



**Cyber Security Advisory Committee
Delegate Tom D. Rust, Chairman
Wednesday, June 5, 2013 1:00 p.m.
House Room C, General Assembly Building**

Delegate Tom Rust called the meeting to order, and the members introduced themselves. The Cyber Security Advisory Committee is continuing the work begun on cyber security during the 2012 Interim.

- ◆ Update on State's Semper Secure -- Virginia Cyber Security Leadership Initiative

Cameron Kilberg, Assistant Secretary of Technology and Senior Policy Advisory, provided the committee with an update on the Governor's "Semper Secure" initiative. She indicated that the project is a public/private partnership aimed at promoting cyber security, and related business and workforce, in the Commonwealth in order to help Virginia grow as a cyber-security hub. They are in the process of relaunching the Semper Secure website, and want to begin to focus on higher education and workforce development. In response to questions, Ms. Cameron indicated that there is interest in looking at training opportunities for local government, and that Semper Secure is collaborating with the parallel cyber security accelerator at the Center for Innovative Technology.

- ◆ Cyber Security Center of Excellence

Scott Phillpott, Senior Cyber/Maritime Analyst at Valkyrie Enterprises LLC, Don Broadway, Senior Consulting Manager at Valkyrie Enterprises LLC, and Raymond White, Business Development Manager, City of Virginia Beach -- Economic Development, presented an overview of the "Cyber Center of Excellence" (C2E) being developed in Virginia Beach. The center will provide opportunities for technical education and community outreach, and hopes to be a regional resource for cyber security compliance. A copy of the presentation is available on the JCOTS website.

- ◆ Electronic Voting -- SB 830 (2013)
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Senate Bill 830 was introduced during the 2013 Session of the General Assembly by Senator Toddy Puller. It passed out of the Senate, but was referred to JCOTS for further study by the House Committee on Privileges and Elections. The bill would allow military personnel stationed overseas to send back ballots to the State Board of Elections electronically. Because the bill was referred to JCOTS due to concerns about the technology that would be used for returning ballots electronically, and related security concerns, JCOTS referred it to the Cyber Security Advisory Committee for further review.

After Senator Puller provided an overview of her bill, the Committee received public comment. A veteran, speaking in favor of the bill, noted that it is difficult for overseas military to get mail. He noted that every military member has an identification card that is used to access the military computer system. He suggested that Virginia should work with the Department of Defense to develop a balloting system that uses this identification. A member of the Military Officers Association of America also spoke in favor of the bill, reiterating the difficulties that overseas military often have in voting.

Don Palmer, Secretary of the State Board of Elections, also spoke in support of the bill on behalf of the State Board of Elections. He said that the Board's job is to facilitate the vote of every voter in Virginia. He said that the military postal system has issues with timely delivery, and that the military community is currently very disenfranchised. He spoke of the need to find or develop a solution that assists with the return of ballots. Texas and Connecticut have also recently passed legislation that would allow electronic return of ballots, and Secretary Palmer said that there are no reports of an actual ballot being intercepted or manipulated. People want to vote, and they need to be provided the opportunity to do so.

Alex Blakemore, representing Virginia Verified Voting, spoke in opposition to the bill. He said that his organization wants to enfranchise the military, but does not want to sacrifice the integrity of an election in doing so. He stated that providing a ballot electronically satisfies most of the problems related to overseas military voting. While many other transactions -- such as banking -- are conducted online, the same safeguards are not present for secret ballots as they are for these other transactions. He noted that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) declined to issue standards for electronic voting because of security concerns. Instead, NIST indicated that it was an area that needed additional research. In terms of SB 830 specifically, Mr. Blakemore raised concerns that the bill did not include any specific details related to security. Finally, he noted that the District of Columbia conducted a mock electronic election in 2010 and opened it to ethical hackers, who were able to hack into the voting system.

Julie Dime, also representing Virginia Verified Voting, noted that concerns with SB 830 during the 2013 Session related to fraud, and the costs associated with the proposed program. She indicated that the House of Delegates was cautious to open the door to electronic voting, and suggested that Virginia Verified Voting would be open to a pilot conducted using a mock election.

After the public comment period, staff presented a brief overview of the specific components of SB 830 and electronic voting in general.

Next, the Committee members discussed various elements of the bill, raising questions and considerations for future discussions. The Committee expressed an interest in learning more about the specific process that the State Board of Elections would use for the electronic return of ballots, and raised questions about the transmission and storage of returned ballots. It was suggested that the committee might play a role in suggesting elements that should be included in an electronic voting project. It was also suggested that the state Chief Information Officer should play a role in establishing any security standards related to electronic voting.

Delegate Rust asked the committee to forward to staff any thoughts or suggestions as to what a bill related to electronic voting might look like, as well as suggestions as to whether or not such a bill should be recommended to JCOTS and the 2014 Session of the General Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Monday, July 15 at 1:00 p.m.

