



Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

Meetings Subcommittee

June 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

House Room B, Room 205, General Assembly Building

foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov

The Meetings Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the 1B Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council (the Council) met in Richmond with Maria J.K. Everett, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by discussion. Materials presented at the meeting, as well as all written public comments, are accessible through the [Council's 2025 Subcommittees webpage](#).²

Presentation, Public Comment, and Discussion: SB 876 (Ebbin, 2025)

Senator Adam P. Ebbin presented a brief overview of SB 876, summarizing its intent to require public bodies subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to include a proposed agenda and any subsequent revisions to be posted on the public body's official public government website, if any, and made available to the public prior to the meeting. The bill provides that any items added to the agenda after the meeting commences may be considered and discussed at the meeting, but that final action shall not be taken on such an item unless the matter is time-sensitive or is the subject of a closed session properly identified in a motion in accordance with § 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia.³

Jason Morgan, a private citizen attorney and parliamentarian, stated that he suggested an amendment to the bill during the 2025 Session of the General Assembly that addressed how public bodies should handle the recognition of action items that are not included on the agenda prior to a meeting. Discussion ensued on whether the bill should be amended to include specific parliamentary procedures including requiring a two-thirds majority vote and thresholds on limits and extensions of time.

Megan Rhyne, Director of the Virginia Coalition of Open Government, clarified that the primary focus of the bill is on the potential impact of action items on the public, not parliamentary procedures.

The chair encouraged subcommittee members and members of the public to email their suggestions and concerns to staff by June 30, 2025, to be heard at the next subcommittee meeting.

¹ **Members Present:** Maria J.K. Everett (chair), Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Chidi James, Lola Perkins, Esq., Ken Reid (virtual)

Members Absent: None

² A recording of the meeting can be found on the [Virginia House of Delegates Committee archived page](#).

³ At Senator Ebbin's suggestion, the Subcommittee is working with the version of [HB 876](#) offered on February 11, 2025, by the House Committee on General Laws as the basis for its discussions.

Presentation, Public Comment, and Discussion: Other Issues

Council staff

Council staff provided an overview of a study request the subcommittee received from the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth. Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker suggested that the Joint Subcommittee reference "Best Practices Recommendations for All-Virtual Public Meetings," included as the appendix to the *Electronic Meetings Guide* on the FOIA [website](#).

Additionally, Council staff provided an overview of an issue regarding stakeholder group meetings that was brought to the Council at its last meeting. Philip F. Abraham, Director and General Counsel at the Vectre Corporation, noted that stakeholder group meetings at the state level, consisting of interested parties, are being treated inconsistently by different state agencies. Some agencies claim that these meetings must adhere to FOIA meeting rules, while others differentiate them from public bodies. Mr. Abraham asked that the Subcommittee study this issue, specifically with regard to these meetings and the definitions outlined in FOIA.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for July 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

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

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