2021 SESSION

HB 1931 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; public body authorized to conduct electronic meetings.

Introduced by: [**Mark H. Levine**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+mbr+H282) | [**all patrons**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+mbr+HB1931)    ...    [**notes**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp607.exe?211+n1a+HB1931) **|**[**add**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp608.exe?211+ubk+ONE+HB1931)**to my profiles**

**Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings.** Authorizes a public body to conduct through electronic communication means a meeting for which, on or before the day of the meeting, a member of the public body holding the meeting notifies the chair that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance. The bill also clarifies that participation in an electronic meeting by a member of a public body due to the inability to attend because of a personal matter is limited each calendar year to two such meetings, which is current law, or 25 percent of the meetings held that calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

HB 2025 Virginia FOIA; record exclusion for personal contact information provided to a public body.

Introduced by: [**Wendy W. Gooditis**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+mbr+H296) | [**all patrons**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+mbr+HB2025)    ...    [**notes**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp607.exe?211+n1a+HB2025) **|**[**add**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp608.exe?211+ubk+ONE+HB2025)**to my profiles**

**Virginia Freedom of Information Act; record exclusion for personal contact information provided to a public body.**Provides that personal contact information provided to a public body or any of its members for the purpose of receiving electronic communications from the public body or any of its members is excluded from the mandatory disclosure provisions of FOIA, unless the recipient of such electronic communications indicates his approval for the public body to disclose such information. Currently, the law provides protections for personal contact information provided to a public body, not to its members; only applies to electronic mail; and requires the electronic mail recipient to request the public body not to disclose his personal contact information in order for the information to be exempt from mandatory disclosure. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

SB 1271 Virginia Freedom of Information Act; meetings held through electronic communication means.

Introduced by: [**Jeremy S. McPike**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?212+mbr+S98) | [**all patrons**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?212+mbr+SB1271)    ...    [**notes**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp607.exe?212+n1a+SB1271) **|**[**add**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp608.exe?212+ubk+ONE+SB1271)**to my profiles**

**Virginia Freedom of Information Act; meetings held through electronic communication means during a state of emergency.** Allows a public body, or a joint meeting thereof, to meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when a locality in which the public body is located has declared a local state of emergency, provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to provide for the continuity of operations of the public body or the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. Under current law, public bodies may only meet in such manner when the Governor has declared a state of emergency and only for the purpose of addressing the emergency. Finally, the bill requires public bodies meeting through electronic communication means during a local or state declaration of a state of emergency to (a) make arrangements for public access to such meeting through electronic communication means, including videoconferencing if already used by the public body, and (b) provide the public with the opportunity to comment at such meetings when public comment is customarily received.

Virginia’s Legislative Information System

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