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NEWS RELEASE

Norment Bills Signed into Law

Senate Republican Leader says he is honored to partner with the Governor on two critical pieces of legislation that he sponsored

James City, VA, June 21, 2011: Senate of Virginia Minority Leader Thomas K. Norment, Jr. (R-James City) today commented on his two bills that were part of the Governor's legislative package and Senator Norment sponsored during the 2011 General Assembly session. Both bills were recently signed into law by the Governor.

"This year I was honored to partner with Governor McDonnell and sponsor two critical pieces of his legislative agenda. The recent bill signings were the culmination of many long days and much collaboration and in the end both will have a substantial impact on all Virginians.

"Higher Education and Tourism go hand in hand with economic prosperity and I applaud the Governor for placing them both at the forefront of his agenda. I look forward to continuing to work with him to ensure that Virginia remains the best place to live, work and raise a family."

SB1193 (Norment) – Creates the Tourism Development Grant Program- Signed into law May, 25

- Creates the Tourism Development Grant Program to allow certain locally endorsed tourism projects to temporarily retain a portion of state and local tax revenue generated from the project combined with a matching contribution from the developer to provide gap financing for the project

SB1459 (Norment) - Establishes the Virginia Higher Education Act of 2011- Signed into law June, 16

- Establishes the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 for the purpose of fueling strong economic growth in the Commonwealth and preparing Virginians for the top job opportunities in the knowledge-driven economy of the 21st century. The bill provides for (i) a new higher education funding policy; (ii) the calculation of the state general fund share of an institution's basic operations and instruction funding need; (iii) per student enrollment-based funding; (iv) targeted economic and innovation incentives; (v) the creation of a STEM Public-Private Partnership; and (vi) the creation of a Higher Education Advisory Committee. The bill also makes technical amendments. This bill is a recommendation of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment.

Links to the Governor's Press releases can be found below.

Higher Education: <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=794>

Tourism: <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=769>

- Pictures are attached.