

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 11:50 AM Joyce Wenger <joyce@wengerandwenger.com> wrote:

FOIA Council Members -

I am writing in support of HB 2050 that enables greater flexibility in the use of electronic meetings by local and regional bodies while providing for public access and administrative record keeping. I am a member, volunteer, and board member of Rapp at Home, a non profit organization focusing on supporting older adults in Rappahannock County.

The current Virginia Freedom of Information Act allows only 25% of public body meetings to be conducted electronically. This restriction applies to local advisory boards and commissions, such as the Commission on Aging. The requirement for board and commission members to meet in person disproportionately excludes older adults from taking part in these civic leadership activities. Cost and distance can be barriers to in-person attendance. In addition many older adults do not drive and there is no public transportation in Rappahannock County. Electronic meetings would expand the opportunity for membership by a broader segment of the community.

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