

Legislative Corner

The General Assembly begins their even year “long” session which is scheduled to be a 60-day legislative session beginning on January 8th and ending on March 7th. The long session is set-up to allow time beyond legislating; to also adopt a new biennial budget; along with any amendments to the existing budget. On December 17th, the Governor released his [proposed budget](#) which will be considered during the Session.

There will be [18 new members](#) of the [House Delegates](#) experiencing their first General Assembly as legislators. There are five [Senators](#) who are experiencing their first Senate Session. They are in [District 7](#), [District 10](#), [District 13](#), [District 16](#), and [District 40](#). For the first time since 1993, the General Assembly and the Executive Branch is now all controlled by the Democrats. In the House there are 53 Ds compared to 45 Rs; while in the Senate there are 21 Ds compared to 19Rs. No matter what Party you are affiliated with or what Party is in control, it is important to get to know the representative where you reside and work. To find out who it is, go to this helpful link: <https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>.

The legislators are still operating out of temporary office space as the construction of the new General Assembly building moves on. As the General Assembly gets underway, there are already about 1,500 Bills introduced. There seems to be an initiative for additional environmental legislation than in past sessions; such as additional requirements on large landfills, greenhouse gas emissions and plastic bags. In addition, there are already several Bills dealing with right to work, minimum wage, legalization of marijuana, gun control, redistricting and election reform. There will be frequent Legislative Updates that will be provided to track the progress of Bills and other items of interest to the solid waste industry. Stay tuned!