



Virginia Commission to End Hunger

September 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

General Assembly Building, Senate Room B-306

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

The Virginia Commission to End Hunger (the Commission) met in Richmond with Senator Danica A. Roem, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting consisted of a discussion about proposed legislation for the 2027 Session, public comment, and several announcements. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#).

Discussion on Proposed Legislation for the 2027 Session

The Commission members discussed 11 potential legislative actions for the Commission to consider recommending for the 2027 Session. Senator Roem suggested a bill relating to a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) supplement for seniors. Senator Roem also suggested a bill that would provide school breakfast at no cost to all students; this was also a recommendation of the Commission for the 2026 Session. She indicated that she will carry both the SNAP supplement and school breakfast bills and that Senator Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker will carry the budget amendment for the school breakfast bill.

Kari Diener proposed establishing reoccurring grant programs, the School Food Pantry Infrastructure and Administrative Support Grant and the SNAP-Ed and Culinary Literacy Grant. Ms. Diener also proposed legislation to provide administrative relief for rural and under-resourced school divisions.

Eddie Oliver offered three potential legislative actions for the Commission to consider: (i) increasing funding for the Virginia Agriculture Food Assistance Program, (ii) increasing SNAP administrative funding for local departments of social services, and (iii) increasing annual funding for the Virginia Agriculture Food Assistance Program in perpetuity. Mr. Oliver also requested that the Commission recommend a reintroduction of HB 1434 (Cole, 2026), which directed the Department of Medical Assistance Services to seek permission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish food as medicine programs.

Dr. Andria D. Timmer suggested legislation that would provide hunger relief for individuals with a lawful visitor status who will be losing SNAP benefits with the implementation of federal HR 1. She stated she would conduct additional research on the size of the affected population in the Commonwealth.

¹ **Members Present:** Senator Danica A. Roem (chair), Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price (vice-chair), Senator Christie New Craig, Senator Stella G. Pekarsky (virtual), Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Rae Cousins, Delegate Timothy P. Griffin, Delegate May Nivar, Kari Diener, Jennifer Montgomery, Eddie Oliver, Robin Robbins, Ipyana A. Spencer, Michelle Patton Swisher, Dr. Andria D. Timmer

Members Absent: Rickeya Feggans, Tiaria Rex

Delegate Bonita G. Anthony recommended legislation that would authorize state agencies to serve as sponsors for small organizations that would be eligible for reimbursement from the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program but for their size and lack of administrative resources. She stated that such legislation would be implemented as a pilot program with an interim report.

Robin Robbins recommended legislation to restore funding previously provided by the 2020 CARES Act that contributed to the We Care Program, a program that distributes shelf-stable food boxes throughout the Commonwealth.

Public Comment

Emily Moore from the American Heart Association informed the Commission that three school divisions in the Commonwealth have ended their participation with the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and requested that the Commission consider legislation to prevent further school divisions from needing to end CEP participation.

Hannah Wyatt from the Virginia Poverty Law Center requested that the Commission consider legislation that would provide state funding to reimburse stolen SNAP benefits. Delegate Anthony expressed interest in carrying such legislation.

Announcements

Delegate Price highlighted the food as medicine efforts in Harrisonburg through a partnership between the Healthy Community Health Centers, Radical Roots Farm, Vine and Fig, and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. She suggested a future presentation to the Commission on such partnership.

Senator Stella G. Pekarsky noted the proposed legislation for the 2027 Session that Commission members discussed that will require funding and suggested maximizing available funding for initiatives that will have the widest impact.

Mr. Oliver noted the recent publication of the 2026 Virginia Hunger Study, commissioned and published through a partnership between No Kid Hungry Virginia, the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, and the Department of Social Services, and offered to present the study's findings at the next Commission meeting.

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

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