



Subcommittee #1 Government and Regulatory Systems

Action Items

I. Legislation

1. Legislation directing the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to study the feasibility of establishing a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies. The work group will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.
Observation 1.2: The pandemic uncovered unrecognized challenges for continuity of operations
Recommendation 1.2.1: Develop a centralized Continuity of Operations framework for state agencies
2. Legislation requiring the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), with the assistance of the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel, to study of the state's reliance on grants for core emergency management functions and make specific recommendations to the General Assembly for securing adequate funding in the state budget for emergency management and public health preparedness efforts.
Observation 4.1: Inadequate funding and heavy reliance on grants during calm periods impede preparedness and sustainability efforts crucial for supporting response capabilities during incidents.
Recommendation 4.1.1: Establish stable and diversified funding streams.
3. Legislation requiring the Department of Emergency Management to convene a work group to recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect in event of an emergency. The work group will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.
Observation 5.1: Failure to plan for legal and regulatory changes necessary for effective pandemic response caused delays and complications.
Recommendation 5.1.1: Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies.
4. Legislation directing the Division of Purchases and Supply, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, to design a dynamic stockpile strategy that includes (i) maintaining flexible reserves of essential supplies; (ii) implementation of regular inventory assessments; (iii) periodic reviews of stockpile levels, anticipated needs, and expiration dates to ensure that reserves are appropriate and actionable; and (iv) establishment of protocols for rotating, redistributing, and repurposing

stockpiles to prevent waste and address emerging needs effectively. The Division will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Observation 6.1: Resource uncertainty resulted in widespread challenges in accessing and distributing essential supplies, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing kits, impacting frontline workers across several sectors.

Recommendation 6.1.2: Establish a dynamic stockpile strategy.

5. Legislation expanding the exemption provided by Subdivision A(22) of Section 2.2-4343 of the code of Virginia to include suppliers and the types of tests used.

Observation 6.1

Recommendation: 6.2.2: Establish a flexible and inclusive procurement strategy.

6. Legislation directing the Department of Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, to establish a work group consisting of other relevant agencies and stakeholders to review technology service gaps existing during emergencies and develop recommendations for solutions to address such gaps. Any findings and recommendations will be reported to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Observation 10.1: Inequities arose due to disparities in access to technology, such as broadband connectivity

Recommendation: 10.1.3: Support innovative connectivity solutions for immediate needs.

II. Joint Subcommittee Letters

1. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and the Broadband Advisory Council to request the Chief Advisor and Council to review the following items from the Final After Action Report:
 - a. **Observation 1.2:** The pandemic uncovered unrecognized challenges for continuity of operations and **Recommendation 1.2.2:** Enhance digital infrastructure and automation.
 - b. **Observation 10.1:** Inequities arose due to disparities in access to technology, such as broadband connectivity.
 - Recommendation 10.1.1:** Expand and sustain broadband infrastructure investments.
 - Recommendation 10.1.2:** Consider implementing technology access programs.
 - c. **Observation 10.2:** The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges and **Recommendation 10.2.2:** Enhance digital infrastructure and access during emergencies.

Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

2. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Secretary of Administration requesting the study of **Observation 1.3: Challenges arose during transition back to in-person work including limited guidance, inequities, and safety concerns** and **Recommendation 1.3.1: Establish consistent statewide telework policies for all state agencies**. Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025. Any recommendations for legislation, if appropriate, to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.
3. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Judicial Council requesting the Council to review the following items from the Final After Action Report:
 - a. **Observation 5.1: Failure to plan for the legal and regulatory changes necessary for effective pandemic response caused delays and complications** and **Recommendation 5.1.1: Develop a pre-approved legal and regulatory framework for emergencies**.
 - b. **Observation 5.2: Judicial system staff made significant efforts to maintain transparency during social distancing periods but felt there was room for improvement.**
 - Recommendation 5.2.1: Solicit input on judicial processes.**
 - Recommendation 5.2.2: Enhance virtual engagement and transparency mechanisms.**
 - c. **Observation 5.3: Acceptance of technology varied across the judicial system, resulting in inconsistent use of platforms and policies among courts.**
 - Recommendation 5.3.1: Review statewide technology standards and protocols.**
 - Recommendation 5.3.2: Develop and implement consistent policies and procedures to ensure uniformity and efficiency (policy option #1).**

Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.
4. Letter from the Joint Subcommittee to the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council requesting the study of **Observation 10.2: The implementation of technology to facilitate social distancing resulted in certain challenges** and **Recommendation 10.2.3: Establish consistent protocols for remote voting and decision-making**. Any findings and recommendations to be provided to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

III. Budget Language

Budget language requesting Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and the Department of Emergency Management, to study the development of a centralized resource management (CRM) system for use in times of emergency review and report its findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.