to that industry.

House Bill 943, *Small Business Jobs Grant Fund*, creates a fund administered by the Department of Business Assistance to provide grants to small businesses that create five or more new positions within a 12 month period. Grants will range from \$500 to \$2000 based on level of position as to education and experience. Priority will be given to businesses creating jobs in areas with high levels of unemployment. This fund will provide incentives for small businesses to create jobs throughout the Commonwealth.

House Bill 944, *Governor's reports of revenue estimates and collections and economic activity forecasts*, requires that the Governor give monthly reports on revenue collections and quarterly assessments of the Commonwealth's economic outlook. The bill adds legislative staff and non-legislative members to the Advisory Board of Economists and changes the Board's name to the Joint Advisory Board of Economists. The bill also adds two members of the House and two members of the Senate to the Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates. The intent of the bill is to allow the General Assembly to make budget-related legislation that more accurately reflects the economic forecast.

Landes represents the 25<sup>th</sup> House District, which includes the City of Waynesboro, and parts of Albemarle, Augusta, and Rockingham Counties. Landes is serving his eighth term in the Virginia House of Delegates.

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