

Issue: Republican Incumbent Voting Record

Delegate District 32-Tag Greason-Voting Record

Background

Thomas A. “Tag” Greason is a Republican member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing District 32. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and received an MBA with Honors from George Mason University. He is the Executive Vice President of Sales at Quality Technology Services (QTS), a real estate investment trust company. A strong fiscal conservative, Greason was first elected in 2010 and is currently serving his fourth term. He is a member of the influential

Appropriations Committee, Education Committee and General Laws Committee in the House of Delegates.

Issues

Anti-Economic Equality: Greason voted against increasing the minimum wage multiple times, supporting a rate that falls below living wages and is one of the lowest in the country.

- HB 1371 (2016) Prohibit cities from increasing minimum-wage or benefits
- HB 1129 (2012) Reduces state employee retirement benefits.
- SB 838 (2017) A unanimous Senate and the vast majority of one House committee approved a bill giving scholarships to the poor. It would have sent federal aid to community colleges to provide \$2,000 scholarships. Unanimously approved by Senate. After the Senate's vote, the House Education committee members gave it 19 votes. Three Republicans opposed it. Two of these, Tag Greason [32] and Steve Landes [25], also serve on appropriations. The bill was sent to their committee next. The bill died there without a vote.
- SB 1500 (Budget Bill, 2017) - voted to take \$5 million in federal funds, which are designed to help poor people find jobs or schooling, and divert the money into a program to treat opioid addiction. This would reduce the state's own contribution to opioid treatment by 80% from the governor's original proposal (HB1500, the Budget Bill).

Anti Women's Reproductive Rights: Voted for

- HB2264 (2017) which imposes restrictions on use of state Dept. of Health funds for family planning and abortion services. (De-funds Planned Parenthood) (Bill vetoed)
- HB 1500 (Budget Bill) voted on budget issues to ensure poor women cannot receive federal funding to cover the medical cost of long-acting removable contraceptives, like IUDs
- HB 1 (2012) defines life as beginning at conception.
- HR 268 (2016): Voted for “Day of Tears” which designates January 20th (day of Roe v Wade decision) as a day of mourning for aborted fetuses.
- HB 1090 (2016) – Sponsor – Rescinds Funds from Certain Abortion Clinics
- HB62 (2012)—Repeals funding for abortions for low-income women in cases where the fetus has a gross and incapacitating physical deformity or mental deficiency. (Bill failed in Senate)

Anti-Voting Rights: Greason voted in favor of restrictive initiatives that disproportionately disenfranchise minorities and the poor and are far more restrictive than other states. Votes in 2017:

- HB1428 and SB872--Requires photo ID with absentee ballot application. (Marshall = co-sponsor) (Bill vetoed)
- HB1598--Requires proof of citizenship to be registered to vote in state elections. (Bill killed in Senate)
- SB1105--Requires investigations into voter registration lists to identify persons who may not be eligible to vote. (Bill vetoed)
- SB1253--Grants localities the option of including in their electronic poll-books the photos of registered voters obtained from DMV records. (Bill vetoed)
- SB1581--Requires registrar to match the name, birthdate, and Social Security Number on voter registration applications with the SSA database; also requires the registrar to verify every registered voter's info with the Social Security Administration's database on an annual basis. (Bill vetoed)

Anti-Immigrant: Voted for:

- HB 1468 (2017) Requires sheriffs and local jails to comply with ICE immigration detainers
- HB 2000 (2017) Prohibits localities from adopting sanctuary policies
- HB 1060 (2012) Requires law enforcement to ask about immigration status during arrest
- HB 1465 (2011) Excludes undocumented immigrants from public universities

Anti-LGBTQ: Voted for:

- SB 349 Authorizes private adoption agencies to refuse placements to same-sex couples
- HB 189 Authorizes adoption agencies to refuse adoptions for religious reasons.
- HB2025 and SB132 [2017] (Bill vetoed) Prohibits the state from requiring any person or organization to participate in a marriage ceremony and/or imposing any penalty for refusing to solemnize a marriage due to a belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman.
- HB 773 (2016) (Allows discrimination against LGBTQ based on religious beliefs.) "Prohibits a government entity from taking any discriminatory action against a person on the basis that such person believes, speaks, or acts in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman and that the terms "man" and "woman" refer to an individual's immutable biological sex as objectively determined by anatomy and genetics of the individual at the time of birth. " (killed in Senate)
- SB 66 (2010) Voted against a bill prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in state government employment.

Pro Guns: According to the Washington Post, he is "a darling of the National Rifle Association." He has repeatedly supported gun rights and opposed common sense gun safety issues. Bills Greason voted for include:

- SB 610 (2016) Authorizes Concealed Carry Reciprocity for Out-of-state License Holders
- HB 1906 (2016) Prohibits Regulation of Firearms without Legislative Authority
- HB 1234 (2016) Authorizes School Security Officers to Carry Firearms
- HB 766 (2016) Authorizes Individual with Restraining Order to Carry Concealed Gun without Permit
- HB 505 (2010) Authorizing concealed firearms in establishments that serve alcohol
- HB 885 (2010) Authorizing concealed firearms in vehicles
- SB 32 & HB 940 (2012) Repeals Purchase Limit for Handguns

Undermining Public Education: Voted for bills that undermine public education.

- HB1605 (2017) Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts ("school vouchers") allows parents to use public tax money for private and religious schools. (Bill vetoed)
- HB1578 and HB2007--Legislation supporting home schooling. (1578 vetoed; 2007 killed)

Anti-Environment: Received an "F" grade from VA Sierra Club. Voted to:

- SB 1470 /HB 2198--Extend tax credits for coal companies. (Bill vetoed)
According to VA Chapter of the Sierra Club, Since 1988, Virginia tax payer dollars subsidize the cold industry in the form of a cold tax credits. To date, \$637 million in corporate welfare to a dying industry has done little to change the economic realities of the cold fields.

During bankruptcy proceedings last year, coal mining corporation Alpha Natural Resources shredded labor contracts with Union Mine Workers of America, the union representing the Virginia is coal miners. Alpha cut health and pension benefits for unionized members and over 4,500 nonunion retired coal miners, who had worked underground for 20 years or more and emerged with significant health problems including black lung. One year before declaring bankruptcy, Alpha gave its executives more than \$3.5 million in bonuses. CEO Kevin Crutchfield alone received 7.75 million in total compensation in 2014. Hundreds of millions of dollars provided through the coal tax credits have made CEOs rich, but not one penny has gone to coal miners or their families.

Companion bills SP 1470 and House Bill 2198 would have continued tax credit for bad actors like Alpha.

- HB 1679 – Allow fracking companies to not disclose chemicals used in the process which are dangerous to human health by considering them to be trade secrets. (Passed by house, withdrawn by Patron in Senate committee.)
- HB 1974 – Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to receive approval from the General Assembly for a state implementation plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prior to submitting the plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (obstructs Clean Power State Implementation Plan)
- HB 1964 Secretary for Coastal Protection & Floodwater Adaptation - Creation of a Secretariat would have better facilitate allocation of both state and federal climate change adaptation resources. (killed in Appropriations Committee)

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/virginia-chapter/documents/gascorecard2017.pdf>

Anti-Health Insurance: Consistently voted with the Republican block against Medicaid expansion. This vote amounts to taking money away from Virginians that would otherwise be made available, and denying coverage to thousands of residents in his district. Furthermore, Medicaid expansion funds would include coverage for important mental health services for the most vulnerable of the population. Medicaid expansion would also have provided thousands of Virginians access to substance abuse services at a time when opioid overdose deaths exceed fatal car accidents as the leading cause of unnatural death in Virginia.