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## Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

### SB 324 Workgroup

July 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

[foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov](https://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov)

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The SB 324 Workgroup (the Workgroup) under the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council (the FOIA Council) met virtually facilitated by Council staff. The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by discussion. Meeting materials are accessible through the [Council's 2024 Subcommittees webpage](#).

### **Study Issue: Provisions on Charges by Public Bodies for the Production of Public Records**

Senate Bill 324 (Roem, 2024) provides that the Freedom of Information Advisory Council (Council) shall convene a work group "to examine the current FOIA provisions on charges and make recommendations on ways to amend such provisions to make the assessment of charges by public bodies for the production of public records more uniform, more transparent, easier to understand, and less costly." The bill sets forth the following directives for the completion of the study:

- The work group "shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2024, and present its findings and recommendations for consideration by the FOIA Council at its meeting in December 2024."
- After the work group completes its work, the "chairman of the FOIA Council shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of the work group's findings and recommendations with any additional comments by the FOIA Council no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly."
- Finally, the "executive summary shall state whether the FOIA Council intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website."

After discussions, workgroup participants adopted the proposed study plan presented by Council staff but chose to forego further consideration of fee waivers and separate fee provisions for criminal records. The workgroup by consensus decided to focus future agendas on specific areas to include the initial request and negotiation on scope, processing requests, and larger, overarching structural issues.

### **Next Meeting**

The Workgroup is scheduled to meet virtually on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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For more information, see the [\*Council's website\*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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