



Joint Commission on Technology and Science

June 8, 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 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](#).

Presentation: Using Technology to Improve Life Expectancy by Better Addressing Health Disparities

Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (VASEM) and Virginia Center for Health Innovation (VCHI)

Commission members heard a presentation from VASEM and VCHI on life expectancies in the Commonwealth and using technology to better address health disparities. The presentation included a proposal and recommended study parameters for the Commission, such as using current and alternative data sources to understand life expectancy variation and technological and policy solutions for improving life outcomes that consider racial and geographic differences.

Legislative Update

Staff Counsel

Staff provided a brief overview of bills passed during the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly that are relevant to the Commission. One bill, HB 1504 (Orrock), directs the Commission to consider the practice of unwanted telephone solicitation calls and telephone solicitation calls via text message and develop recommendations related to requiring a telephone solicitor to permit any person to opt out of receiving such calls or messages. The bill gives a November 1, 2023, deadline for the Commission to report its findings to the Chairs of the House Committee on Commerce and Energy and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Interim Work Plan

The Commission voted to study the following topics this interim: (i) the effects of ransomware and best practice recommendations for dealing with ransomware attacks; (ii) the Consumer Data Protection Act and protections for children, as outlined in SB 1026 (Suetterlein, 2023) and HB 1688 (Brewer, 2023); (iii) the use of technology to address health disparities; and (iv) the practice of unwanted telephone and text message solicitations, as directed by HB 1504.

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. (chair), Senator Adam P. Ebbin (vice-chair) (virtual), 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 Anne Ferrell Tata

Members Absent: Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr., Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate Suhas Subramanyam, Delegate Michael J. Webert

Public Comment

Commission members heard from Delegate Michelle Lopes Maldonado who thanked the members for their work. Delegate Maldonado also described her efforts to start a bipartisan and bicameral technology and innovation caucus.

Next Meeting

The Commission will meet on August 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

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

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