

LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK
INTRODUCTION TO THE 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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The Second Session of the 116th General Assembly will convene on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. This is a short session and will end on March 14th.

The General Assembly will have a short week prior to the Super Bowl, and will not be in session on Monday, Feb 6th. This is about the time bills that have passed out of their house of origin will be switching over to the other house.

The LWVIN Board of Directors has selected as the legislative priorities for this short session:

Education Reform
Local Government Reform
Reproductive Rights
Election Law

As always, should an issue come forward during the session that is important to the LWVIN, it will be added to the list of priorities.

Right to Work legislation will take center stage during the session. As you may recall, this legislation sparked a 5 week walk out during the last legislative session. Put on the fast track in time for the Super Bowl will be bills related to human trafficking and a smoking ban.

Local government reform will be up for it's third test. Election Law, correction to the bill that passed last year. Reproductive Rights always a fight. Education, look for additional reform measures to be introduced, more charters? tweaks to vouchers and tax credits?

As your local leagues meet with your legislators during the session (Third House, Cracker Barrel, or whatever you call them), please e-mail notes from your conversations as it relates to the LWVIN priorities. It is especially important if your state representative or senator is a committee chair or a member of a committee that will be hearing a bill the LWVIN is considering for testimony. Local league members are most important during this time. I depend on you for support with your legislators.

It has been announced that a maximum of 3,000 individuals, including employees will be allowed daily in the State House during the session. I'm not sure how this will work or if it is workable. This is sure to impact the everyday citizen who wants to come to the legislature to meet with his/her representatives, individuals attending lobby day events, and me as I try to make my way to committee hearings, etc. Stay tuned.

As of this writing 225 bills, including vehicle bills have been introduced in the Senate and one bill introduced in the House.

House Deadlines

Action	Deadline
01/06/2012	Bill introduction (Rule 108.1)
01/31/2012	3rd Reading - House Bills (Rule 147.1)
03/03/2012	3rd Reading - Senate Bills (Rule 148.1)
03/03/2012	Conference Committee Reports (Rule 160.1)
03/14/2012	House Adjourned for Session
03/14/2012	Adjourn Sine Die

Senate Deadlines

Action	Deadline
01/06/2012	Filing for introduction (Rule 45a)
02/01/2012	3rd Reading - Senate Bills (Rule 76a)
02/29/2012	3rd Reading - House Bills (Rule 76b)
02/29/2012	Conference Committee Reports (Rule 83i)
03/14/2012	Senate Adjourned for Session
03/14/2012	Adjourn Sine Die

Whenever a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, that deadline date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Happy New Year!!