



Virginia Boys and Men Advisory Commission

August 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

General Assembly Building, House Room B, Room 205

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/794>

The Virginia Boys and Men Advisory Commission (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate Joshua E. Thomas, 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: Men at Work in Virginia: The Employment Picture

Alanna Williams, Vice President, American Institute for Boys and Men

Patrick Bourke, Senior Policy Fellow, American Institute for Boys and Men

Ms. Williams and Mr. Bourke provided an overview of Virginia's male workforce. They explained data for the Commonwealth showing that (i) male labor force participation is slightly down after recovering from a sharp decline during the Great Recession; (ii) Virginia has had high male employment overall; (iii) between July 2025 and June 2026, Virginia has had the third largest absolute job loss in the country, primarily driven by the loss of direct federal jobs; and (iv) veterans are four times more likely than non-veterans to work federal jobs. They also shared and discussed data across education, race, age, and disability showing which men are participating in the workforce Ms. Williams and Mr. Bourke highlighted the industries in which men are participating at high rates, as well as opportunities where men could fill shortages in other industries, such as health care and education.

Presentation: Virginia Works: Connecting People to Careers and Employers to Skilled Talent

Anthony Reedy, Executive Director, Virginia Board of Workforce Development

Mr. Reedy provided an overview of how the Virginia Board of Workforce Development (Virginia Works), serves Virginians and employers and impacts the job market in Virginia, including by helping to match students and job seekers to apprenticeships and connecting Virginians on probation and parole to various career opportunities before and after release. Virginia has over 15,500 active apprentices today, and about 84 percent of those apprentices are male.

Presentation: Virginia's Community Colleges: Career Education and Workforce Training Programs

Randall Stamper, Associate Vice Chancellor for Career Education and Workforce Programs,

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate Joshua E. Thomas, chair, Senator Lamont Bagby, vice chair, Senator Lashrecse D. Aird, Senator Luther Cifers, Senator Mamie E. Locke, Delegate Michael B. Feggans, Delegate Garrett Z. McGuire, Delegate Atoosa R. Reaser, Delegate Andrew Rice, Delegate Michael J. Webert, Secretary Carrie E. Chenery, Secretary Stanley Meador

Members Absent: Eldon Burton, Secretary Marvin Figueroa, Secretary Jeffery O. Smith

Virginia Community College Systems

Mr. Stamper discussed the important role that Virginia's community colleges play in career education and workforce training programs. He noted that the Commonwealth's 23 community colleges serve approximately 230,000 students per year, or approximately half of all undergraduates in Virginia. Mr. Stamper also revealed that 81 percent of Virginia community college graduates remain and work in Virginia. Mr. Stamper provided information on the FastForward program, which is the first pay-for-performance college workforce program in the country. The average age of students participating in this program is 35, and 65 percent of participants are male.

Presentation: From Classroom to Careers: A Longstanding Partnership; An Evolving Model

Dr. Marsha Cale, Chief Executive Officer, New Horizons Regional Education Center
Gary Artybridge, Jr., Manager of Corporate Citizenship & K-12 Education Partnerships, Newport News Shipbuilding

Dr. Cale and Mr. Artybridge provided an overview of the relationship between New Horizons Regional Education Center and Newport News Shipbuilding and discussed how the two entities are committed to developing the skilled workforce in Virginia. They shared data on the number of students in their programs who have accepted full-time employment offers, and they discussed various opportunities to create more pathways to skilled labor careers.

Public Comment and Next Meeting

The Commission heard comment from members of the public in attendance. Prior to adjourning, the chair announced that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

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

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