

Hampton Roads, VA - 06/15/2011



71° Broken Clouds

Forecasts | Doppler Radar
Traffic Cameras & VDOT Alerts



News Business Military Sports Entertainment Life Community The Virginian-Pilot

Jobs Autos Homes Rentals Shopping Yellow Pages

Log In | Create Account | Email/Wireless Alerts | RSS Feeds

Search this site

Home » News » Politics » State Government

Panel hears update on insurance exchange plan

Posted to: [News](#) | [State Government](#)



VIRGINIA POLITICS

- [Redistricting: Va. maps](#)
- [Blog: Pilot on Politics](#)
- [Politics channel](#)

By [Julian Walker](#)
The Virginian-Pilot
© June 15, 2011

RICHMOND

Virginia officials are planning for the creation of a state health insurance exchange to comply with the federal health care act, even as Gov. Bob McDonnell supports a state legal challenge that could overturn the law.

A meeting Tuesday of the Joint Commission on Health Care included an update on the process of setting up an exchange. The panel also heard from a think tank scholar who spoke against that approach.

Health insurance exchanges are marketplaces through which individuals without insurance and small businesses without group insurance plans can buy coverage. Those who meet income eligibility guidelines could receive subsidies.

Up to **\$50,000**
in affordable
term life insurance.

No medical exam – just 3 health questions.

For more information.

AARP Life Insurance Program **NEW LIFE**

Dr. Bill Hazel Jr., Virginia's secretary of Health and Human Resources, said it's prudent to be prepared, given the uncertain outcome of the lawsuits over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a signature policy initiative of President Barack Obama.

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is among those involved in litigation over the health care law; he has argued that Congress exceeded its authority by requiring the uninsured to obtain coverage or face a tax penalty. A ruling on his lawsuit is pending in federal appellate court.

Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies for the libertarian Cato Institute, cited suits such as Cuccinelli's in urging Virginia leaders not to proceed with developing an exchange. He argued that doing so gives a hint of legitimacy to a law whose constitutionality is in question.

"Creating an exchange does not make the best of a bad situation," Cannon said. "It makes the bad situation. The most responsible course for Virginia is to refuse to create an exchange."

States were given the option to establish their own exchange or adopt a federal model. Virginia opted to plan for its own exchange, a process provided for in legislation approved this year.

Because state exchanges must be in place by Jan. 1, 2014, Virginia is working under the expectation that it needs to have a working framework in place by 2013, Hazel said.

That means the General Assembly may have to address the issue next year after a state health reform advisory council makes its recommendations to McDonnell and the legislature this fall.

There is little dispute the United States has health care challenges related to the cost and delivery of services, Hazel said. In Virginia, it is estimated that 1 million people lack health insurance.

Regardless of "whatever happens across the Potomac Ocean," Hazel told the commission, drawing laughs, "we absolutely have health care issues in Virginia we must solve."

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

COMMENTS ADVISORY: Users are solely responsible for opinions they post here; comments do not reflect the views of The Virginian-Pilot or its websites. Users must follow agreed-upon rules: **Be civil, be clean, be on topic; don't attack** private individuals, other users or entire classes of people. [Read the full rules here.](#)

- Comments are automatically checked for inappropriate language, but readers might find some comments offensive or

TOOLBOX

[Print](#)

[Email](#)

SAVE & SHARE

[Delicious](#)

[Digg](#)

[Reddit](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Google](#)

[Yahoo](#)

AdChoices

Open MINDED.

FIAT® 500 Cabrio.
Unprecedented three-position top design.

fiatusa.com

Find HamptonRoads.com [Find. Do. Tag. Share.](#)

what where

Popular Searches

featured jobs [CareerConnection.com](#)

inaccurate. If you believe a comment violates our rules, click the **report violation** link below it.

MORE STATE GOVERNMENT STORIES

- [Death row survivors speak at Richmond event](#)
- [Fellow ex-lawmaker helps Hamilton pay legal bills](#)
- [Lawmakers want assault ship Arlington commissioned in Va.](#)
- [Congressional redistricting talks left to select group](#)
- [Suffolk's Quayle decides to retire from state Senate](#)

More articles from: [News](#)  [State Government](#) 

MORE POLITICS STORIES

- [Va. Sen. Norment replaced as W&M lawyer](#)
- [Va. senators: Crackdown on bus lines needed](#)
- [U.S. Rep. Weiner admits sending crotch photo to woman](#)
- [Case against Edwards may be tough to prove](#)
- [John Edwards pleads not guilty after indictment in N.C.](#)

Service Managers & Auto Technicians
Norfolk, VA [The Auto Connection](#)

Quality Assurance Manager
Virginia Beach, Virginia [VT MILCOM](#)

Outside Sales
Norfolk, Virginia [BLUE WORLD POOLS](#)

[More jobs](#)

Top Cars



\$17,500
[1999 Porsche 911](#)
[A&G Auto Sales](#)



[2010 Ford Focus](#)
[Mike Duman Auto Sales](#)



\$26,895
[2008 Honda Pilot](#)
[Mike Duman Auto Sales](#)




\$22,988
[2010 Dodge Challenger](#)
[Southern Chrysler-Jeep Greenbrier-USED INVENTORY](#)

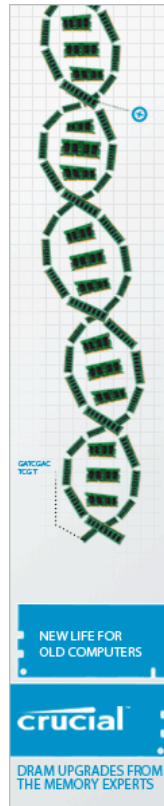
[View All Featured Autos](#)

 **Log onto [EarthShare.org](#) and see what you can do.** 

 **Earth Share** One environment. One simple way to care for it.®

Search that pays you back.





PilotOnline.com

News

- Local News
- US/World News
- Business
- Military
- Crime
- Opinion
- Obituaries
- Specials and Multimedia

Sports

- High School Sports
- National Sports

Weather

Traffic

Lottery

HamptonRoads.com

Entertainment

- Local Events Calendar
- Restaurants
- Movies
- Local Attractions

Community

- Blogs
- Photo Sharing

Local Guides

- City Guides
- Best of Hampton Roads

Life

- Home and Garden
- Food and Cooking

HamptonRoads.tv

- Original Local Videos
- Latest Videos
- Traffic Cameras
- Submit a Video

Classifieds

- Jobs
- Autos
- Homes
- Rentals
- Shopping
- Yellow Pages
- Career Connection
- Drive
- Real Estate
- Apartments
- Coupons
- Business Directory

Place an Ad