



NEWSLETTER
SPRING EDITION 2012



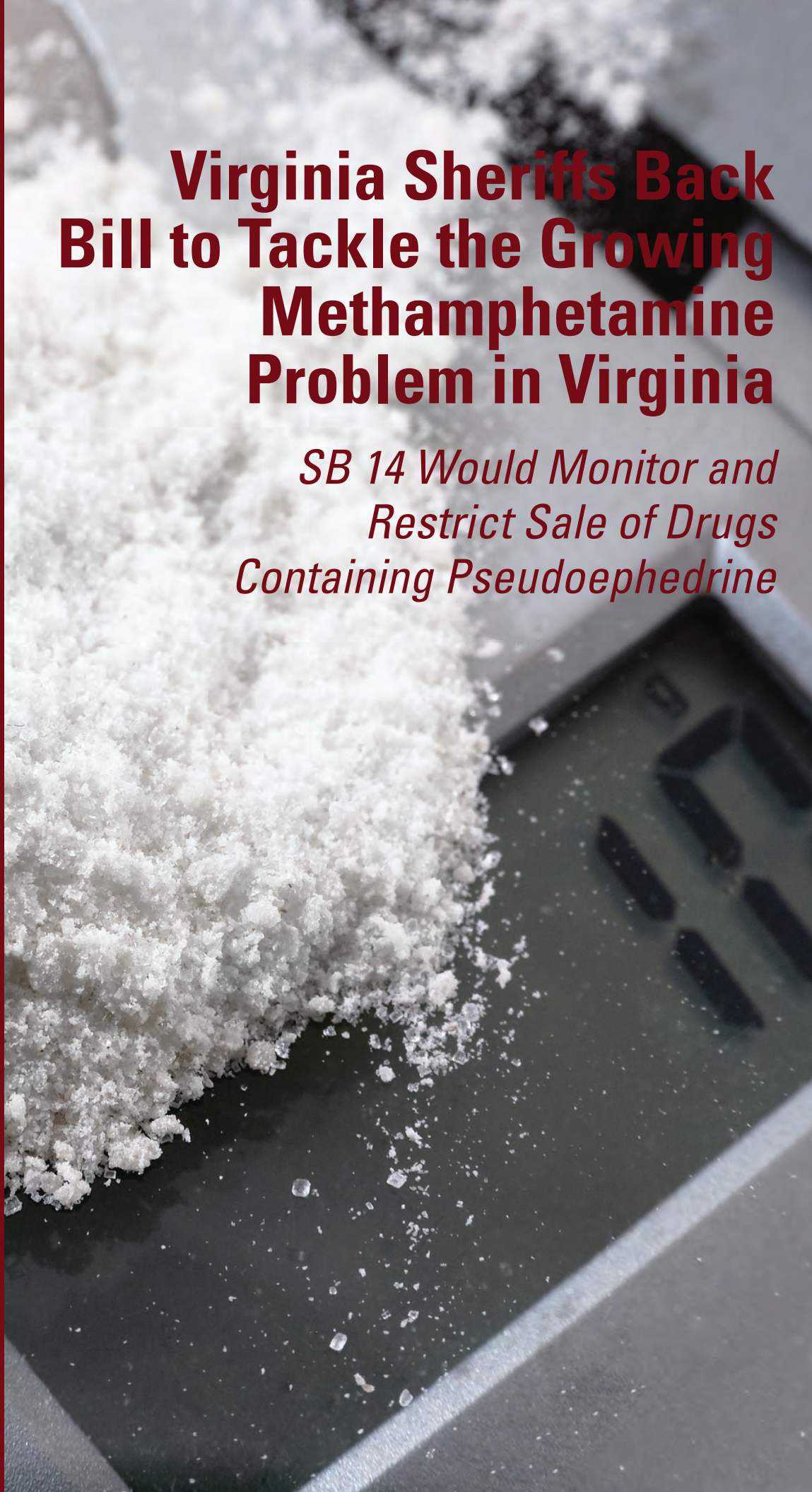
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Virginia Sheriffs Back Bill to Tackle the Growing Methamphetamine Problem in Virginia

*SB 14 Would Monitor and
Restrict Sale of Drugs
Containing Pseudoephedrine*





2011-2012

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VSA Leads Push for NPLeX Bill in VA General Assembly

In response to the growing methamphetamine problem in Virginia, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, backed by Virginia's law enforcement officers, pharmacists, and other supporters, called on Virginia legislators to pass Senate Bill 14. This bill is aimed at curbing the production of methamphetamine by electronically monitoring the sales of nonprescription drugs, like pseudoephedrine, used to manufacture the illegal stimulant.

Currently, pharmacies and drugstores record sales of pseudoephedrine — commonly used in over-the-counter decongestants — on written logs and report them to various databases. Senate Bill 14 would put most of these retailers under one electronic pseudoephedrine sales tracking system called the National Precursor Log Exchange, or NPLeX, in order to restrict customers from buying more than the legal limit of these medications.

VSA strongly urges passage of this bill, which preserves consumer access to cold and allergy medications, for the following reasons:

- NPLeX is a multi-state electronic pseudoephedrine (PSE) sales blocking system that is funded by the manufacturers of medicines containing (PSE). (Sudafed, Claritin, etc.)
- NPLeX is provided to retailers at no charge.
- NPLeX will monitor all nonprescription PSE purchases in real time to prevent criminals from exceeding legal limits.
- NPLeX eliminates the need for paper logs, which are onerous and burdensome.
- 19 states currently use NPLeX and three of Virginia's border states use NPLeX— Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
- NPLeX also allows the state to keep sales tax generated by over the counter PSE sales.



CHANGES TO "CASTLE DOCTRINE" COULD BE COMING SOON

Senate Bill 4 and HB 48, which makes narrowly crafted changes to what is commonly known as the "Castle Doctrine," were taken up by the 2012 VA General Assembly. The goal of this legislation is to provide law-abiding citizens in Virginia with greater legal protection when confronting an intruder in their homes. At the time of writing this newsletter SB 4 had passed the Senate and the House version was expected to advance easily.

Supporters of SB 4 say they are trying to clear up any gray area in Virginia's state gun laws, clearly defining when it is legal and illegal to use a gun in self defense in a home, vehicle, or place of work. They argue that Virginians shouldn't have to fear legal recourse, including civil and criminal liability, for using a firearm if they have a "reasonable fear of imminent death or serious bodily harm."

Under current law, this act of self defense is limited to a citizen's home. Of course the proposed legislation does not apply to use of deadly force against a law enforcement officer or bail bondsman in the performance of their duties.

Another important element of the bill is that it makes it a state felony, in addition to a federal felony, to give false information to a licensed firearms dealer. Currently, VSA does not have a position on this bill.

ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE TRAINING AND UPDATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Over 250 Virginia Sheriffs, management level deputies, and guests are scheduled to take part in the 2012 Virginia Sheriffs' Institute's Spring Conference and Virginia Sheriffs' Association Exhibition in Newport News, Virginia on April 25-27.

Several important pieces of legislation, including bills relating to gun ownership in Virginia, were considered by Members of the Virginia General Assembly this year. And so it's vital that Sheriffs are informed directly by our elected officials about what these decisions mean to our ability as Sheriffs to keep our communities safe.



The VSI Spring Conference is an important forum for Sheriffs and deputies, to discuss how legislation could impact the duties of law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, important training sessions will be held for law enforcement officers to enhance crime prevention efforts throughout our great Commonwealth.

JUDICIAL AND COURT SECURITY THREAT SYMPOSIUM

In partnership with the U.S. Marshal Service, VSI is sponsoring a special 8-hour training course for law enforcement officers focusing on judicial and court security threat assessment. VSI is providing the class prior to the VSI Spring Conference on April 24-25.

The course will feature special guest speakers from the U.S. Marshal Service and Virginia Sheriffs' offices. Topics will range from "Protecting Your Court" and "Courthouse Vulnerability" to "Prisoner Movements and Handling" and "Social Networking Threats."

VSI EXPANDS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

You know how crucial your financial support is to our training and educational programs across the state of Virginia. However, did you know there are additional ways you can support our crime prevention efforts in your neighborhood?

You can donate your used or unwanted car, truck, boat, or RV to VSI and receive the maximum legal tax deduction. To receive a no-obligation donation consultation, call 1-(866)-2GIVING or visit <http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/donate-now/property-donations/>.

You can arrange to have your donation picked up. VSI will handle all the paperwork and send you an IRS receipt for your tax deduction.

If you have any questions about tax deduction matters, you should always consult with your attorney, accountant, or qualified person before claiming any deduction.

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM VSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN W. JONES



On behalf of all of us at the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, I hope you and your family are eager to welcome the return of spring to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Leading up to the busy prom and graduation season, Virginia Sheriffs will be sending a message to students throughout the Commonwealth: underage drinking is not legal and will not be tolerated.

That's why law enforcement officers in Virginia will be stepping up enforcement efforts to make sure everyone's safe during this time of celebration for students and their families. In addition, we will be working closely with school officials to stress the importance of making responsible decisions that will prevent alcohol-related crashes and ensure our teens stay safe and alcohol-free on the roads.

If you have any information about underage drinking parties in your community, you can contact your Sheriff's office anonymously.

I want you to know it is my privilege to serve as Executive Director of VSI and I urge you to contact your Sheriff's office if you have any questions about the legislation we discuss in this issue of the VSI newsletter, or for any other concerns about crime prevention or public safety efforts in your community.

I deeply appreciate your involvement as a loyal supporter of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute.

Sincerely,

John W. Jones, Executive Director
Virginia Sheriffs' Institute
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 706
Richmond, VA 23219

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

One of the many benefits the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute offers to our community is our scholarship program. This award — which is funded by generous VSI supporters like you — is granted to full-time or part-time students majoring in criminal justice and attending a Virginia state college or university. With the help of loyal members like you, we've awarded 64 scholarships for 2011-2012 to Virginia's youth.

Scholarship applications may be downloaded from our website or picked up in your local Sheriff's office. In addition to the application, students must submit SAT scores, transcripts, and an essay. A full list of application materials can be found at <http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>. Applications are due May 1, 2012.

The screenshot shows the 'Online Scholarship Application' form on the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute website. The form is divided into several sections: 'PERSONAL DATA' (Name, Home Street Address, City, State, Zip, Telephone No., Resident Sheriff, Email), 'EDUCATION' (High School Name, Year Graduated, High School Address, College/University Attending, College Street Address, City, State, Zip), and 'Academic Status' (Indicate your class status for the academic year 2012-2013). There are also sidebars for 'Virginia Sheriffs' Directory', 'Join Mailing List', 'VSI News Bulletin', and 'Become a Member'.

We Want to Hear from You ...

Drop us a note, give us a call, or send us an email.



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The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute does not solicit donations by telephone.