

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 10:55 AM Bob Eiffert <michaelandbob@comcast.net> wrote:

My name is Robert Eiffert and I live at 1418 Juliana Place in Alexandria, VA. I am writing in strong support of Del. Bennett-Parker's HB 2050 to allow local advisory boards and commissions to meet virtually. Commissions on aging and disability services boards find it especially difficult to attract members when they have to travel to in-person meetings. Quorums are an issue, and individuals with any kind of transportation challenges are precluded from becoming members due to the in-person attendance requirements. Virtual public meetings are open to anyone and no one is excluded from becoming a full voting member and to be counted toward a quorum in the virtual meeting. One opponent last year was from the media, who complained that they couldn't interview someone in a virtual setting. That is incorrect, because the public meetings have to disclose who is in attendance and contact information of members is public record. I urge the FOIA Council to change its position and allow virtual public meetings as stipulated in HB 2050. Thank you for your consideration.