



Virginia Commission to End Hunger

May 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

General Assembly Building, House Room B-205

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/682>

The Virginia Commission to End Hunger (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price, 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: Overview of Relevant Legislation from Previous Session

Hannah Yates, Attorney, Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Yates provided a brief overview of legislation passed during the 2025 Session of the General Assembly, including HB 1723, HB 2240, HJ 447, SB 1018, SB 1019, SB 1020, and Budget Item 331 GG. The presentation included bills passed that were based on recommendations of the Commission as well as recommendations of the Commission that were not introduced as bills during the session.

Adoption of Virtual Meeting Policy

Hannah Yates, Attorney, Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Yates summarized the proposed virtual meeting policy for the Commission, which is identical to the previous year's virtual meeting policy. The Commission adopted the policy unanimously.

Presentation: Impact of Federal Actions on SNAP

Salaam Bhatti, SNAP Director, The Food Research and Action Center

Mr. Bhatti presented on the effect of federal actions on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). He explained that the proposed cuts to SNAP at the federal level are the deepest in history and total approximately \$300 billion. Such cuts are likely to significantly restructure the program as it currently exists. Mr. Bhatti discussed the two ways in which SNAP is funded, with the benefit being fully funded by federal dollars and the administration of the program split equally between federal and state funding. According to Mr. Bhatti's estimates, proposed federal shifts in benefit and administration funding would lead to a cost at the state level of approximately \$353 million for the benefit and \$87 million for administration to maintain the program at its current level of funding. Mr. Bhatti recommended that members of the Commission engage with the Governor and the Congressional Delegation to urge them to advocate for the program at the federal level.

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price (chair), Senator Danica A. Roem, (vice-chair), Senator Christie New Craig, Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Rae C. Cousins, Delegate David L. Owen, Delegate Kimberly A. Taylor, Pamela S. Irvine, Vivica I. Kraak, Eddie Oliver, Rickeya Feggans, Robin Robbins, Andria D. Timmer

Members Absent: Senator Stella G. Pekarsky, Ipyana A. Spencer, Terriel Williams-Ford, Jennifer Montgomery

Mr. Bhatti responded to questions from the Commission on the effect of SNAP cuts on school food funding. Mr. Bhatti explained the effect that cuts might have on Community Eligibility Provisions that allow for payment to schools providing meals in high-poverty areas without such schools having to collect household applications.

Presentation: Impact of Federal Actions on Food Banks

Robert "Bob" Latvis, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

Mr. Latvis presented on the work of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and the potential impacts of federal funding cuts on its operations. He explained that cuts are likely to affect all food banks, regardless of their size. Mr. Latvis discussed the current climate around monetary donations and donations of food products and explained the difficulty of collecting donations during a crisis and alleviating concern in the community the foodbank serves. Delegate Price requested that Mr. Latvis and Commission member Eddie Oliver send documents to the Commission related to operational statistics both for the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and for food banks across the Commonwealth.

Member Discussion of Holding Meetings in Locations Outside of Richmond

The Commission deferred discussion of holding meetings in locations outside of Richmond until its next meeting.

Member Discussion of Work Plan

Delegate Price asked each member of the Commission to describe one bill related to the Commission's purpose that they would like to see passed. Members discussed bills that would provide for universal free school meals, financial relief for food banks, partnerships between nonprofits and schools, promotion and enhancement of agriculture and urban farming, an interagency task force to alleviate information gaps between agencies, provision and treatment of food as medicine, and food insecurity education for medical professionals.

Public Comment

Emily Moore from Voices for Virginia's Children commented to highlight the potential impact of Medicaid cuts on food insecurity among children in the Commonwealth.

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

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