



THE VIRGINIA MANUFACTURER

FOCUSING ON MANUFACTURING ISSUES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

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2017 VMA Wrap Up Report

In 2017, 60% of the 2,959 bills introduced by members of the General Assembly passed. This is 5% higher than 2015 and 2016. [The VMA 2017 Legislative Wrap Up Report provides an in depth analysis of the 30 priority bills, 44 defensive priority bills and budget priorities that the VMA addressed this session.](#) It also provides information on the additional 326 bills that the VMA monitored and managed to assure that Virginia's manufacturing competitiveness is improving. This investment and our legislative successes are largely influenced by the stellar commitment of our Board, committee leaders, Government Affairs Council, committee members and allied organizations. For a copy, [click here.](#)

Letter from the President & CEO

Dear Members,

This issue of [The Virginia Manufacturer](#) includes the [2017 VMA Legislative Wrap Up Report](#) for your review.

The 2017 General Assembly session was one of the most challenging in years despite our 80% success rate with priority bills and 86% success rate with defensive priority bills. We are proud of our record and committed to long term reforms that will measurably improve the Commonwealth's manufacturing competitiveness. Big ideas take time and persistence.



Speaking of big ideas, the [VMA 2017 Legislative Agenda](#) continued to focus on the following priorities:

- Close the skills and career planning gaps by 2020
- Stop taxing technology
- Expand MFG exports 50% by 2025 and restructure economic development
- Keep energy costs affordable & reliable
- Invest in productive infrastructure
- Maintain regulatory balance

In fact, over the next quarter the VMA will be using these priorities, the results of several recent studies and feedback from members to develop a new vision for Virginia industry - the **Virginia Manufacturing Competitiveness Plan (VA MFG Competitiveness Plan)**. Over the last 18 months, the VMA has been working on this plan and anticipates that the VMA Board and VMA committees will have it completed in April. In May the VMA will hold MFG Town Halls across the state to present the draft plan for comments. This timeline will enable us to publish the VA MFG Competitiveness Plan in June 2017.

How will it be used? We will use the VA MFG Competitiveness Plan to inform gubernatorial candidates, the General Assembly, elected officials at all levels, educators, economic developers and the public about the current and future health and drivers of the manufacturing sector. [The core of the VA MFG Competitiveness Plan will include a](#)

2017 Day on the Hill Photo Gallery



SAVE THE DATE!
2018 VMA Day on the Hill
Monday, February 12th

Save the Dates

**Virginia Environmental
Health & Safety
Conference**
Westin Hotel, Richmond
September 28-29



Virginia Industry Forum
**Newport News Marriott at
City Center**
November 2-3



New VMA Member Benefit: Optima Health

If you are a member of the VMA and have 51-99 employees, you are eligible to receive **Optima**

comparative index of over 40 metrics in five areas that benchmark Virginia against all 50 states. The VA MFG Competitiveness Plan will guide our legislative and regulatory priorities for the next five years.

The VMA and its leadership are excited about the future of Virginia's manufacturing sector. To learn more about this legislative session or to participate in the development of the VA MFG Competitiveness Plan, we encourage you to join a VMA committee and attend an upcoming VMA MFG Town Hall.

Best Wishes,

Brett

Brett A. Vassey
President & CEO

2017 CQ Roll Call: Ignite Your Advocacy Photo Contest

We need your help to win the popular vote!

The VMA has entered its Vision 2020 infographic in the 2017 CQ Role Call "Ignite Your Advocacy" Photo Contest. **We need your help to win the popular vote.** The two entries that receive the most "hearts" will win national recognition. It's easy to participate. [Click here](#) to view the gallery of entries on the CQ Roll Call website. Click on the "Virginia Manufacturers Association" photo image and select "vote now" to "heart" our image.

You can vote once ever day between now and April 15 to help us win!



Join a VMA Committee Today

Get the most of your membership and join a [VMA Committee](#).

Committees are central to the VMA government affairs program as well as its workforce solutions, professional development, networking, regulatory reform and outreach services. Committees are professionally staffed and several have their own legal counsel. Involvement in VMA committees is the best way for members to directly affect change, get involved and stay informed.

VMA committee and subcommittee meetings are held

Health value-added benefits for your employees and their families. Once your company is insured by Optima Health at the determined premium level, these value-added benefits will be included in your plan at no additional premium cost. [Click here for more information?](#)

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Take a look at the refreshed [VMA Facebook page](#). Become a friend of Virginia MFG.

throughout the year. Many are held as webinars to provide better access for members with busy schedules. To search for upcoming committee meetings, go to <http://vamanufacturers.com/events/>.

To join a VMA committee, please contact Kimberly Noonan, Member Services Director, at knoonan@vamanufacturers.com for more information.

ISO 9001:2015 Transition Workshop - GENEDGE

How will you manage your transition to the new ISO 9001:2015 standard?



The ISO 9001 standard is seeing its first major revision since 2000. If you are responsible for implementing the changes, would you like to understand what you need to do to meet each of the requirements?

GENEDGE wants to help you make this transition as painless as possible to successfully implement the changes to passing your transition audit, while improving your quality management system.

Upcoming Workshop Dates and Locations:

[Waynesboro - 3/21 \(8am-4pm\)](#)

[Herndon - 4/25 \(8am-4pm\)](#)

Cost: \$399 per person. **VMA Members will receive a 10% discount.** Use code "VMA" during registration to receive your discounted rate.

Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, and course materials. Training copies of the standard will be used in the class; an official copy of the standard is not included.

33rd Annual Employment Law Update Presented by Kaufman & Canoles

April 20, 2017
Greater Richmond Convention Center
403 N. Third Street
Richmond, Virginia
8:30AM - 4:30PM

It can be a difficult task to ensure your organization is able to cope with changes in employment law. Oftentimes the important employment law changes aren't understood by management until it's too late. The 33rd Annual Employment Law Update presented by Kaufman & Canoles will address the

most recent legal changes and hot topics such as the impact of the Trump administration on employment laws. Attendees can also earn up to 6 credit hours towards PHR and SPHR recertification through the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI) and 5 PDCs towards SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP. [Click here](#) to view the program details and list of speakers.

VMA members will receive a 20% discount on the registration cost of this event. Please note that you are a VMA member in the comment section of the [registration form](#) to receive this discount.