

Professional Profile

- Proficient in all programs on Adobe editing suite
- Proficient in Audacity and Soundslides
- Proficient in AP style
- Published journalist in VA and MD

Professional Experience

Virginia Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control, Richmond, VA
October 2012 to present

Customer Service

Responsibilities:

- Include handling cash and customer service
- Inventory counting

TMS Services, LLC, Richmond, VA
January 2011 to present

Office Manager

Responsibilities:

- Overseeing all financial operations.
- Handling all taxes; including payroll and income
- Managing other office employees
- Estimates and job inspections

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications; Print Journalism and Broadcast Journalism

Expected graduation date: December 2013

Dean's List: Fall 2010-Fall 2012

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA

Associates Degree in Administration of Justice

May 2003

Dean's List Fall 2000-Spring 2003

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Wednesday, April 10, 2013

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Is that a Drone you Hear, Virginia?

Words [Steffanie Atkins \(http://www.altdaily.com/author/steffanie-atkins\)](http://www.altdaily.com/author/steffanie-atkins)

Wednesday, March 27th, 2013 at 10:53 am

RICHMOND – Gov. Bob McDonnell on Monday proposed amending legislation to put a moratorium on the use of drone technology in Virginia until 2015.

McDonnell’s suggested amendments to House Bill 2012 and Senate Bill 1331 would allow for drone research at college and universities and would let law enforcement officials use drones for certain tasks, such as search and rescue.

These amendments “will allow law enforcement officials to use this developing technology to protect public safety while respecting individual rights of citizens and their expectations of privacy,” Gov. McDonnell’s press secretary, Jeff Caldwell, said in a statement to reporters.

The General Assembly will vote on McDonnell’s proposed amendments when it reconvenes for a one-day session next Wednesday. HB 2012 and SB 1331 were among more than 800 bills passed by legislators earlier this year. McDonnell had to veto or sign the measures by midnight Monday.



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MQ->

[9 Reaper in flight %282007%29.jpg](#)

A MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle prepares to land after a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The Reaper has the ability to carry both precision-guided bombs and air-to-ground missiles.

HB 2012 was introduced by Delegate Benjamin Cline, R-Rockbridge. As passed by the House and Senate, it stated, "No state or local agency or organization having jurisdiction over criminal law enforcement or regulatory violations ... shall utilize an unmanned aircraft system before July 1, 2015."

Senate Bill 1331, sponsored by Sen. A. Donald McEachin, D-Henrico, passed with identical language. Both bills allowed drones only in certain emergency situations, such as Amber Alerts (for missing children), Senior Alerts and search-and-rescue operations.

McDonnell's recommendations elaborated on when drones could be used during the moratorium.

For instance, he said unmanned aircraft could be deployed "for the purpose of a search or rescue operation where use of an unmanned aircraft system is determined to be necessary to alleviate an immediate danger to any person, or for training exercises related to such uses."

McDonnell also added this exception: "Nothing herein shall prohibit use of unmanned aircraft systems solely for research and development purposes by institutions of higher education and other research organizations or institutions."

Both SB 1331 and HB 2012 stated, "In no case may a weaponized unmanned aircraft system be deployed or its use facilitated by a state or local agency in Virginia." McDonnell left that wording in the law.

In the absence of a state law, local governments in Virginia have taken measures regarding drones into their own hands.

In February, the Charlottesville City Council voted 3-2 to declare the city a "drone-free zone." Charlottesville was the first city in the country to pass such a resolution.

Last August, the Russell County Sheriff's Department purchased two drones for \$600. The units were bought for search and rescue purposes but have not been used yet. Even under the proposed moratorium, Russell County law enforcement officials may be able to use their drones for search rescue operations when it is dangerous for first responders to get to a particular area.

Last Monday, the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia sent a letter to McDonnell urging him to sign the bills without any amendments. The group's main concern is "wide scale and intrusive surveillance of our persons, homes, farms and businesses using unmanned aerial vehicles or systems."





http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Underground_facility_detection_and_characterization.tiff

A UAV detecting an underground facility. (pic | DARPA)

In a press release, Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia, said, “Virginia needs time to develop sensible, commonplace restrictions that balance our freedoms with the benefits of drone technology.”

The letter that the ACLU of Virginia sent to Gov. Bob McDonnell is [here \(https://acluva.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/20130318dronelettertogov.pdf\)](https://acluva.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/20130318dronelettertogov.pdf). Steffanie Atkins’ Storify about drones in Virginia is [here \(http://storify.com/stef_atkins/drones-in-virginia\)](http://storify.com/stef_atkins/drones-in-virginia).

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Virginia College Students Oppose Guns on Campus

Eight in ten coeds in a Virginia 21 survey opposes firearms at their schools.

January 18, 2013

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by Steffanie Atkins
Capital News Service

RICHMOND – Eight out of 10 college students in Virginia are against allowing guns on campus, according to a statewide survey conducted by the advocacy group Virginia 21.

The organization, which represents young adults in Virginia, has been surveying college and university students about hot-button issues that may crop up during this year's legislative session. One such issue: whether guns should be permitted on campus.

Some Second Amendment advocates say armed students could protect themselves against school shootings like the massacre at Virginia Tech in 2007.

Nearly 8,000 students took the Virginia 21 survey, and 83 percent of them said they do not want guns on school property, especially in dormitories. Seven percent of the respondents were unsure about the issue; the others supported the idea of letting guns on campus.

Tom Kramer, executive director for Virginia 21, said the students' main concern is dorm rooms.

"We don't want guns in our dorm rooms. That's one of the things we are most worried about," Kramer said. "Could you imagine your roommate having a gun and you not knowing about it? Freshmen don't even get to pick who they room with. Do they have a right to know that? That is what really bothers us about a gun bill."

At this point, no bills have been proposed in the 2013 General Assembly to allow guns on school property. However, such a proposal was filed last year.

Kramer wants to make sure the measure doesn't come up again.

"If there is one, we are going to basically call all of our chapters up to kill the bill," he said.

According to other preliminary results of the Virginia 21 survey:

- 60 percent of students say they are unaware what their student loan payments will be upon graduation.
- 40 percent of students did not know about career center services on their college campus.

Virginia 21 will announce the complete results of its survey – including responses to topics involving tuition and textbooks – at the group's Lobby Day on Jan. 29. Students and other young voters from across the state will attend the event to urge legislators to hold down tuition while maintaining the quality of education. The group expects 80-100 supporters.

For more information about Virginia 21 or its Lobby Day, visit www.virginia21.org.

[Capital News Service in an entity of Virginia Commonwealth University.]

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Matt Kirkland

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9:34 am on Friday, January 18, 2013

Excellent, this is great news. It's so good to see that there is hope with the youth today. They aren't just buying into the conservative, regressive ideology of "Everyone is out to get me and people are inherently evil" type mantra. When we begin to ignore weaponry and focus our efforts on "living-ry" humanity may just have a chance...

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Gary Wilde

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1:23 pm on Friday, January 18, 2013

This is great news to some mentally disturbed nut who now sees this as an easy free-fire zone. One properly trained student (21 yrs or older) or faculty member could stop them much sooner than waiting for law enforcement to arrive, thus saving the lives of even one person. There are NO law abiding criminals. Get your heads out of the sand, people.

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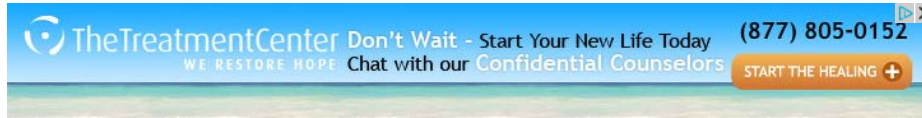
1:40 pm on Friday, January 18, 2013

How often are Freshman roomed with upper classmen? In Virginia you must be 21 or older to be issued a permit. Therefore the vast majority that are eligible for a permit are juniors and seniors. Dealing with concealed carry on campus is not that difficult. On the application form for a dorm, the one that asks things like, "Do you mind if your roommate is intimate with someone in the room?", you add a question like, "Do you mind if your roommate is licensed to carry a firearm?". If the school wanted they could also issue a policy that firearms must be in an approved safe when not on your person. Not that difficult.

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NAZISM

No Reparations for Victims of Virginia's Eugenics Sterilization Program

By [Steffanie Atkins / Southern Maryland Online](#) | March 15th, 2013 | [no responses](#)

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“ ... Beginning in 1924, Virginia, to its disgrace, provided a model for Nazi eugenics sterilization statute. ... “



RICHMOND, Va. — It is a shameful chapter in Virginia history: the forced sterilization of men and women deemed “feeble-minded” and “mentally unfit” from 1924 through 1979.

Delegate Bob Marshall, R-Manassas, hoped to provide reparations for victims of the state's eugenics program when he filed House Bill 1529 in January. The bill was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. But the committee failed to act on the measure by the General Assembly's Feb. 5 deadline, effectively killing it for this legislative session.

HB 1529, which Marshall called the “Justice for Victims of Sterilization Act,” would have allowed for payments of \$50,000 to victims of the Virginia Eugenical Sterilization Act of 1924. North Carolina is the only other state that has researched proposed reparations for sterilization victims. In connection with similar legislation there, North Carolina officials determined that about 20 percent of the people sterilized would be alive and possibly fewer would seek reparations.

However, reparations could have a bigger financial impact in Virginia. Virginia had the second highest sterilization count in the nation and sterilized many more individuals in the 1930s and 1940s than North Carolina. Virginia officials estimate that HB 1529 would have cost \$76 million over the next five years for the reparations, victim research and administrative fees. Virginia would have funded the program only if it had a state budget surplus.

The Virginia Eugenical Sterilization Act lasted from 1924 through 1979. During this period, 7,325 Virginians were sterilized on grounds that they were “feeble-minded” or “mentally unfit” to have children. Of the victims, 62 percent were women. Many of the individuals were held in state institutions, such as mental institutions, and sterilized as young as 13 years old.

Karen Rader, director of the Science, Technology and Society program at Virginia Commonwealth University, said that during this time period in Virginia, race mixing was of concern as well as fears over maintaining the integrity of the middle class.

“[There was] anxiety about what were considered worthless whites as opposed to well-appointed and economically productive whites and lazy rebel rousers coming into the city,” Rader said. The thought was that these individuals – the victims of sterilization – may have had negative effects on Richmond trying to modernize and move past the Civil War and Reconstruction.

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Invisible Child: Leilani Muir and the Alberta Eugenics Board (Edmonton Journal)

In 2002, then-Gov. Mark Warner issued a formal apology to victims of the Sterilization Act. "The eugenics movement was a shameful effort in which state government never should have been involved," Warner said. "We must remember the commonwealth's past mistakes in order to prevent them from reoccurring."

This legislative session marks the 11-year anniversary of the apology. Marshall discussed the reparations bill at a press conference last month.

"Beginning in 1924, Virginia, to its disgrace, provided a model for Nazi eugenics sterilization statute. Now in the 21st century, we must seek to redress this as best we can," he said. "Many of the victims of this policy of involuntary sterilization are still alive and suffering the effects. Under eminent domain, government is required to compensate citizens for taking away property; how much more should it compensate for taking away the ability to have a family?"

Delegate Patrick Hope, D-Arlington, joined Marshall in sponsoring HB 1529.

"It's now time to write the final chapter in this shameful and repugnant part of Virginia's history," Hope said. "What we're asking for goes well-beyond just simple words of regret. We need to set an example and take full responsibility for our actions so that the healing process can finally begin."

The bill would have established a eugenics museum at the Central Virginia Training Center, formerly known as the Lynchburg Colony for Epileptics and the Feeble Minded. Rader said that would have been an educational tool and possibly an aid in identifying victims.

"Nothing that can be done in terms of reparations is ever going to actually pay an amount that's going to compensate. At the same time, a symbolic gesture like this – combined with the willingness to say, 'This happened; you are a part of history' – I think could really be an interesting moment for this state," Rader said.

RELATED INFORMATION:

The Justice for Sterilization Victims Project is dedicated to providing relief to victims of state-lead eugenics sterilization programs. The project's website is at:

<http://www.forcedsterilization.org/>

<http://somid.com/news/headlines/2013/16497.shtml>

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DR I just read an article which was published last month about suspected money laundering, drug trafficking and other criminal activity involved in the horse slaughter trade, and as the horse meat scandal has been unraveling, Do you think there could be a link to pedophile activity with regard to the global horse meat trade? This is the article I read in the Telegraph: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/poland/9889795/Horse-meat-Dark-dealings-of-Europes-cruellest-trade.html>



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