

# 2026 SESSION

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**SENATE BILL NO. 431**

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23.1-2402 and 23.1-2403 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority; board of directors; chief executive officer.*

Patron—Bagby

Referred to Committee on Rules

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 23.1-2402 and 23.1-2403 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 23.1-2402. Board of directors; membership; meetings; officers; employees.**

A. The Authority shall be governed by a board of directors with a total of ~~24~~ 16 members that consists of ~~19~~ 13 appointed members and ~~two~~ three ex officio members. The ~~19~~ 13 appointed members shall consist of ~~six~~ five nonlegislative citizen members to be appointed by the Governor, of whom ~~two~~ one shall be a physician-faculty ~~members~~ member; ~~five~~ four members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, of whom ~~two~~ one shall be a physician-faculty ~~members~~ member; three members to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, of whom one shall be a physician-faculty member; and ~~five~~ one nonlegislative citizen ~~members~~ member of the board of visitors of the University to be appointed by the rector of the board of visitors of the University; ~~all of whom~~ who shall be ~~members~~ a member of the board of visitors of the University at all times while serving on the board. The ~~President of the University and the Senior Vice-President for Health Sciences of the University, or the individual who holds such other title as subsequently may be established by the board of visitors of the University for the chief academic and administrative officer for the Health Sciences Schools of the University, and the chief executive officer of the Authority shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. The President of the University shall serve ex officio without voting privileges.~~

All appointed members except those who are members of the board of visitors of the University shall have demonstrated experience or expertise in business, *commercial real estate, finance, health care* system management, or legal affairs. *Each such area of demonstrated experience or expertise shall be represented amongst such appointed members at any given time.*

*A majority of the 16 total members of the board shall have no direct affiliation with the University or the Authority outside of such members' service on the board.*

B. The ~~five~~ three appointed physician-faculty members shall be faculty members of the University with hospital privileges at MCV Hospitals at all times while serving on the board.

C. The Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Senate Committee on Rules shall *each* appoint a physician-faculty ~~members~~ member as required pursuant to subsection A after consideration of names from *lists* a list submitted by the faculty physicians of the School of Medicine of the University through the Senior Vice-President for Health Sciences of the University, or the individual who holds such other title as subsequently may be established by the board of visitors of the University for the chief academic and administrative officer for the Health Sciences Schools of the University. The list shall contain at least two names for each vacancy.

D. Members shall serve for terms of ~~three~~ four years. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term. No member shall serve for more than two consecutive ~~three-year~~ four-year terms; however, a member appointed to serve an unexpired term is eligible to serve two consecutive ~~three-year~~ four-year terms. Members who serve two consecutive ~~three-year~~ four-year terms are eligible for reappointment one year after the expiration of their second term. All appointments are subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Members shall continue to hold office until their successors have been appointed and confirmed. Ex officio members shall serve a term coincident with their term of office.

E. Neither the board ~~members~~ member appointed from the board of visitors of the University nor the ex officio members with voting privileges shall vote on matters that require them to breach their fiduciary duties to the University or to the Authority.

F. Any member may be removed for malfeasance, misfeasance, incompetence, or gross neglect of duty by the individual or entity that appointed him or, if such appointing individual no longer holds the office creating the right of appointment, by the current holder of that office.

G. *The president of the University shall serve as the chairman of the board.* The board shall elect *annually* biennially a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership who have served for at least two years on the board. *Neither the President of the University nor any other employee of the University, employee of the Authority, member of the board of visitors of the University, or legislative member is eligible to serve as*

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59     *the chairman of the board.* The board shall also elect a secretary and treasurer and such assistant secretaries  
60 and assistant treasurers as the board may authorize for terms determined by the board, each of whom may or  
61 may not be a member of the board. The same individual may serve as both secretary and treasurer.

62     H. The board may appoint an executive committee and other standing or special committees and prescribe  
63 their duties and powers, and any executive committee may exercise all such powers and duties of the board  
64 under this chapter as the board may delegate.

65     I. The board may provide for the appointment, employment, term, compensation, and removal of officers,  
66 employees, and agents of the Authority, including engineers, consultants, lawyers, and accountants, as the  
67 board deems appropriate.

68     J. The board shall meet at least four times each year and may hold such special meetings as it deems  
69 appropriate.

70     K. The board may adopt, amend, and repeal such policies, regulations, procedures, and bylaws not  
71 contrary to law or inconsistent with this chapter as it deems expedient for its own governance and for the  
72 governance and management of the Authority.

73     L. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for meetings, and the board may act by a majority of  
74 those present at any meeting.

75     M. Legislative board members are entitled to such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12 and  
76 nonlegislative citizen board members are entitled to such compensation for the performance of their duties as  
77 provided in § 2.2-2813. All members are entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary expenses  
78 incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of  
79 compensation and expenses of the members shall be provided by the Authority.

80     N. The provisions of the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (§ 2.2-3100 et seq.) shall  
81 apply to the members of the board and the employees of the Authority.

82     **§ 23.1-2403. Chief executive officer of the Authority.**

83     A. The Authority shall be under the immediate supervision and direction of a chief executive officer,  
84 subject to the policies and direction established by the board. The ~~chief executive officer may be the~~  
85 individual who holds the title of Senior Vice-President for Health Sciences of Virginia Commonwealth  
86 University, or such other title as subsequently may be established by the board of visitors of the University  
87 for the chief academic and administrative officer for the Health Sciences Schools of the University, *is not*  
88 *eligible to serve as chief executive officer of the Authority but shall regularly communicate and collaborate*  
89 *with such chief executive officer to support the mutual interests and success of the University and the*  
90 *Authority.* Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the selection and removal of the chief  
91 executive officer, and the conditions of appointment, including salary, shall be made jointly by the board and  
92 the board of visitors of the University at a joint meeting of the board and the board of visitors of the  
93 University upon a vote of a majority of the members of each board present and voting at the aforementioned  
94 joint meeting, acting separately in accordance with applicable provisions of law.

95     B. In the event that a majority of the members of each board do not agree upon the selection, removal, or  
96 conditions of appointment, including salary, of the chief executive officer as provided in subsection A, then  
97 each board shall appoint a committee of three members of its respective board to consider the matter upon  
98 which the boards disagree. *The individual who is appointed to both the board of visitors of the University*  
99 *pursuant to subsection A of § 23.1-2303 and the board pursuant to subsection A of § 23.1-2402 is not eligible*  
100 *to serve as a member of either such committee.* The selection, removal, or conditions of appointment shall be  
101 made jointly by the two committees at a joint meeting of the committees upon a vote by a majority of the  
102 members of each committee present and voting at the joint meeting. In the event that a majority of the  
103 members of each committee agree upon the selection, removal, or conditions of appointment of the chief  
104 executive officer, then the decision shall be reported to the board and the board of visitors of the University,  
105 each of which shall be bound by the decision of the committees.

106     C. In the event that a majority of the members of each committee do not agree on the selection, removal,  
107 or conditions of appointment of the chief executive officer within 30 days of the appointment of the  
108 committees by each board, then the president of the University shall decide upon the matter upon which the  
109 committees disagree. *The president of the University shall report his decision to both boards, each of which*  
110 *shall be bound by the decision of the president no further action shall be taken.*

111     D. *In the event that a majority of the members of each committee do not agree on the selection or*  
112 *conditions of appointment of the chief executive officer within 30 days of the appointment of the committees*  
113 *by each board, then the process set forth in subsection A and, if necessary, subsection B shall be repeated*  
114 *until such selection has been made or such conditions of appointment have been determined.*

115     E. The chief executive officer shall devote his full time to the performance of his official duties and  
116 shall not be engaged in any other profession or occupation.

117     F. The chief executive officer shall supervise and administer the operation of the Authority in  
118 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

119     **2. That the provisions of this act that amend subsection D of § 23.1-2402 of the Code of Virginia shall**  
120 **apply to each individual who is appointed as a member of the board of directors of the Virginia**

121 Commonwealth University Health System Authority on or after July 1, 2026.  
122 3. That notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of § 23.1-2402 of the Code of Virginia, as  
123 amended by this act, any physician-faculty member who is serving a term on the board of directors of  
124 the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority as of June 30, 2026, is eligible to  
125 serve the remainder of such term.  
126 4. That notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of § 23.1-2403 of the Code of Virginia, as  
127 amended by this act, the individual who serves in the role of chief executive officer of the Virginia  
128 Commonwealth University Health System Authority (the Authority) as of June 30, 2026, shall continue  
129 in such role until the date on which the board of directors of the Authority appoints such individual's  
130 successor in accordance with the provisions of this act.

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