



VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Senator Mamie E. Locke, Vice-Chair

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November 9, 2023

1:00 PM

House Room #1

Capitol Building

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PROPOSED AGENDA (Annotated)

Electronic Meetings Subcommittee of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

- 1. Call to Order, introduction of members.**
- 2. Study issue: Participation in electronic meetings by members of public bodies with disabilities.** *At its meeting on July 27, 2023, the FOIA Council directed the Subcommittee to study issues regarding the conduct of electronic meetings, particularly whether there should be additional opportunities for members of public bodies with disabilities to use electronic means to participate, in response to public comments received at that time.*
- 3. Public Comment.** *The Council has received numerous public comments via email regarding expanding the use of electronic meetings, all of which are posted on the 2023 Subcommittee [webpage](#). Many of the comments received express support for [House Bill 2050](#) (2023, Bennett-Parker); we have also received comment asking the Subcommittee to consider [Senate Bill 1351](#) (2023, Marsden). Please note that neither bill was referred to the FOIA Council by the General Assembly, but both are summarized below for reference.*

HB 2050 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings; local and regional public bodies. Allows, with certain exceptions, local and regional public bodies to convene as many all-virtual public meetings as each such public body deems acceptable in its individual remote participation meeting policy, to be adopted at least once annually by recorded vote at a public meeting. Current law limits all-virtual public meetings to no more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever

is greater, and prohibits any such meeting from being held consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.

SB 1351 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings; local and regional public bodies. Allows, with certain exceptions, local and regional public bodies to convene no more than 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number as an all-virtual public meeting. Current law limits all-virtual public meetings to no more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, and prohibits any such meeting from being held consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.

- 4. **Discussion.**
- 5. **Recommendations.**
- 6. **Other Business.**
- 7. **Adjournment.**

Subcommittee Members

**Senator Mamie E. Locke
Cullen Seltzer**

Bruce Potter

Staff

Alan Gernhardt, Esq., Executive Director
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