

Payday Lenders Target Specific Districts in Virginia

A recent report from the Bureau of Financial Institutions shows that **certain areas in Virginia have become inundated with payday loan shops charging interest rates as high as 390% APR, trapping all customers in a vicious cycle of debt.** You have probably noticed this proliferation. An analysis of the Bureau's data reveals that payday lenders target specific areas, and therefore customers – those that are typically more vulnerable to their practices - like military families or urban neighborhood inhabitants. Refer to the following table to see if your district has been targeted and how it stacks up against others in Virginia.

Virginia Senate

Payday Lenders	Rank	Senator	Payday Lenders	Rank	Senator
42	1	Miller	19	16	Hanger
38	2	Quayle	16	17	McDougle
38	2	Wampler	15	18	Puller
37	3	Wagner	14	19	Norment
36	4	Locke	14	9	Houck
34	5	Reynolds	13	20	Obenshain
33	6	Williams	12	21	Deeds
32	7	Lucas	10	22	Martin
31	8	Hawkins	9	23	Colgan
31	8	Newman	9	23	Ticer
30	9	Lambert	8	24	Watkins
30	9	Ruff	8	24	Potts
27	10	Bell	8	24	Whipple
26	11	Marsh	7	25	Chichester
26	11	Puckett	5	26	Saslaw
24	12	Rerras	5	26	Cuccinelli
23	13	Edwards	3	27	Herring
21	14	Stosch	3	27	O'Brien
21	14	Blevins	1	28	Davis
20	15	Stolle	0	29	Howell

Note: Ranking ranges from #1 (most payday lenders) to #29 (zero payday lenders).

Because there are more than 2 payday lenders for each McDonalds in Virginia and an industry report shows a growth rate of payday lenders at double that of Starbucks, this condition will only worsen. No district is safe, even if there are little or no storefronts currently operating.

The **Virginia Partnership to Encourage Responsible Lending (VaPERL)** is a coalition working to reduce the dangers of predatory lending in Virginia. Members from organizations around the state include: *AARP, Virginia Poverty Law Center, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Richmond Better Business Bureau, Legal Aid Justice Center, Virginia Organizing Project, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, NAACP Virginia State Conference, Piedmont Housing Alliance, Virginia Muslim Coalition for Public Affairs, Peninsula Community Development Corporation, New River Community Action, Voices for Virginia's Children, Tidewater Sowers of Justice* and others.

If you are interested in learning more about predatory lending in Virginia or would like to join our listserve, please contact Helen O'Beirne, Responsible Lending Coordinator, at 804.643.2474 or helen@viginiainterfaithcenter.org.

Virginia House of Delegates

Payday Lenders			Payday Lenders			Payday Lenders		
Rank	Delegate	Payday Lenders	Rank	Delegate	Payday Lenders	Rank	Delegate	Payday Lenders
1	Howell, A.	25	13	Welch	4	19	Hull	4
2	Crockett-Stark	21	13	Byron	4	19	Amundson	4
2	Marshall, D.	21	13	Cox	4	19	Eisenberg	4
3	Johnson	20	14	Fralin	3	20	Marshall, B.	3
4	Tata	19	14	Saxman	3	20	McQuigg	3
5	Joannou	18	14	Lohr	3	20	Toscano	3
5	Melvin	18	14	Morgan	3	20	Caputo	3
5	Wardrup	18	15	Bowling	3	20	Purkey	3
5	Ward	18	15	Sherwood	3	20	Peace	3
5	Oder	18	15	Jones, D.	2	21	Gilbert	2
6	Hogan	17	15	McClellan	2	21	Athey	2
6	Alexander	17	15	Cosgrove	2	21	Lingamfelter	2
7	Ware, O.	16	15	Lewis	2	21	May	2
7	O'Bannon	16	16	Ebbin	2	21	Hugo	2
8	Wright	15	16	Hargrove	2	21	Englin	2
8	McEachin	15	16	Rapp	2	21	Moran	2
9	Armstrong	14	17	Kilgore	2	21	Scott, J.	2
9	Valentine	14	17	Landes	2	21	Abbitt	2
9	BaCote	14	17	Howell	2	21	Wittman	2
10	Carrico	13	17	Waddell	1	22	Bulova	1
10	Hamilton	13	17	Suit	1	22	Watts	1
11	Nutter	12	18	Putney	1	22	Marsden	1
11	Dance	12	18	Frederick	1	22	Albo	1
11	Hall	12	18	Orrock	1	22	Sickles	1
12	Cline	11	18	Bell	1	22	Brink	1
12	Tyler	11	18	Ingram	1	22	Janis	1
12	Jones, C.	11	18	Barlow	1	22	Ware, L.	1
12	Spruill	11	18	Reid	1	22	Rust	1
12	Iaquinto	11	18	Cole	0	23	Nixon	0
12	Miller	11	18	Gear	0	23	Poisson	0
13	Phillips	10	19	Dudley	0	23	Callahan	0
13	Griffith	10	19	Shuler	0	23	Shannon	0
13	Hurt	10	19	Scott, E.	0	23	Plum	0

Note: Ranking ranges from #1 (most payday lenders) to #23 (zero payday lenders).

*** Please visit VaPERL's website at www.VirginiaFairLoans.org***

There, you will learn more about legislation you can support that will protect Virginians from the predatory practices of payday lenders. Since predatory lending is bad business, it does NOT belong in Virginia.

Please **support HB 619**, Delegate O'Bannon's bill that would repeal the Payday Loan Act of 2002 and bring payday lenders under laws that all other financial institutions abide by. What's fair is fair.

Source: List of Payday Lender Licensees Operating in Virginia as of 8/10/06. Virginia State Corporation Commission, Bureau of Financial Institutions. Retrieved August 15, 2006 from <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/division/banking/news/pay.pdf>