



Joint Commission on Technology and Science

August 17, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Pocahontas Building, House Committee Room

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

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (the 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 [Commission's meetings webpage](#).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Pursuant to subsection D of § 30-86 of the Code of Virginia, at the first meeting following the adjournment sine die of the Regular Session in an even-numbered year, JCOTS shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. After a point of order to clarify the traditions of the Commission's elections in the past, Delegate Hayes was nominated and confirmed to continue his position as the Commission's chair. Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr., was then nominated and elected to serve as the Commission's new vice-chair.

Legislative Update and Interim Work Plan

Council Staff

Council staff provided a brief overview of the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly. One bill was referred to the Commission for study. HB 1246 (Tran, 2022), which was passed by the House but continued to the 2023 Session by the Senate, requires the Department of Education to convene a work group to provide input and recommendations to the Department of Education, the Board of Education, and the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2022, regarding (i) ways in which school divisions can effectively identify and receive responsive and responsible bids from vendors to procure digital tools, including online platforms, courses, digital applications, information and communication technology services, and digital content, that comply with the federal accessibility standard and (ii) any statutory or regulatory changes that may assist school divisions to procure such digital tools that comply with such standard.

Senator Cosgrove urged the Commission to consider the use of tri-cranial devices and hyperbaric oxygen therapy for treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) within the military. Delegate Hayes also proposed a long-term study of ransomware attacks and possible avenues the government can take to prevent them and handle them when such prevention methods fail.

The Commission agreed to study the following topics during the interim: HB 1246, tri-cranial devices and hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the treatments of PTSD and TBI within the military, and ransomware attacks.

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

Members Absent: Delegate Suhas Subramanyam, Delegate Michael J. Weibert

Electronic Meeting Policy

Council Staff

Council staff presented the Commission the option to consider an electronic meeting policy where members would be able to carry out their meeting duties electronically.

Public Comment

Ms. Bonnie O'Day, Legislative Director for the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia joined the meeting virtually via Zoom and thanked the Commission for taking up HB 1246 for study during the interim.

Next Meeting

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

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

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