



Joint Commission on Technology and Science

May 6, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

House Committee Room C, Room 206, General Assembly Building

<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 the election of Delegate Hayes as chair and Senator Adam P. Ebbin as vice-chair, presentations, and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Joint Commission's meetings webpage](#).

Presentation: Executive Director Hiring Process Options

Amigo Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services (DLS)

HB 1199 (Hayes, 2024) authorizes the Joint Commission to appoint, employ, and remove an executive director as it deems necessary and removes the provision directing DLS to provide staff support to the Joint Commission. Mr. Wade provided an overview of the options for the hiring process and the next steps to establish the executive director position, explaining that DLS will assist the Joint Commission in such hiring process while also continuing to support the Joint Commission until the executive director position is filled.

The Joint Commission established a subcommittee to assist in the hiring of an executive director. The subcommittee members will vet applicants and make recommendations to the Joint Commission, which will ultimately hire an applicant for the position. The Executive Hiring Subcommittee consists of Senator Lashrecse D. Aird, Senator Christie New Craig, Senator Ebbin, Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Hayes, and Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata.

Presentation: Legislative Report

Staff Counsel

Joint Commission members received an overview of some of the bills and topics from the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly that are directly related to the Joint Commission's work for the interim. The following three bills were referred to the Joint Commission for study and require a report to be submitted to the Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations and Communications, Technology and Innovation and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024:

- SBs 339 and 439 (Salim) direct the Joint Commission, in consultation with the State Corporation Commission and other relevant stakeholders, to study blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in the Commonwealth, with SB 339 also directing the Joint Commission to study digital asset mining in the Commonwealth. SB 339 tasks the Joint Commission with conducting an analysis of and making recommendations related to the use and appropriate

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. (chair), Senator Adam P. Ebbin (vice-chair), Senator Lashrecse D. Aird, Senator Christie New Craig, Senator Barbara A. Favola (virtual), Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Mike A. Cherry, Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata

Members Absent: Delegate Michelle Lopes Maldonado, Delegate David A. Reid, Delegate Michael J. Webert

expansion of blockchain technology, digital asset mining, and cryptocurrency in the Commonwealth. SB 439 further tasks the Joint Commission with conducting an assessment on the creation of a Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Commission.

- SB 487 (Aird) directs the Joint Commission, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to conduct an analysis of the use of artificial intelligence by public bodies in the Commonwealth and the creation of a Commission on Artificial Intelligence.

Staff counsel clarified that this list of bills and topics for consideration was not exhaustive and that the Joint Commission will likely receive other requests for studies in the coming weeks.

Delegate Hayes also requested that the Joint Commission study the content of SB 359 (VanValkenburg), which was continued to the 2025 Regular Session by the House Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation and would prohibit a person that operates a social media platform that has knowledge that a user of the social media platform is a child under the age of 18 from using an addictive feed, as defined in the bill, unless such social media platform obtains verifiable parental consent.

Next Meeting

Joint Commission staff will poll members of the Joint Commission for future meeting dates.

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

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