

## Virginia Disability Commission:

- Purpose:** "...to identify and recommend legislative priorities and policies for adoption or examination by the General Assembly in order to provide ongoing support in developing and reviewing services and funding related to Virginians with physical and sensory disabilities." (§30-232)
- Powers & Duties:**
1. Serve as the primary forum in the Commonwealth where the needs and issues of people with disabilities are addressed through the collaboration of members of the legislative and executive branches of state government, and citizens of the Commonwealth;
  2. Evaluate and advance budget proposals and policy issues oriented towards a service system that maximizes the self-sufficiency of Virginians with disabilities;
  3. Develop and review recommendations for service program changes and funding related to services for persons with physical and sensory disabilities; and
  4. Advise on local, state and federal policies and programs relevant to citizens with disabilities (§ 30-236).
  5. *Serve as the primary body for coordinating proposals and recommendations of all commissions and agencies for legislation or budget actions affecting persons with physical and sensory disabilities, including receiving, reviewing, and responding to proposals and recommendations (HB 1514).*
- Meetings:** Meetings shall be held "upon the call of the chairman or at such time as the majority of the members of the Commission so request." A quorum exists when a majority of the members of the Commission are present (§30-234).
- Budget:** \$25,554 for 2011.
- Report:** *The Disability Commission shall submit its recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor by October 1 of each year (HB1514).*
- An executive summary of the actions of the Disability Commission shall be submitted to the Division of Legislative Automated Services and posted on the General Assembly website by the first day of the regular session of the General Assembly (§ 30-238).
- Expiration:** Chapter 35 of Title 30, establishing the Disability Commission, shall expire on July 1, 2012 unless legislation extending the sunset of the Commission is enacted during the 2012 Session of the General Assembly (§ 30-239).

**Workgroups:** During the 2011 interim, the Disability Commission will have three work groups, focused on (1) housing and transportation, (2) education and employment, and (3) public services for persons with physical and sensory disabilities. Work groups will consist of members of the Disability Commission, representatives of state agencies, and representatives of other stakeholder groups.

**Proposed meeting schedule for 2011**

<b>Disability Commission Meeting #1</b>	May 18, 2011	Overview Legislative, budget, agency updates Work plan
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Work Group Meetings</b>	Work groups will meet to identify issues, receive information, and discuss preliminary recommendations to be presented to the full Disability Commission.	
<b>Disability Commission Meeting #2</b>	June 2011	Work group reports Report: Taxation of Trusts Report: Assistive Technology for Students Additional information requested by the Commission
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Work Group Meetings</b>	Work groups will meet to continue to identify issues, receive information, and discuss recommendations.	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Work Group Meetings</b>	Work groups will meet to receive information, and finalize recommendations to be presented to the full Disability Commission at its next meeting.	
<b>Disability Commission Meeting #3</b>	August 2011	Work Group Reports Additional information requested by the Commission Discussion of recommendations
<i>* Recommendations submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor by October 1, 2011 *</i>		
<b>Disability Commission Meeting #4</b>	November 2011 (optional)	Review of draft legislation and budget items
<b>Disability Commission Meeting #5</b>	January 2012	Review legislation & assign patrons Review Governor's proposed budget

**Topics for 2011:**

- Continued access to assistive technology for students (HB2014)
- Taxation of trusts established for disabled individuals (HB1880/SB1175)
- Funding for the Consumer Services Fund (\$500,000 recommended in 2010)