



August 2015 Issue

Activities of Virginia Legislative Study Commissions and Joint Subcommittees During the Legislative Interim



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The *Virginia Legislative Record* is a report of the activities of Virginia legislative study commissions and joint subcommittees, reflecting the ongoing deliberations and recommendations of interim legislative studies. Meeting summaries were prepared by the staff of the Division of Legislative Services. More information concerning the individual commissions and committees is available on the DLS website (<http://dls.virginia.gov/>) or by calling 804-786-3591.

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Regulation Information

The *Virginia Register of Regulations* is Virginia's official publication of proposed, final, and emergency regulations. All regulations must be filed with the Registrar of Regulations to become law. The *Virginia Register*, published every other Monday, provides a snapshot of all regulatory activity in Virginia. The current *Register* issue, as well as prior issues and additional information about the regulatory process in Virginia, is available at <http://register.dls.virginia.gov>. Contact the Division of Legislative Services at 804-786-3591 (ext. 258, 261, or 262) or follow the *Virginia Register* on Twitter @varegs for more information.

compacts, and uncodified acts. The Code of Virginia on the portal updates and replaces the previous format commonly known as the “LIS Code.” Bookmarks and links that previously directed the user to the LIS Code now redirect to the portal. Ms. Hausenfluck concluded by reporting that the Virginia Law Portal has a Twitter account @VA_Laws.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission is on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

Virginia Code Commission

Senator John S. Edwards, Chair

Jane Chaffin, DLS Staff

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codecommission.dls.virginia.gov/

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

August 3–4, 2015

On August 3 and 4, 2015, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission (the MLK Commission) collaborated with the Library of Virginia to cosponsor the Anne & Ryland Brown Teacher Institute and the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 symposium.

Anne & Ryland Brown Teacher Institute

Every summer, the Library of Virginia’s Education Department organizes and presents a teacher development workshop with the financial support of the Anne and Ryland Brown Enrichment Fund. Each year, the theme and format of the workshop are different to reach more teachers and present content that is relevant to the Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools. Originally, the MLK Commission planned to host its own teacher institute on the Reconstruction Amendments (13th, 14th, and 15th amendments) of the United States Constitution; however, the MLK Commission and Library agreed to collaborate and use the Reconstruction Amendments as the theme for the Sixth Annual Anne & Ryland Brown Teacher Institute. The Library also launched its current exhibition, *Remaking Virginia: Transformation through Emancipation*, to focus on the Amendments and their relevance in rebuilding Virginia after the American Civil War.

According to the Library of Virginia, “since 2009, the Brown Endowment Enrichment Fund has underwritten the research and development of educational materials by two Virginia educators. The 2015 Brown Teacher Research Fellowships focused on research and projects in support of *Remaking Virginia: Transformation through Emancipation*, the Library of Virginia’s exhibition examining the transformation of Virginia society in the years following the American Civil War. Even as the American Civil War was still being fought, the status of almost one-half million African Americans in Virginia began to change. No longer were they someone else’s property—they were free. They anticipated the promise of change from their former status as slaves: the promises of education, political participation, and full citizenship. Yet, in their struggle to achieve these goals, freedmen and freedwomen faced the hostility of their former masters and the society that had long benefitted from their labor. Union troops and U.S. government officials reconstructing the Southern states were often indifferent. What challenges

did African Americans face in their struggle to achieve what they believed freedom would bring them? What obstacles blocked their efforts to gain citizenship? How successful were African Americans during Reconstruction in claiming their objectives? Did the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution significantly aid them in their struggles? The Library of Virginia's exhibition *Remaking Virginia: Transformation through Emancipation* offers a look at the changing world Virginians faced during Reconstruction."

The 2015 Brown Teacher Research Fellows Joy Beatty of Richmond and W. Scott Pierce of Newport News developed teacher resources that examine Virginia's Reconstruction era, generally between 1863 and 1877, and created a set of documents from the Reconstruction period that will be added to the Education Department's online primary resource collection, Document Bank of Virginia (<http://edu.lva.virginia.gov/dbva>), the Library's initiative to provide primary source documents for public school classrooms.

On August 3–4, 2015, 42 teachers from across the Commonwealth attended sessions on the Reconstruction era and the Reconstruction Amendments that provided both historical content and teaching methodology. On the opening day, Dr. Edward Ayers, former president of the University of Richmond and renowned Civil War historian, opened the Institute with an address to teachers on Reconstruction era history in Virginia. Afterwards, teachers toured the *Remaking Virginia* exhibition and explored the Library's and MLK Commission's relevant digital offerings. The first day of teacher-focused activities concluded with a talk by local author Anne Westrick and teacher Joshua Forbes on using historical fiction paired with primary sources in the classroom.

On the second day of the Teacher Institute, teachers were introduced to the Document Bank of Virginia, the Library of Virginia Education Department's new digital initiative to provide primary source documents for classrooms. Working in small groups, teachers prepared documents from the Library's collections that will be added to the Document Bank, honed their transcription skills by learning about the Library's crowd-sourced transcription project, "Making History," and used original voting records from the Library's collections to explain how African American voters gained, lost, and then regained the right to vote between the American Civil War and the Civil Rights eras.

Due to the collaboration with the MLK Commission, the Library was able to greatly expand its geographical reach to teachers as far away as Galax and the number of spaces available for the Institute, provide overnight lodging for attendees who traveled more than 70 miles in order to attend, and furnish lunch and coffee on both days of the event to attendees and presenters.

50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965: Protecting, Extending, and Ensuring the Franchise Symposium

On August 3, 2015, the MLK Commission held a commemorative symposium to mark the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 at the Library of Virginia. The symposium was free and open to the public. The MLK Commission assembled a distinguished panel for this important discussion. The panelists were the Honorable Robert C. Scott of Virginia, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who provided information on Congressional efforts to restore the Voting Rights Act; Henry L. Chambers, Jr., J.D., professor of law at the University of Richmond who explained the history of the Voting Rights Act and offered a legal analysis of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, 133 S. Ct. 2612 (2013); Claire Guthrie Gustafñaga, J.D., executive director of the ACLU of Virginia who described the effects of the Supreme Court's *Shelby* decision on voting rights today throughout the nation; and the Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, J.D., Chair of the MLK Commission, who discussed contemporary issues arising from the *Shelby* decision, the need to

ensure that future generations appreciate and understand the sacrifices that were made to secure the right to vote, and the necessity of protecting the franchise. The panel was moderated by Laurant L. Lee, Ph.D., Curator of African American History at the Virginia Historical Society.

Honorees of the MLK Commission for the occasion were the Reverend Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, who was the chief of staff for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Honorable William Ferguson Reid, M.D., the first African American elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1967 after Reconstruction, both of whom were presented the MLK Commission's "*Spirit of Martin*" award.

Teacher and Public Reaction

Teachers attending the Institute were overwhelmingly positive in their feedback and remarked on the variety of sessions in the Institute that focused on both historical content and teaching methodology. Many attendees and members of the public stated that the symposium was the highlight of the two-day Institute and commended the MLK Commission on its exemplary work.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

Delegate Jennifer L. McClellan, Chairwoman
 Brenda H. Edwards, DLS Senior Research Associate
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Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability

July 30, 2015

The Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability (the Commission) met on July 30, 2015, in Richmond. The meeting was called to order, roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

Chairman Timothy Hugo and Vice-Chairman Stephen Newman made opening remarks. The Commission's agenda included presentations by Richard Holcomb, the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and by Aubrey Layne, the Secretary of Transportation.

Implementation of Legislation on Transportation Network Companies, SB 1025 (2015) and HB 1662 (2015)

Richard Holcomb, Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Commissioner Holcomb reported on the effort DMV has put into the recent regulation of transportation network companies (TNCs). Both Uber and Lyft applied with DMV under the new law and are operating in Virginia.

- The largest part of the implementation was registering the vehicles—both in-state and out-of-state. By July 1, 2015, 23,000 vehicles were registered and as of July 30, registrations were up to almost 30,000.
- Originally there were more in-state than out-of-state drivers, but now that statistic is reversed.
- TNC drivers are required to have a decal on their license plate and on their window.