VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Monday, September 22, 2025 - 1:00 PM
House Room B, General Assembly Building
Richmond, Virginia

Note: This meeting will be held in person and live streamed at
https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/committees/commstream.html

SUGGESTED AGENDA
ANNOTATED

1. **Call to Order; introduction of members.** *Welcome to new member Jacob R. "Jake" Lambert, Assistant General Counsel at the Office of the Attorney General, replacing Ryan Ferguson as the designee of the Attorney General of Virginia.*

2. **Subcommittee Reports.**

   - **Records Subcommittee.** *The Subcommittee consists of Council members Lola Perkins (Chair), Maria J.K. Everett, Corrine Louden, and Dwayne Yancey. The Subcommittee has met three times to consider HB 1590 (Kent, 2025), whether there should be a definition of "personal information" in FOIA, and issues concerning vexatious requests or harassment by requesters. The Subcommittee has voted unanimously to recommend an amended version of HB 1590 to the Council for its consideration.*

   - **Meetings Subcommittee.** *The Subcommittee consists of Council members Maria J.K. Everett (Chair), Delegate Elizabeth Bennet-Parker, Chidi James, Lola Perkins, and Ken Reid. The Subcommittee has met three times to consider SB 876 (Ebbin, 2025), a study referral from the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth, stakeholder meeting and SB 876. The Subcommittee reported an amended version of SB 876 to the Council at*

its last meeting, but the Council deferred further consideration on the amended draft until today. The Subcommittee invited representatives from affected state agencies to its meeting held earlier today to give further consideration to the issue of stakeholder group meetings and consider draft language amending the definition of "public body."

3. **Training approval process.** *As described in the 2025 Legislative Update presented at the Council's last meeting, HB 2152 (Carr, 2025) amends FOIA's training requirements to provide that any legal counsel for a public body who is also designated as the public body's FOIA office) shall complete a training session or online course offered or approved by the Council. The Council has never approved training courses presented by others before so will need to establish a training approval process. At its last meeting the Council considered a training application form developed by staff and directed staff to develop further criteria for approval, including having course providers send a list of attendees to the Council, to inquire on the approval application whether the course provider would charge a fee and if so, how much, and to have an expedited approval process for courses that are already approved for continuing legal education credit from the Virginia State Bar.*

4. **Bills from the 2025 Session of the General Assembly that include the FOIA Council on studies.**

- HB 2452 (Hodges). Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; governing boards; public access to meetings; uniform minimal standards. Establishes several requirements, subject to a reenactment clause, relating to public access to meetings of the governing boards of baccalaureate public institutions of higher education. The bill also requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council and a representative from the Library of Virginia, to work with the public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and with technology experts to develop minimal uniform standards, to the extent practicable, for (i) providing the public with real-time access to the meetings of governing boards of public institutions of higher education and the meetings of committees of such boards, (ii) archiving the recordings of such meetings, and (iii) taking minutes at such meetings. The bill requires any such minimal uniform standards to be implemented by each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth no later than July 1, 2026. At its last meeting, Council member Maria J.K. Everett volunteered to represent the Council on this study.

5. **Judicial Update.**

6. **Other Business.**

7. **Public Comment.**

8. **Adjournment.**

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Council Members

Delegate Marcus B. Simon
Senator Richard H. Stuart
Chad Owen
Jacob R. "Jake" Lambert
Maria J.K. Everett
Corrine Louden
Lindsay Fisher
Senator Mamie E. Locke, Vice- Chair
Delegate Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker
Amigo Wade
Chidi James
Ken Reid
Lola Rodriguez Perkins
Dwayne Yancey

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Brenda Fisher, Administrative Assistant

The FOIA Council's website is: http:// foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov. To assist us in providing Internet dissemination of materials, presenters are requested to submit written comments and handouts in electronic format by email to staff prior to meetings. Presenters are also requested to bring 20 copies of their remarks or handouts to meetings. These copies will be provided to FOIA Council members and the public.
E-mail: foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov.