

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS 2009

I. House Bills

HB 2495 Child labor; driving automobiles and trucks. This bill would permit minors who are at least 17 years of age to drive automobiles or trucks on public roadways if enumerated criteria are satisfied, including requirements that the vehicle's gross weight not exceed 6,000 pounds, the driving occur in daylight hours, and the driving occur within 30 miles of the place of employment. Previously, the Code of Virginia prohibited the employment of 17-year-olds as drivers or helpers on trucks or commercial vehicles with more than two axles.

II. Senate Bills

SB 860 Notice-earned income tax credit. This bill would require employers to post any notice from the Department of Social Services informing employees of their eligibility for federal or state earned income tax credit. The bill added §40.1-28.7:3 to the Code of Virginia.

SB 1264 Payment of wages and salaries. This bill would permit employers to pay wages and salaries to employees hired after January 1, 2010, by prepaid debit card or card account, without employee consent, if the employees fail to name a financial institution where payment can be made electronically and the employer arranges for the card or card account to be issued through a network system which gives workers at least one free withdrawal or transfer per pay period with the card at participating financial institutions. Currently, payment via prepaid debit card or card account requires an employee's affirmative consent, although consent is not required if the worker did not name a financial institution where payment can be made electronically and the employee works at an amusement park.