

The Virginia General Assembly and Legislative Process By the Numbers

1619 The General Assembly of Virginia began with the first session of the House of Burgesses, in Jamestown, on July 30, 1619.

2 The General Assembly of Virginia is a bicameral legislature consisting of the House of Delegates and Senate.

140 There are 140 members in the Virginia General Assembly.

100/2/17,640 There are 100 Delegates elected for a two-year term, and receive a \$17,640/yr.

40/4/18,000 There are 40 Senators elected for a four-year term, and receive \$18,000/yr.

8,001,024 The population of the Commonwealth of Virginia as reflected by the 2010 US Census.

80,010 The ideal district size of a Delegate. **200,026** The ideal district size of a Senator.

67-32-1 The political breakdown of the House after the 2011 elections. **20-20** The political breakdown of the Senate after the 2011 elections.

R=E(60) or O(30) + (≤ 30) An even-year session lasts for 60 days and may be extended an additional 30 days. An odd-year session lasts for 30 days and may be extended for an additional 30 days; however, an odd-year session is initially extended 16 days at the start.

2,955 The average number of bills and resolutions introduced from 2000-2011.

14 There are 14 House standing committees. **11** There are 11 Senate standing committees.

IV, 11 Article IV, Section 11 of the Constitution of Virginia lays out "How a Bill Becomes a Law."

4=P+C+R+V Article IV, Section 11 of the Constitution of Virginia includes four steps that every bill must have to become law in each body, which are be printed, be referred to committee, have three readings, and receive a recorded vote.

3R In order to become law, a bill must have three readings on three different days in each body unless waived by 4/5 vote.

941 The average number of new laws passed by the General Assembly, signed by the Governor, and enacted into law from 2000-2011.

7/1 The day all new laws become effective each year unless otherwise provided in the bill.