

Unresolved Integrity Commission Issues from the 2015 General Assembly Session

- **Independent Ethics Commission** – Establish an independent, seven-member Ethics Review Commission with investigative and enforcement powers to oversee ethics issues related to executive and legislative branch officials, local government officials and members of boards and commissions. Members of the commission could not be holders of any compensated Virginia state or local government office. The Governor and legislative leaders would appoint commission members.
- **Audit/Review and Investigative Authority for Forms** – The Ethics Council or Independent Ethics Review Commission would be authorized to conduct regular random audits of documents for compliance with disclosure requirements, limitations on gifts, accuracy of information and deadlines, and have the authority to initiate investigations with subpoena power, conduct a hearing process to determine if violations occurred and refer to appropriate law enforcement entity.
- **Redistricting Reform** -- To the greatest extent possible, the state's congressional and state legislative districts should be drawn without regard to partisan considerations. The interests of the citizens should be the highest priority in the redistricting process. In keeping with that guiding principle of a citizen-centered approach, members of the Integrity Commission propose the following recommendations:
 - Nonpartisan criteria to be applied in redistricting proceedings should be incorporated into the Code of Virginia.
 - Pursuit of an amendment to the Virginia Constitution to create an independent redistricting commission that would be empowered to create districts.
 - A short-term process for handling 2015 redistricting decisions.
- **Clarification on Travel Disclosure** -- Disclosure forms to reveal dates of the travel, destination, purpose of the travel, the sponsoring entity and the amount expended for the travel by the sponsoring entity.
- **Conflicts of Interests for Board and Commission Members** - Prohibit members of boards and commissions from voting, authorizing grants, awarding contracts, issuing opinions or otherwise influencing a decision that directly benefits the interests of themselves, an immediate family member or business associate.
- **Bundling of Gifts** – “Bundled gift” is defined as a gift delivered by any person comprised of separate gifts derived from another person, organization, or group of persons or organizations. The value of any bundled gift must be reported along with the identities of the individuals, groups or organizations that contributed to it. The full value of the gift counts toward the aggregate cap on gifts in a calendar year for each of the contributors. The full value also must be used for determining disclosure requirements.
- **Removing Disclosure Form from Code** -- Remove prescribed formatting of disclosure forms from the statutes and give the power to draft, amend and distribute forms to the Ethics Review Commission or Council. The Code would still outline the categories of

information required for disclosure. The Ethics Review Commission or Council would offer detailed guidance on how these forms should be filled out.

- **Waiver for non-commercial loans over \$5,000** -- Any loan to officials, their spouses or dependent children in excess of \$5,000 that is not from a commercial lender must be pre-cleared by the Ethics Review Commission and reported on disclosure forms.

Addition Unresolved Priorities Identified by Governor McAuliffe

- **Special Session Fundraising** -- Extend the ban on the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and members of the General Assembly fundraising during a regular General Assembly Session to cover Special Sessions of the General Assembly.
- **Filing for Registrars and Electoral Board Members** – Require local registrars and electoral board members to file gift disclosure forms to ensure transparency and integrity of procurement of voting machines and the electoral process.
- **Removing inflation adjustment** – Under current law the \$100 aggregate gift limit will automatically increase every 5 years in an amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index. Legislators should have to vote to increase gift limits, not have them automatically enacted.