



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

March 11, 2025

11:30 AM

Library of Virginia

800 E. Broad St.

Richmond, VA 23219

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee

The Honorable Stephen Cummings

Heywood Fralin

Leah Fremouw

Emily O'Quinn

Members Absent

Jim Cheng

Joel Griffin

Kenneth Johnson

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Todd Stottlemeyer

Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Ms. Emily O'Quinn, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board Governance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and noted that a quorum was not present.

Public Comment

Ms. O'Quinn opened the floor for public comment.

No members of the public appeared before the Committee for the public comment period.

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. O'Quinn noted that because a quorum was not present, that a vote would not be taken on the May 2024 meeting minutes.

Staff Report

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the roadmap for addressing the JLARC report on GO Virginia's recommendations, including

moving all of the return on investment related recommendations to the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee as well as adding an additional JLARC recommendation for the Governance and Policy Committee to consider, which focuses on cash advances to small organizations with cash flow concerns.

Mr. Anderson led a discussion about a JLARC recommendation that suggested either eliminating local match requirements or reducing the local match from 20% to 10%. Mr. Anderson noted that staff recommends not taking action on this item due to rapid changes in the overall match policy resulting from legislative changes during the most recent General Assembly session. Mr. Anderson explained that if the Board noticed a concerning trend in resource utilization, the committee could choose to take action on this recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Anderson presented a JLARC recommendation that suggested increasing the amount of planning money a region may access from \$250,000 of their per capita allocation to 25% of their per capita allocation and to raise the cap on individual planning efforts from \$100,000. Mr. Anderson noted that staff would complete an analysis of all existing planning grant results to determine the efficacy of those plans in translation from plan to implementation, to present that data to the Regional Councils committee and Governance and Policy committee at a future meeting.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of new administrative guidance issued by DHCD addressing the JLARC recommendation that suggested alternating full and light review cycles for growth and diversification plans at the regional council level. Mr. Anderson noted that staff met with regional council staffs' and determined that there was a path to satisfy the legislative requirement to update the regional growth and diversification plans in the form of full review and interim review cycles. Mr. Anderson explained that the Board will see the result of this process over the next review cycles, beginning in December of 2025.

Bylaws Update

Mr. Anderson provided the committee with an overview of proposed changes to the Board bylaws. Mr. Anderson noted that the proposed changes to the bylaws are either a result of clarification or a response to legislative changes. Mr. Anderson explained that the Secretary of Labor was added as a Board

member during the most recent General Assembly session, so the bylaws must be updated to reflect that change. Mr. Anderson also noted two changes to how committees work, one of which would allow any member to serve on any committee on a volunteer basis without having to be appointed by the chair, and the second being that the chair and vice chairs wouldn't be automatically required to be members of every committee. Mr. Anderson explained that a clarity change to the name of the Program Evaluation committee to the Program Performance and Evaluation committee is recommended to better align the name of the committee with its bylaw-designated scope of work.

Mr. Anderson noted that the current version of the bylaws indicates that the Vice Chair of the Regional Council committee is to serve as the presiding officer over the Board in the absence of the Chair; however, in practice, this has been exercised as a duty of the Vice Chair of Program Evaluation. Mr. Anderson explained that the proposed bylaws would make this a formal function of the Vice Chair of Program Evaluation. After receiving feedback, the staff chose to make an additional change to this section, which would allow either Vice Chair to preside over the Board in the absence of the Chair.

Mr. Anderson described the final recommended change to the bylaws, which eliminates Article 9. Mr. Anderson noted that the requirements found in this article are redundant to what is already required by the Code of Virginia and that each regional council has its bylaws, and this article should be eliminated in the spirit of recognizing the autonomy of those regional bodies in determining how they function.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the proposed Bylaws will be presented at the March 11 meeting of the Board and that the Board must view the changes and then take action on them at the following quarterly meeting.

Information Items

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the information items included in the committee packet included an overview of the full Board membership, including turnover and term expiration dates.

Ms. O'Quinn also noted that the term of the Chair of the Board would expire in September 2025, and the Vice Chair of Program Evaluation would be rolling off the Board in July. Ms. O'Quinn

noted that the Governance and Policy committee serves as the de facto nominating committee of the Board and that a call for those interested in serving in leadership positions would be made at the March 11 meeting of the Board. Ms. O'Quinn explained that the committee would vet and nominate a slate of candidates at a meeting anticipated to be scheduled for July.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT