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## Joint Commission on Technology and Science

April 2, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

Pocahontas Building, House Committee Room

[dls.virginia.gov/commission/jcots.htm](https://dls.virginia.gov/commission/jcots.htm)

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The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) met in Richmond with Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr., chair, presiding.<sup>1</sup> Materials presented at the meeting are accessible on the [JCOTS website](#).

### 2019 Meeting Dates

The meeting began with an update from staff concerning 2019 meeting dates. The proposed meeting dates were July 1 at Wallops Island, mid-September at Virginia Tech, and December 4 in Richmond. There was general consensus in favor of these dates and staff was instructed to continue making preparations.

### Developments in Blockchain Technology

Senator Cosgrove asked Delegate Glenn R. Davis, chairman of the blockchain subcommittee, to report on the status of developments in blockchain technology. Delegate Davis reported that although two proposed bills relating to blockchain technology from the 2019 Session failed, the work in progress on the topic will continue to move the issue forward. He indicated that he had spoken to two companies that have already demonstrated a use case for blockchain in the credentialing of providers in the health care industry. Senator Cosgrove indicated that blockchain continues to be an exciting new technology and asked Delegate Davis whether the blockchain subcommittee should continue to meet during the 2019 interim. Delegate Davis answered in the affirmative and agreed to continue leading the effort.

### 2019 Interim Work Plan

Staff reported that no legislation had been referred to JCOTS for the 2019 interim, and staff was therefore soliciting study topics from the committee at large. Staff presented a document composed of legislation, both passed and failed, related to science and technology from the 2019 Session. At this point, the discussion became broader. Senator Cosgrove indicated that aviation and aerospace continued to be a main area of focus for him, punctuating his statement by announcing that there would be a rocket launch at 4:30 p.m. on April 17 at Wallops Island.

Senator Cosgrove also highlighted cybersecurity as an important topic. He requested that staff work with the private sector to brief the group at least once this year on how the Commonwealth could provide the industry with better workforce development and promote innovation and growth in the industry.

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr., Delegate Glenn R. Davis, Senator Bill R. DeSteph, Jr., Senator Adam P. Ebbin, Delegate Kathy J. Byron, Delegate Kenneth R. Plum, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate Terry L. Austin, Delegate Dave A. LaRock, Delegate Mark D. Sickles

**Members Absent:** Senator Mamie E. Locke, Senator Siobhan S. Dunnavant

Delegate Mark D. Sickles next introduced defense contracting as an important industry in the Commonwealth and asked that JCOTS spend time studying how to promote more private sector investment in the Commonwealth.

Delegate Terry L. Austin indicated that during the mid-September Virginia Tech visit, he would be interested in learning more about the smart road and autonomous vehicles research that the university is conducting. Senator Cosgrove agreed and suggested that, given the amount of information Virginia Tech has to offer, a two-day meeting might be appropriate in September. He also asked that the visit include the College of Engineering and Department of Computer Science if the meeting there is confirmed.

Delegate Davis identified the reorganization of the now disbanded Secretariat of Technology as a viable study topic. The group agreed that gathering experts and thinking critically about this reorganization going forward is a worthwhile endeavor and within the purview of JCOTS, as long as representatives of the Governor's administration are involved.

### **Public Comment and Next Meeting**

There were no public comments. The next meeting is scheduled for July 1 at NASA Wallops Flight Facility at Wallops Island.

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For more information, see [\*JCOTS's website\*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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