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## Joint Commission on Technology and Science

October 18, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Pocahontas Building, House Committee Room

<http://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/jcots.htm>

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The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr., chair, presiding.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#).

### HB 1246 Work Group Study Update

*Commission staff*

Commission staff provided an update on the progress of the work group that is studying the provisions of HB 1246 (Tran, 2022), which was referred to the Commission by the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations. Commission staff met with a work group of representatives from various agencies, associations, and advocacy groups regarding digital education tools and digital accessibility and received recommendations and information on the topics, including (i) accounts of the student and parent experience with accessible and inaccessible technology; (ii) a report on digital accessibility in K-12, higher education, and some state agencies; and (iii) recommendations for baseline requirements for digital tools procured for education based on existing standards, such as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines from the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium and Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Commission staff is currently compiling resources, information, and input to include in the study and estimates that a final report will be completed by November 1.

### Overview of Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Fellowship Research

*Amit Seal Ami, COVES Fellow*

Mr. Ami joined the meeting virtually to present his study on the Virginia Consumer Data Protection Act (VCDPA) and the Internet of things (IoT)/smart homes. As part of his study, he analyzed existing policies on the VCDPA, ransomware, and next generation televisions and created policy briefs on IoT and ransomware. Mr. Ami recommended that the Commission introduce legislation to develop explicit guidelines for how privacy notices for devices, websites, and services are distributed to consumers and to create standards for communicating such privacy notices in order to facilitate the automated analysis of such privacy notices and compliance enforcement. Mr. Ami also presented recommendations to address consumer privacy concerns with next generation televisions.

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. (chair), Senator Barbara A. Favola, Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Delegate Mike A. Cherry, Delegate A.C. Cordoza, Delegate Suhas Subramanyam

**Members Absent:** Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr. (vice-chair), Senator Adam P. Ebbin, Senator David W. Marsden, Delegate Glenn R. Davis, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate Michael J. Webert

Delegate Hayes thanked Mr. Ami for his research and urged the Commission to consider how these topics will be enforced moving forward.

**Presentation: Key Strategies to Position Virginia for Leadership in Areas of Critical National Challenge (2022)**

*Dr. James Aylor, President, Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (VASEM)*

Dr. Aylor provided a brief overview of VASEM and its programs and said that, in particular, its COVES Fellowship aims to strengthen the scientific technical capacity of state government, private industry, and nonprofits in Virginia by encouraging and equipping graduate students in science and engineering to be effective advisors for public policy. He asked the Commission to consider strategies for bringing federal funds to Virginia for key technology efforts and for making Virginia a leader in the semiconductor. After Dr. Aylor's presentation, Commission members discussed how Virginia could meet or address the areas for growth identified by Dr. Aylor.

**Next Meeting**

No date was set for the next meeting of the Commission.

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

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