



Joint Commission on Technology and Science

August 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Pocahontas Building, House Committee Room

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

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

Presentation: Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan

John Martin, President and Chief Executive Officer, RVA757 Connects

The Joint Commission members heard a presentation from RVA757 Connects on its Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan and I-64 Innovation Corridor initiative, which includes advocating for widening the 29-mile gap from Richmond to Williamsburg. Mr. Martin expressed that some of RVA757 Connects' priorities for its strategic plan are to help the I-64 Innovation Corridor become a Global Internet Hub, support bike-walk trails in the megaregion, and increase passenger rail service.

Consumer Data Protection Act Update

Delegate Hayes

Delegate Hayes provided the Joint Commission members with an update on the Consumer Data Protection Act (the Act), HB 2307 (Hayes, 2021 Special Session I) and SB 1392 (Marsden, 2021 Special Session I), and the Act's impact on data privacy legislation in other states. He noted that since the Act passed in 2021, 11 states have passed data privacy laws consistent and comparable with the Commonwealth's, including Colorado in 2021, Utah and Connecticut in 2022, and Texas in 2023, and that 39 percent of United States citizens are now covered by state data privacy laws.

Presentations: Content Authenticity

Mounir Ibrahim, Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, Truepic

Lindsay Gorman, Senior Fellow for Emerging Technologies, German Marshall Fund's Alliance for Securing Democracy

Julie Babayan, Head of Policy Development, Adobe

The Joint Commission members heard several presentations on content authenticity and received suggestions on the leadership role that the Commonwealth can play in educating the public about the dangers of misinformation. Mr. Ibrahim's presentation focused on why authenticity in content matters, emphasizing Truepic's capability of providing provenance-based solutions to businesses

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. (chair), Senator Adam P. Ebbin, Senator Barbara A. Favola, Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Senator David W. Marsden, Delegate Mike A. Cherry, Delegate A.C. Cordoza, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate Michael J. Webert

Members Absent: Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr. (vice-chair), Delegate Suhas Subramanyam, Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata

around the world. He also discussed introducing transparency and authenticity to social media via the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA) standard, which is available for use by any entity. Senator Adam P. Ebbin asked if other countries were ahead of the United States in engaging in practices or enacting laws that discourage deepfakes. Ms. Gorman and Mr. Ibrahim agreed that they are, noting that the European Parliament recently passed legislation in reference to watermarking and that China is not allowing companies to use artificial intelligence (AI) technologies at all.

Ms. Gorman's presentation provided information on potential prevention and protection measures against AI deception and misinformation such as utilizing content authenticity architectures, C2PA open standards, partnerships between media and technical organizations, and deepfake detectors that are built into platforms. The Joint Commission members discussed the REAL Political Advertisements Act, which was introduced in the United States Congress this year, and how the Commonwealth can implement content authenticity architectures.

Ms. Babayan's presentation focused on Adobe's AI innovation, including its new text-to-image creative generative AI model and its content credential technology that uses open industry standards to prove what is true for images, audio, video, and documents.

Other Business

Staff counsel provided an overview of the Joint Commission's Electronic Participation Policy, which allows members to participate in meetings by electronic means as permitted by § 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia. The Joint Commission members unanimously voted to adopt the policy, a copy of which is located on the Joint Commission's [website](#).

The Joint Commission also received an update from staff counsel on the legislative work plan for the 2023 interim, which consists of studying (i) how the Commonwealth can use technology to address health disparities; (ii) best practices for addressing ransomware and whether a prohibition on the payment of ransoms should be adopted; (iii) data protections for children as they relate to the Consumer Data Protection Act, as introduced by SB 1026 (Suetterlein, 2023) and HB 1688 (Brewer, 2023); and (iv) the practice of unwanted telephone and text message solicitations.

Staff counsel is working on finding interested parties and experts to provide input on the topics included in the interim work plan and encouraged those interested in participating, particularly for the studies on data protections for children and the practice of unwanted telephone and text message solicitations, to reach out to the chairman's office by September 1.

Next Meeting

The Joint Commission's next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

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

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