

A Guide to the Virginia Liaison Office Records of Governor Douglas L. Wilder, 1989-1993

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Historical Information

The General Assembly established the Virginia Liaison Office in 1978 (Chapter 505, 1978 Acts) to be an institutional link between state and federal government as well as Virginia and other states. The Virginia Liaison Office (VLO) represents the Governor before both Congress and the federal administration, advocating for the Commonwealth's interests in Washington, and monitoring federal developments that affect the state. The Office is responsible for monitoring and tracking federal legislation that is of interest to the Commonwealth and keeping the Governor's Office and state agencies up to date on the status of federal legislation and regulations. The Office is also tasked with influencing the development of federal legislation and regulations by keeping the Virginia Congressional Delegation informed about the Governor's priorities and maintaining contact with Congressional staffs, key federal agency officials and public interest groups. Other duties include alerting state agencies and local government to federal grant opportunities and monitoring the progress of any grant applications, writing or advising on testimony to be presented by the Governor or state agency heads before Congressional committees, resolving administrative issues between state and federal agencies and maintaining liaison with other states and interstate groups. The VLO is also required to report twice a year to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee and to the Governor's Office on all federal mandates and regulations which may have an effect on the Commonwealth. In addition to this, the VLO also works with interstate and regional organizations in which the Governor participates, such as the National Governor's Association, and the Southern Governor's Association. During the administration of Governor Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Glenn K. Davidson (1990-1992) and Dian Copelin (1992-1994) served as the Director of the Virginia Liaison Office.

Scope and Content

The Virginia Liaison Office records, 1989-1993, are housed in 10 boxes. The collection includes briefings, budgets, correspondence, legislation, reports, studies and weekly reports. Issues of concern to the Virginia Liaison Office during the Wilder Administration include: Air and Space Museum, Defense Conversion, Health Care, Mandates, Medicare and Medicaid, Military Base Closures, Transportation Projects, Welfare Reform and Workforce Development.

Arrangement

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