

Meeting Summary May 3, 2006

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006, 10:00 A.M.
HOUSE ROOM D, GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

***Via teleconference from 510 Cumberland Street, Suite 308; Bristol,
Virginia 24201***

Call to Order and Welcome

Today was the first meeting of the Commission for the 2006 interim.

Election of 2006 Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Delegate May's first order of business was to vote for a chairman and vice-chairman. Delegate May was nominated and elected to continue his present position as chairman of the commission. Senator Watkins was nominated and elected to assume the position of vice-chairman.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Commission Members

Delegate May gave a brief introduction of JCOTS, highlighting its role as the primary policy making body for science- and technology-related legislation in the General Assembly. The majority of work performed by JCOTS is conducted through topic-specific advisory committees comprised of both legislative and citizen members. This year's advisory committees will be operated differently from past years. This year each legislative member of JCOTS will serve as chair for at least one advisory committee, which will generally consist of no more than twelve citizen members. The change was made to allow advisory committees to group experts in specific fields together with a more focused work plan.

Delegate May expressed his desire for JCOTS to provide a better record of the discussions and conclusions drawn by the advisory committees. To help achieve this goal, JCOTS staff is updating the JCOTS website with new features and plans to prepare issue briefs throughout the interim to better inform the legislative members of the progress of the various advisory committees. Additionally, Delegate May has set additional meetings of the full commission to help keep legislative members better informed throughout the interim.

The Secretary of Technology, *The Honorable Aneesh P. Chopra*

Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra began his introduction with the theme of his office: The Spirit of Collaboration. Secretary Chopra explained that Governor Kaine wants to work with the Commonwealth's current technology partners, continue education initiatives in the areas of math, science, and technology, and instill public sector excellence. He identified three major questions he would like to answer during his tenure as the Secretary of Technology:

1. How do we make Virginia's government more efficient?
2. How do we break down the walls to allow the free flow of information within government?
3. How do we leverage technology to make government better?

Secretary Chopra highlighted health care and transportation as two of the more important issues that needed his immediate attention. Additionally, he mentioned Governor Kaine's interest in energy issues and bringing Virginia to the forefront of new energy technologies. At the completion of his presentation, Senator Watkins commented on the importance of developing new sources of energy and expressed interest in nuclear power research at Virginia Tech that is focused on producing energy from unenriched fuels.

2006 JCOTS & Technology-Related Legislation

Staff Attorney Patrick Cushing gave a brief overview of some of the more significant technology legislation that passed the General Assembly during the 2006 Session. The summary is available on the JCOTS website under the materials link for the May 3 meeting.

Overview of 2006 Topics of Study & Work Plan

JCOTS Director Lisa Wallmeyer reviewed the JCOTS work plan for the 2006 interim (available on the JCOTS website under the materials link for the May 3 meeting). In addition to the advisory committees, JCOTS attorneys are staffing a noise wall study, a telework study, and a technology education study assigned to the Division of Legislative Services. The 2006 work plan consists of the following advisory committees:

- Traffic Management and Technology
- Modeling and Simulation
- Nanotechnology
- Use of Social Security Numbers
- Telework and Telecommuting
- Electronic Medical Records
- Cybercrimes
- State of e-Government
- Alternative Energy
- Real ID Act

- Electronic Balloting

Applications to serve on the Alternative Energy Advisory Committee will be solicited in the near future. Appointments to the other advisory committees can be found on the JCOTS website home page.

Discussion & Other Business

Staff Attorney Patrick Cushing introduced the structure and appearance of the new JCOTS website, which includes a new message board feature. The content will be loaded prior to the first advisory committee meeting of the interim.

Adjournment

Dates for meetings of JCOTS and its advisory committees will be scheduled at a later time.