

House of Delegates Chamber Presentation Program

Learning Experience

- What year did the House of Delegates begin meeting in the East Wing of the Capitol?
- What made Nathaniel Bacon a great patriot leader?
- How does a bill become law?
- How do members vote on legislation?

These questions are a small representation of historical and legislative information schools and groups will learn when they participate in a House of Delegates Chamber Presentation.

This program provides students and groups with a hands-on learning experience about the Virginia General Assembly, the legislative process, and the roles of the Speaker and Clerk.



Above: The Ceremonial Mace, House of Delegates, represents political and legal traditions of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Great Britain.



What to Expect

Guided by a House Clerk's Office Staff member, this unique program invites students and groups into the House Chamber, sit in a member's chair, and debate and vote on a bill. After an explanation of the legislative process, the participants are led in a mock session to discuss and vote on legislation. Depending on the grade, the bills presented range from school uniforms, issuance of driver's licenses, length of the school week, and graduation requirements.

The bill is distributed to the Chamber Presentation Program participants and three volunteers are requested to serve as the Patron, Clerk, and Speaker. These volunteers use a prepared script, and staff assist and guide them through the process. The participants debate the merits of the legislation and then use the actual voting buttons, as a Delegate would, to pass or defeat the bill. After the mock session, a question and answer period is provided.

How to Schedule

Since the program began in 1998, response has been increasingly popular and participation in the program has grown each year.

If you are interested in scheduling a House of Delegates Chamber Presentation* for your school or group, and would also like information on how to add a Capitol tour into your visit, contact the Legislative Education and Development Office at:

(804) 698-1500
toll-free 877-391-FACT
or email
HICS@house.virginia.gov

*Please note that House of Delegates Chamber Presentations may not be scheduled during the legislative session, which runs from the second Wednesday in January through mid-March. Additional government events may also affect availability. Requests should be submitted as early as possible. Please allow approximately one hour for the Chamber Presentation.





Virginia State Capitol



For additional copies of this publication, please contact:

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G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House of Delegates

*Chamber
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*Virginia
House
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