

Joint Subcommittee to Study The Commonwealth's Response to the Pandemic

Consideration of Subcommittee Actions

December 13, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Senate Room 305 / A

General Assembly Building

Overview

- **Fifty-eight total recommendations**
- **Subcommittee approach**
- **November meetings**
- **Consensus; recommendations and policy options**
- **Action items**

Subcommittee #1

Government and Regulatory Systems

Senator Scott A. Surovell, Chair

Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.

Delegate Michael J. Webert

Lisa Lucas-Burke

Martha Mugler

Jacqueline Grice

Karle Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia or designee

Stephens E. Cummings, Secretary of Finance or designee

Caren Merrick, Secretary of Commerce and Trade or designee





Subcommittee #1 – Government and Regulatory Systems

- **21 recommendations**
- **35 policy options**
- **Subcommittee consensus actions**
 - **6 legislative actions**
 - **4 letters requesting review**
 - **1 Budget language**

Legislation (6)



- 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
- 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
- VDEM to convene a work group to recommend a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to take effect in event of an emergency

Legislation (6)



- Division of Purchases and Supply, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, to design a dynamic stockpile strategy
- 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 that are needed.
- VDEM, 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

Letters (4)/Budget Language (1)



- **Letters**

- Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor and Broadband Advisory Council
- Secretary of Administration
- Judicial Council
- Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

- **Budget language**

- 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

Subcommittee #2 -Health Care Systems & Emergency Management

Delegate Mark Sickles, Chair

Senator Barbara A. Favola

Delegate Debra D. Gardner

S. Chris Jones

Jennifer W. Siciliano

Heather Jones M.D.

Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources or designee

Terrance C. Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or designee





Health Care Systems and Emergency Management Subcommittee - Recommendations Overview

- **31 recommendations**
- **91 policy options**
- **Subcommittee consensus actions**
 - **6 legislative actions**
 - **1 letter requesting review**
 - **2 budget language**
 - **19 best practice recommendations**



Legislation (6)

- VDEM, in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to develop standardized guidelines for mental health support during extended incident
- VDEM to develop a training program on National Incident Management System principles, the Incident Command System, and the role of the Emergency Operations Center. Agency heads would be required to attend the training within six months of appointment with additional training required at regular intervals
- Direct state agencies to develop a document for their agency outlining the Incident Command System and the role of the Virginia Emergency Support Team in the event of a declared emergency



Legislation (6)

- Chief Information Officer and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, with the cooperation of the VDEM, to develop an emergency resource management system
- VDEM and the Department of Health (DOH) to study the existing emergency management regions and local health districts and recommend a mutually beneficial alignment
- VDEM to (i) offer health and safety training to volunteer organizations that are incorporated into the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and (ii) develop a health monitoring system for all volunteers incorporated into the VEST during times of emergency



Letters (1)/Budget Language (2)

- **Letter**

- VDEM

- **Budget Language**

- VDEM Management and the DOH to study the development and implementation of a data collection framework for health care and other external partners, including local emergency management, involved in emergency responses that integrates essential elements of information across all reporting tools and stakeholders
 - Funding for VDEM to establish and educational outreach campaign

Subcommittee #3 Education

Delegate Candi Mundon King, Chair

Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi

Senator David R. Suetterlein

Delegate Irene Shin

Katelyn Deel

Tara Dickerson-Anderson

Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education or designee





Subcommittee #3 Education

- **6 recommendations**
- **13 policy options**
- **Subcommittee consensus actions**
 - **4 legislative actions**
 - **1 budget language**



Legislation (4)/Budget Language (1)

- Amend § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia to include in the model memorandum of understanding procedures for providing the option for students to receive counseling from school counselors via telehealth.
- Codifying the Mental Health First Aid Trainings established in partnership between the Departments of Education and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Legislation (4)/Budget Language (1)



- Department of Education to develop guidelines and information relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices
- Amend § 22.1-98 of the Code of Virginia to require that all schools in Virginia include in their annual safety audits comprehensive plans for school closures due to public health emergencies
- Budget amendment supporting the funding of individualized education program training and implementation. An estimated cost to support special education staffing needs for Level I Services is \$8.7 million.

Thank you



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES