

2014 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONSUMER/QUALITY OF LIFE

- The General Assembly voted to raise the state's minimum wage to \$9 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2015. That's a \$1 per hour increase over the current minimum wage of \$8, which went into effect at the beginning of this year.
- Lawmakers approved legislation that will aid in preventing foreclosing owners from evicting tenants in one- to four-family dwellings without "just cause." The bills spell out the circumstances under which an eviction may take place and require notices to tenants 30 days prior to any foreclosure sale.
- Passed by the legislature and signed into law was legislation to permit the use of electronic proof of auto insurance coverage, in any format that can be displayed on any mobile electronic device.
- Legislation was passed to give communities and developers several options for conforming to municipal ordinances regarding the construction of affordable housing, including a developer's fee-in-lieu of construction which the community would apply to construction or renovation of affordable units.
- Lawmakers approved bills to increase the penalties for companies violating the state's wage law, increasing not only the monetary fines but also the amount of potential jail time.