Meeting Summary

Virginia Commission to End Hunger

November 6, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, House Room B-205

https://studies.virginiageneralassembly.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: Privacy Protections for Public Assistance Programs

Gustavo Espinosa, Senior Organizer and Policy Advocate, Legal Aid Justice Center

Mr. Espinosa presented two legislative recommendations to increase privacy protections for individuals utilizing public assistance programs. The first recommendation would require that the Department of Social Services (the Department) issue a public notice within five days of receiving any request for personally identifiable information from any state, federal, or law-enforcement agency. The second recommendation would require that the General Assembly request information from the Department concerning what personally identifiable information the Department has provided to the federal government.

Presentation: Virginia Emergency Nutrition Assistance Program

Carl Ayers, Deputy Commissioner of Human Services, Department of Social Services

Mr. Ayers provided an overview of the Virginia Emergency Nutrition Assistance program, which is a temporary state-funded program to provide food assistance to Virginia residents who are currently receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during the federal government shutdown. He responded to questions from Commission members regarding program eligibility and funding, as well as legislative recommendations.

Presentation: Legislative Updates

Hannah Wyatt, Attorney, Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Wyatt provided an overview of legislation from the 2025 Session that is of interest to the Commission, reviewed legislative ideas discussed during 2024 interim meetings of the Commission, and reviewed legislation on hunger-related issues from other states.

Member Discussion

The Commission members reviewed the following legislative recommendations submitted by nonprofit organizations and Commission members: (i) increase privacy protection for public

[1] **Members Present:** Delegate Marcia S. "Cia" Price (chair), Senator Danica A. Roem (vice-chair), Senator Stella G. Pekarsky, Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Rae Cousins, Pamela S. Irvine, Vivica I. Kraak, Jennifer Montgomery (virtual), Eddie Oliver, Robin Robbins, Dr. Andria D. Timmer

Members Absent: Senator Christie New Craig, Delegate David Owen, Delegate Kim A. Taylor, Rickeya Feggans, Dr. Susan Murray, Ipyana A. Spencer, Terriel Williams-Ford

benefits recipients, submitted by the Legal Aid Justice Center; (ii) provide resources to local businesses to assist them in providing affordable food to communities, submitted by Dr. Andria D. Timmer; (iii) develop an action plan for ending hunger in the Commonwealth, submitted by Robin Robbins; (iv) make changes to income, sales, and other taxes and credits, submitted by The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis; (v) provide free school meals and restart the Community Eligibility Provision cycle, submitted by No Kid Hungry; (vi) develop a school food workforce development program, submitted by the Chef Ann Foundation; (vii) use Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits, submitted by the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore; (viii) provide reports on food insecurity and hunger and the Virginia Farm to School Program, establish state versions of the federal Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program, and increase funding for the Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program, submitted by Delegate Rae Cousins; and (ix) direct relevant agencies to maximize cross-referrals and the Virginia Food Access Investment Fund, submitted by Eddie Oliver.

Chair's Update

Delegate Price informed the Commission members that Deloitte Consulting has provided pricing for a tool that can be used to fulfill the requirements of HJ 447 (Anthony, 2025), which directs the Commission to establish a statewide food desert mapping tool. She added that the Commission could consider requesting a budget amendment to cover the cost of the tool.

Delegate Price reminded the Commission members that the next Commission meeting will include voting on legislative recommendations, so a quorum will be needed at that meeting.

For more information, see the *Commission's website* or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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