

# FEBRUARY 2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## 2019 PATRONS



Delegate Tony Wilt  
[HB2445](#)



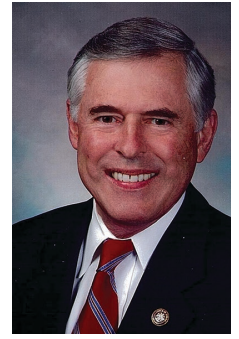
Senator John Cosgrove  
[SB1493](#) & [SR84](#)  
(SB1493 rolled into  
[SB1439](#); McClellan)



Delegate Mark Sickles  
[HB2116](#)



Senator Creigh Deeds  
[SB1478](#)



Senator John Edwards  
[SB1300](#)

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Your VFDA began the quest to have all appropriate stakeholders to the Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) in 2015 in what seemed to be an “us against the world” scenario. In particular, the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) simply did not want to force their docs to have to use the multi-million-dollar system developed by VDH, and VDH didn’t want to try to make it a mandate. Fast forward to 2019 after building relationships with other stakeholder organizations, VFDA stood side-by-side with MSV to present a united front on legislation introduced by Delegate Tony Wilt, Senator John Cosgrove and Senator Jennifer McClellan that established the final rollout of mandated physician-users for EDRS. Each of these pieces of legislation (hyperlinked above) have passed their House of origin and have been communicated to “the other body.” (The House bills have been transmitted to the Senate, and the Senate bills have been transmitted to the House.) Senator John Cosgrove’s SB1493 was rolled into Senator Jennifer McClellan’s SB1439.

Your VFDA leadership also worked hard over the past year to bring forward legislation that would better clarify the hierarchy of next-of-kin. Our patrons, Delegate Mark Sickles and Senator Creigh Deeds, were willing to fight for us, but the opponents of the bill campaigned to find and confuse others who otherwise had no concerns. The good news from this is that the VFDA has begun a new relationship with the Virginia Bar Association! They are favorable to being very clear on next-of-kin hierarchy and want to work with us through 2019 to create legislation that will have more support in 2020.

Senator John Edwards introduced SB1300 in support of some of our smaller funeral home owners who wish to grow. His bill allows one manager of record to now provide services for up to 135 families at two funeral homes owned within 50 miles of each other.

We also have Commending Resolutions in the House and Senate. Our House patron is Speaker Kirk Cox and our Senate Patron is Senator John Cosgrove. The opportunity to memorialize the VFDA’s over 130 years of service to profession, members and the community is wonderful!

Your VFDA had its Winter Conference on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We are very lucky to have had Delegate Betsy Carr and Delegate Riley Ingram attend the reception and Senator Adam Ebbin and Delegate Mark Sickles join us for dinner. A good time was had by all!

Your VFDA asks you to take a minute to email, call or write a note to the House or Senate member who represents you and simply say, “Thank you for your service to our community and the Commonwealth of Virginia!”

Angie Bezik & Julia Hammond