



## **Written Testimony of the Virginia School Boards Association**

July 7, 2025, Meeting of the Freedom of Information Council's Subcommittee on Meetings, Re: Senate Bill 876 (2025 Session of the Virginia General Assembly):

The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) submits this written comment at the request of the FOIA Subcommittee on Meetings regarding debate over Senate Bill 876 which was referred to the FOIA Council during the 2025 session of the Virginia General Assembly. VSBA does not have a specific legislative position on the topic being addressed in the legislation. However, VSBA strongly supports local control, including each school division's authority to determine how agendas are developed and used in meetings. VSBA also supports school boards' ability to fulfill their constitutional obligations to supervise their local school divisions in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

VSBA has concerns about legislative mandates that (1) alter the foundational principles of how agendas are proposed and adopted, and (2) restrict a school board's flexibility to effectively carry out its constitutional duties in a timely manner. We feel this legislation is attempting to legislate an anecdotal situation that is rare, and remedies are available to the voters/constituents through other means.

Please do not hesitate to contact VSBA at (434) 295-8722 if we can be of assistance to the commission. You may also email VSBA Executive Director, Gina Patterson at [gina@vsba.org](mailto:gina@vsba.org), or VSBA Director of Legislative Services, J.T. Kessler at [jason@vsba.org](mailto:jason@vsba.org). We are here to be a sounding board and to provide feedback on legislation and its potential impact on school boards in the Commonwealth. Thank you for your service to the people of Virginia.