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**Call to Order – S. Jonathan Hines, FSL, Board President**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Mission of the Board
- Emergency Egress Procedures

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**Approval of Minutes (p. 4-15)**

- Board Meeting – October 7, 2025

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**Ordering of Agenda**

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**Public Comment**

*The Board will receive public comment on agenda items at this time. To allow ample time for the Board to conduct its business, public comment will be allocated up to a maximum of 20 minutes. The Board will not receive comment on any pending regulation process for which a public comment period has closed or any pending or closed complaint or disciplinary matter.*

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**Agency Report – David E. Brown, DC, Director**

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**Staff Reports**

- Executive Director’s Report – **Corie E. Tillman Wolf, Executive Director**
- Discipline Report – **Annette Kelley, Deputy Executive Director**
- Licensing Report – **Sarah Georgen, Board Administrator**
- Inspections Report – **Melody Morton, Deputy Director, Enforcement Division**

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**Board Counsel Report – Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General**

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**Committee and Board Member Reports**

- Report from Annual Meeting - International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards – **Jonathan Hines, FSL, Blair Nelsen, FSL, Sarah Georgen, Board Administrator**

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**Legislative and Regulatory Reports – Corie Tillman Wolf (p. 17-20)**

- Legislative Report – 2026 General Assembly Session
- Report on Status of Regulatory Actions

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**Board Actions – Corie Tillman Wolf (p. 22-24)**

- Adoption of the Electronic Meeting Policy (Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3)
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**New Business**

- Clarification Regarding Applicability of Declinable Preneed Funeral Guarantee Fee Pending Finalization of Emergency Regulations
  - Guidance Regarding Addition or Repair of Retort at Existing Crematory
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**Board Member Development**

- Training and Development Topics for 2026
  - Discussion of Best Practices for Meetings and Hearings
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**Consideration of Possible Summary Suspension – Cases 250344, 251201, 253943, 255594**

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**Next Meeting – July 14, 2026**

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**Business Meeting Adjournment**

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This information is in **DRAFT** form and is subject to change. The official agenda and packet will be approved by the public body at the meeting and will be available to the public pursuant to the Code of Virginia.

# Approval of Minutes

October 7, 2025

The Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers convened for a full board meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room #4, Henrico, Virginia.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

S. Jonathan Hines, FSL, Vice-President  
K. Scott Hickey, MD, Secretary-Treasurer  
Blair Nelsen, FSL  
Tommy Owens, Citizen Member  
Amanda Perry, FSL  
John Piotrowski, FSL  
R. Thomas Slusser, FSL  
Eric Wray, II, FSL

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Jason Graves, FSL

**DHP STAFF PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:**

Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Sarah Georgen, Board Administrator  
Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director  
Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator  
Arne Owens, Agency Director  
Cecelia Robinson, Senior Licensing Program Coordinator  
Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director  
Joi Yancey, Administrative Support Specialist

**BOARD COUNSEL:**

Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel

**OTHER GUESTS PRESENT:**

Wendy Ashworth, Senior Inspector, DHP Enforcement Division  
Shaun Anderson, Department of Health, Office of Vital Records  
Angela Bezik, Virginia Funeral Directors Association  
Shenae Cooper Drummond, Virginia Morticians' Association/Cooper & Humbles Funeral Company\*  
Denise Cox, Department of Health, Office of Vital Records  
Twila Dickerson, Regulatory Support Services  
Krystina Diman, Virginia Funeral Directors Association\*  
Greg Faulkners, Sr., Virginia Funeral Directors Association/Faulkner Funeral Homes\*

Barbara Hodgdon, PhD, Deputy Director, DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center  
Mariah Merhige Fitzhugh, Keeny Group/Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia  
Barry Robinson, Virginia Morticians' Association  
Yetty Shobo, PhD, Director, DHP Healthcare Workforce Data Center

*\*Participant indicates attendance to count toward continuing education requirements*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hines called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and asked the Board Members, staff, and Board Counsel to introduce themselves.

With eight Board Members present at the meeting, a quorum was established.

Mr. Hines read the mission of the Board, which is also the mission of the Department of Health Professions (DHP).

Mr. Hines reminded the Board Members and audience about microphones, computer agenda materials, breaks, sign-in sheets, and attendance for continuing education requirements.

Ms. Tillman Wolf then read the emergency egress instructions.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Hines opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the draft minutes for the Board Meeting and Examination Committee Meeting held on April 15, 2025. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

## **ORDERING OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Hines opened the floor to any additional items to add to the agenda.

Ms. Tillman Wolf recommended an amendment to the agenda, noting that Wendy Ashworth, Senior Inspector, would deliver the Inspections Report. Additionally, Shaun Anderson and Denise Cox from the Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, would provide updates in place of Seth Austin, State Registrar.

Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Wray, properly seconded by Mr. Owens, the Board voted to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Barry Robinson, representing the Virginia Morticians' Association (VMA), submitted written public comment (Attachment A). He commended Ms. Georgen and staff for their professionalism when contacting the Board. He announced an upcoming educational meeting scheduled for November 2025 and offered remarks regarding the periodic review of preneed regulations, expressing his willingness to participate in the process.

Shenae Cooper Drummond, President, VMA, thanked Mr. Robinson for expressing concerns on behalf of VMA.

## **BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION**

Mr. Hines recognized past Board member, Lacyn Barton, for her service and dedication to the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers from 2021 to 2025. He announced that Ms. Barton's first term expired on June 30, 2025, and provided brief remarks on her tenure with the Board.

## **AGENCY REPORT**

Mr. Owens welcomed the Board Members back to the Perimeter Center and welcomed Ms. Perry and Mr. Owens on their recent appointment to the Board.

Mr. Owens stated that DHP remains focused on internal operations and ongoing initiatives, with a continued emphasis on improving efficiency across all areas.

Mr. Owens stated that for the upcoming 2026 General Assembly session beginning in January, DHP has submitted legislative proposals to the Secretary's Office. He said that the proposals are still under review, and that updates will be provided as developments occur. Additionally, Mr. Owens stated that the General Assembly will be reviewing the next biennial budget, which is set to take effect on July 1, 2026.

With no questions, Mr. Owens concluded his report.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### ***Executive Director's Report – Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director***

#### *Welcome and Congratulations*

Ms. Tillman Wolf introduced and welcomed Amanda Perry, FSL, and Tommy Owens, Citizen Member, who were recently appointed to the Board. She also introduced Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General, as new Board Counsel. Further, she introduced Cecelia Robinson, Senior Licensing Program Coordinator, and Joi Yancey, Administrative Support Specialist, as Board Staff.

#### *Board Updates*

Ms. Tillman Wolf reported that a Board News Brief was distributed to licensees in July, which included legislative updates, pending regulatory actions, facility information updates, application availability, a scam alert, and public resources. She noted that 2,323 emails were sent, achieving a 76% open rate—significantly higher than the healthcare industry average of 24%. The most frequently accessed links were related to pending regulatory actions, License Lookup, and Case Decisions.

She also announced that an additional communication from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is expected to be sent to licensees in the coming days.

*Board Updates*

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided updates to the Board regarding the implementation of recommendations related to the inspection process.

She reported collaboration with Ms. Ashworth from the Enforcement Division to revise and update inspection forms. She noted that a Facility Planning Assessment has been developed to collect additional data for tracking within the licensing database. She stated that the purpose of this initiative was to improve the timeliness and scheduling of inspections, ultimately enhancing service to licensees.

She announced that a renewal survey, coordinated by the Enforcement Division, will be distributed in the coming weeks to assist with planning efforts. She encouraged Board members and professional organizations to promote participation.

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that updates had been made to Board applications and checklists concerning hardship waivers due to the elimination of monthly vital records reports. A recent audit was conducted of Board files regarding the non-renewal of previously granted hardship waivers and failure to name a permanent Manager of Record within the required timeframe.

*International Conference Updates*

Ms. Tillman Wolf announced that Ms. Perry attended the Board Member Training offered by the Conference in September 2025.

She also reported on staff participation on national committees, noting that Ms. Georgen is serving on the Model Application Advisory Committee, and Ms. Tillman Wolf serves on the Nominating Committee.

She noted that updated licensing regulations from the Conference were distributed to Board members for review.

Ms. Tillman Wolf announced that the Conference 2026 Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 24–26, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky. She encouraged Board Member participation and asked those interested in attending to contact her directly.

Ms. Tillman Wolf reported on updates to the Virginia Laws, Rules, and Regulations (LRR) Exam. She announced that the updated examination forms went live on October 1, 2025. She reported that from September 2024 to September 2025, 97 applicants took the LRR exam with a 94% pass rate. She stated that she would report back to the Board with any data on the pass rate related to the updated forms.

*2026 Board Meeting Schedule*

Ms. Tillman Wolf announced the schedule for the 2026 Board meetings.

- January 13, 2026
- April 14, 2026
- July 14, 2026

- October 20, 2026

*Notes and Reminders*

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that a Conflict of Interest Form was provided for Board members' review and signature, based on a new policy from the agency, ensuring that Board Members notify the Executive Director as soon as possible if there is a conflict of interest for disciplinary case review.

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided reminders to the Board regarding updates to contact information and Board-related travel. She thanked members for their service and dedication to the Board.

With no questions, Ms. Tillman Wolf concluded her report.

***Discipline Report – Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director***

As of August 31, 2025, Ms. Kelley reported the following disciplinary statistics:

- 10 Patient Care Cases
  - 0 at Informal
  - 0 at Formal
  - 2 at Enforcement
  - 6 at Probable Cause
  - 2 at APD
- 90 Non-Patient Care Cases
  - 1 at Informal
  - 0 at Formal
  - 26 at Enforcement
  - 61 at Probable Cause
  - 2 at APD
- 9 at Compliance

Ms. Kelley reported the following Total Cases Received and Closed:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Q4 2022 – 28/21 | • Q3 2024 – 19/28 |
| • Q1 2023 – 5/23  | • Q4 2024 – 21/37 |
| • Q2 2023 – 10/21 | • Q1 2025 – 17/17 |
| • Q3 2023 – 11/13 | • Q2 2025 – 22/4  |
| • Q4 2023 – 27/11 | • Q3 2025 – 24/25 |
| • Q1 2024 – 24/22 | • Q4 2025 – 15/11 |
| • Q2 2024 – 23/32 |                   |

With no questions, Ms. Kelley concluded her report.

***Licensure Report – Sarah Georgen, Board Administrator***

*Licensure Statistics – All Licenses*

Ms. Georgen presented licensure statistics and trends in license count.

License	December 31, 2024 (Q2 2025)	June 30, 2025 (Q4 2025)	Difference (+/-)
Funeral Service Licensees	1,609	1,566	-43
Funeral Director	64	68	+4
Embalmer Only	4	4	0
Supervisors	304	348	+44
Funeral Service Interns	191	167	-24
Funeral Directing Interns	40	40	0
Embalmer Interns	5	4	-1
Funeral Establishments	425	428	+3
Branch Establishments	91	89	-2
Crematories	139	140	+1
CE Providers	11	12	+1
Courtesy Card Holders	145	134	-9
Surface Transport & Removal Svc.	53	50	-3
<b>Total (*not incl. supervisors)</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>-75</b>

Ms. Georgen reviewed the trends of licensure counts since Q4–2020.

*Laws, Rules, and Regulations (LRR) Exam Scores*

Ms. Georgen presented the LRR examination data from September 2024 through September 2025. A total of 97 exam attempts were recorded. Of those, 91 candidates passed with an average score of 86%, while the six unsuccessful attempts had an average score of 71%.

*2025 CE Provider Renewal Notifications*

Ms. Georgen reported that the 2025 CE Provider licensure renewal notifications have been completed and distributed.

Mr. Wray requested clarification regarding the examination scores and the number of licensed funeral directors.

With no further questions, Ms. Georgen concluded her report.

***Inspections Report – Wendy Ashworth, Senior Inspector, Enforcement Division***

Ms. Ashworth presented the Inspections Report to the Board, highlighting the work of the Enforcement Division’s inspections team, inspection data, regional coverage, and future planning efforts.

She reported that four full-time Senior Inspectors are assigned to the Central, Northern Virginia, Tidewater, and Southwest regions, with one part-time Inspector supporting all regions. Ms. Ashworth reviewed past inspection data, including investigations by region and total inspections completed in prior years. She noted challenges in the completion of routine inspections, such as staff turnover and temporary lapses in coverage, as well as adequate time for training of new inspectors. She further attributed delays over the past year to the prioritization of EMS inspections conducted for the Board of Pharmacy, as well as new facility applications for all impacted boards.

Looking ahead, Ms. Ashworth outlined a plan to prioritize inspections for the Boards of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine. The plan included setting a consistent number of monthly inspections, reducing investigative assignments for Inspectors, coordinating inspections for efficiency, incorporating virtual inspections, and utilizing an upcoming survey to support planning.

Ms. Ashworth responded to questions from Dr. Hickey regarding repeat inspections and Board processes. Mr. A. Owens provided clarification on inspection funding and financial challenges across the boards. Mr. T. Owens requested clarification on procedures for intermittent inspections related to violations.

With no further questions, Ms. Ashworth concluded her report.

**BOARD COUNSEL REPORT – Sara Blose, Senior Assistant Attorney General**

Ms. Blose had no matters to report to the Board.

**BREAK**

The Board took a break at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:56 a.m.

**COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

*Examination Committee Report – R. Thomas Slusser, FSL*

Mr. Slusser provided a brief report on the activities of the Board’s Examination Committee.

With no questions, he concluded his report.

*Report from Board Member Training – International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards – Amanda Perry, FSL*

Ms. Perry provided a report on the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards’ Board Member Training, which she attended in September 2025. The training, titled “Regulatory Board Service 101,” focused on the roles and responsibilities of board members. She shared a copy of the Model Practice Act provided during the conference and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend.

Ms. Perry noted that the training included 22 participants representing 16 jurisdictions, including Canada. She also highlighted potential future opportunities for engagement with the Conference.

With no questions from the Board, Ms. Perry concluded her report.

**LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY REPORT**

*Legislative Report; Review of Potential Agency Legislative Requests – Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs*

Ms. Barrett reviewed a draft legislative proposal included in the agenda materials, which seeks to amend the Callahan Act. The proposed amendments would allow fee actions to be implemented through exempt regulatory action, permit the Department to request general fund appropriations for discrete costs, and authorize the recovery of costs associated with investigations and disciplinary proceedings.

Ms. Barrett noted that this proposal was developed jointly with the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), which the Callahan Act also governs. It was emphasized that this is a draft proposal only, and any legislative initiative must be approved by the Agency Director and the Governor’s Office before proceeding. Upon approval, the agency may begin identifying patrons for the proposed legislation. She stated that no action was required from the Board at this time and that the item was presented for informational purposes only.

Ms. Barrett and Mr. Owens answered questions from the Board regarding the proposed legislation.

With no other questions, Ms. Barrett concluded her report.

*Report on Status of Regulatory Actions - Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator*

Mr. Novak provided an overview related to pending regulatory actions.

**BOARD ACTION**

*Review and Approve Guidance Document 65-\_\_\_, Disposition of Disciplinary Cases for Failure to Designate Manager of Record or to Obtain or Renew Hardship Waiver for Manager of Record*

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided information to the Board regarding a new proposed guidance document on the disposition of disciplinary cases for failing to designate a Manager of Record or to obtain or renew a hardship waiver for a Manager of Record.

Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Slusser, properly seconded by Mr. Wray, the Board voted to approve the Guidance Document for “Disposition of Disciplinary Cases for Failure to Designate Manager of Record or to Obtain or Renew Hardship Waiver for Manager of Record” as presented. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

*Board Guidance on Funeral Interns Observing Provision of Preneed Funeral Services*

Ms. Tillman Wolf addressed recent confusion among practitioners regarding the role of funeral interns in observing preneed funeral services. She clarified that the observation of preneed arrangements has always been a required component of the internship process and is supported by existing regulations.

She explained that prior regulatory changes were intended to address concerns about unlicensed individuals or interns directly engaging in preneed planning and sales, not to prohibit observation.

*Review and Approve Guidance Document 65-3, Funeral Interns Observing Provision of Preneed Funeral Services*

Ms. Tillman Wolf presented a draft Guidance Document that would clarify the Board’s regulations regarding funeral interns and preneed planning and sales.

Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Owens, properly seconded by Mr. Nelsen, the Board voted to approve the Guidance Document 65-3 on “Funeral Interns Observing Provision of Preneed Funeral Services” as presented. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

*Motion - Clarification of the Board's Regulations Regarding Funeral Interns and Preneed Planning and Sales*

Until the Guidance Document is effective, Ms. Tillman Wolf stated the Board may wish to consider a motion to clarify the role of funeral interns in observing preneed planning and sales.

Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Piotrowski, properly seconded by Mr. Wray, the Board voted to interpret the Board’s existing regulations to permit funeral interns to observe preneed funeral planning and sales. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

**PRESENTATION**

*Updates from Office of Vital Records - Shaun Anderson, Field Service Representative, and Denise Cox, Senior Field Service Representative, Virginia Department of Health, Office of Vital Records*

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Anderson and Ms. Cox from the Office of Vital Records, who provided an overview of recent legislative changes and procedural updates affecting the funeral service

profession. The presentation included clarification on reporting requirements, updates to the amendment process for vital records, and guidance on how funeral service providers can navigate administrative and judicial procedures when corrections are needed.

The presenters also discussed enhancements to the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS), aimed at improving efficiency and communication between funeral directors, medical certifiers, and state agencies. These improvements are expected to streamline the amendment process and reduce delays in record completion. Additionally, the Board was informed of ongoing efforts to address challenges related to compliance and coordination among stakeholders.

Future considerations were also shared, including potential policy changes and system updates that may impact how specific requests are submitted and processed. The presenters responded to questions from Board members and offered support for continued collaboration to ensure accurate and timely vital records management.

*2025 Report – Virginia’s Funeral Service Provider Workforce – Yetty Shobo, PhD, Director, and Barbara Hodgdon, PhD, Deputy Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center*

Dr. Hodgdon provided a summary of the findings of the 2025 Workforce Report for Funeral Service Providers.

Upon a **MOTION** by Ms. Perry, properly seconded by Mr. Piotrowski, the Board voted to accept the 2025 Workforce Report for Funeral Service Providers as presented. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

## **ELECTIONS**

Mr. Hines stated that in accordance with the Bylaws, during the first meeting of the organizational year, the Board shall elect from its members a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Hines provided remarks regarding the process for making additional floor nominations.

Mr. Hines opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

Mr. Slusser nominated Mr. Hines for the position of President. There were no other nominations. The nominations were closed.

Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Owens, properly seconded by Mr. Wray, the Board voted to elect Mr. Hines as President of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Hines opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

Dr. Hickey was nominated for the position of Vice-President. There were no other nominations. The nominations were closed.

Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Owens, properly seconded by Mr. Piotrowski, the Board voted to elect Dr. Hickey as Vice-President of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Hines opened the floor for nominations for Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

Mr. Nelsen was nominated for the position of Secretary-Treasurer. There were no other nominations. The nominations were closed.

Upon a **MOTION** by Dr. Hickey, properly seconded by Mr. Slusser, the Board voted to elect Mr. Nelsen as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date is January 13, 2026.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hines called for any objections to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections and with all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director

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Date



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**Public Comments : Clarification of Interns Participation in Pre Need Arrangements**

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From mrbarryde@aol.com <mrbarryde@aol.com>

Date Fri 10/3/2025 11:09 AM

To Tillman Wolf, Corie (DHP) <corie.wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Cc Donita Greene <dgreeneccbc@gmail.com>; Connie Steele <serenity\_24016@yahoo.com>; C. CARTERS <christophercarter\_822@msn.com>; Michael Hamlar <mhamlar@gmail.com>

To the Executive Director, President, and Members of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

On behalf the Virginia Morticians Association, Inc., we would like to get clarification on 18VAC65-30-50: Solicitation: part B: ***Funeral interns shall not engage in preneed planning or sales.***

18VAC65-40-130 states that the interns should: Receive training in all areas of funeral service to include assisting with 25 funerals, 25 arrangement conferences, and 25 embalmings. We feel engaging in the planning or sales of preneed under supervision is a part of funeral services.

Preneed may be the only phrase of internship that interns can not participate in but, it is on the state examination. In addition, on the Intern report forms, there is a line item that asks the question concerning receiving training in funeral arranging (At Need and Preneed Yes /No)

We feel this is an issue that needs to be reviewed. If an intern can assist with embalming and funeral directing with supervision, they should be allowed to participate in a preneed arrangement conference with supervision.

Our goal is to ensure our newly licensed funeral directors are fully prepared and knowledgeable to continue to serve at the funeral home. Hopefully, this will prevent discrepancies in the preneed section of future inspections.

Thank you for the time and attention on this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry D. Robinson  
Legislative Chairman  
The Virginia Morticians' Association, Inc

# Legislative and Regulatory Reports

**Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers**  
**Legislative Report**  
**As of March 24, 2026**  
*Companion bills have not been included.*

**Note:** All bills that passed both chambers are on the Governor’s desk. The Governor has until April 13 to approve, veto, or request amendments to passed legislation.

[HB 156](#) - Electronic death reg. system; requiring certain applicants for licensure to complete training.

**Chief Patron: Krizek**

**Companion: SB194 (Williams Graves)**

**Status: Passed**

Governor’s Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026

Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026

**Board of Medicine and Board of Nursing; licensure renewal; electronic death registration system; death certificates.** Requires the Board of Medicine and Board of Nursing to amend their applications for licensure and licensure renewal to require doctors of medicine and osteopathic medicine, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants to indicate if they expect their scope of practice to include signing death certificates and, if so, to indicate that they have completed the online tutorial for the Electronic Death Registration System on the Department of Health website. This bill is identical to SB 194.

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[HB 381](#) - Investigation or autopsy of dead bodies; notification of retention of whole organ.

**Chief Patron: Bennett-Parker**

**Status: Passed**

Governor’s Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026

Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 10, 2026

**Investigation or autopsy of dead bodies; Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; notification of retention of whole organ.** Requires the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to inform through written communication a decedent's next of kin, other person authorized by law to make arrangements for the disposition of a decedent's remains, or funeral service establishment or funeral service licensee if an investigation or autopsy requires the retention of any whole organ of a dead body. If the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner provides written notification to the funeral service establishment or funeral service licensee, the bill requires such establishment or licensee to provide such written notification to the decedent's next of kin or other person authorized by law to make arrangements for the disposition of the decedent's remains.

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[HB 796](#) - Regulatory boards; adjustment of fees, recovery of disciplinary and monitoring costs, report.

**Chief Patron: Hayes**

**Companion: SB680 (Head)**

**Status: Passed**

Governor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 13, 2026

Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 14, 2026

**Professions and occupations; adjustment of fees by regulatory boards; recovery of disciplinary and monitoring costs.** Repeals the provision of law that requires, following the close of any biennium, when the account for any regulatory board within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) shows revenue to be a certain percentage greater than expenses, such regulatory board to distribute excess revenue to current regulants and reduce its licensure or certification fees so that fees are sufficient but not excessive to cover expenses. The bill also repeals the provision with respect to the Department of Health Professions (DHP) that requires, following the close of any biennium, when the account for any regulatory board shows expenses allocated to it for the past biennium to be a certain percentage greater than moneys collected by the board, the board to revise its fees so that such fees are sufficient but not excessive to cover expenses. The bill makes it permissive for the regulatory boards within DPOR and DHP to annually revise the fees levied by it for certification, licensure, registration, or permit and renewal so that the fees are sufficient but not excessive to cover expenses. Regulatory boards are also permitted to recover reasonable administrative costs associated with investigation, disciplinary proceedings, monitoring, and confirming compliance with any terms and conditions imposed from any person who is (i) licensed, registered, certified, or issued a multistate licensure privilege by any regulatory or health regulatory board and (ii) issued a finding of a violation of law or regulation from such regulatory or health regulatory board. Such administrative costs shall not exceed \$500 for regulatory boards within DPOR and \$1,500 for health regulatory boards within DHP.

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**Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers**  
**Current Regulatory Actions**  
**As of March 23, 2026**

**In the Governor’s Office**

None.

**In the Secretary’s Office**

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Date submitted for Exec. Branch Review	Office; time in office	Notes
18VAC65-30	Emergency /NOIRA	Declinable preneed funeral guarantee fee amendments	7/22/2024	HHR; 59 days	Allows the addition of a declinable preneed funeral guarantee fee to a preneed agreement as created by Ch. 247 of the 2024 Acts of Assembly (SB521)
18VAC65-20 18VAC65-30 18VAC65-40	Proposed	2023 Regulatory Reduction	2/3/2025	HHR; 24 days	Encompasses the Board’s most significant reduction efforts that were started in 2023
18VAC65-20	Fast-Track	Requirements for preparation rooms for establishments that do not embalm	5/2/2025	HHR; 31 days	Exempts certain funeral establishments that do not embalm from maintaining embalming equipment

**At DPB/OAG**

None.

**Recently effective or awaiting publication**

None.

# Board Actions

**Agenda Item: Readoption of electronic meeting policy**

**Included in your agenda package:**

- Electronic participation policy.

**Staff notes:** Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3(D) requires public bodies to adopt electronic participation policies. The attached policy is consistent with the law and is applied across DHP.

**Action needed:**

- Motion to readopt the electronic participation policy.

# **Virginia Department of Health Professions**

## **Meetings Held with Electronic Participation**

### **Purpose:**

To establish a written policy for allowing electronic participation of board or committee members for meetings of the health regulatory boards of the Department of Health Professions or their committees.

### **Policy:**

Electronic participation by members of the health regulatory boards of the Department of Health Professions or their committees shall be in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.

### **Authority:**

This policy for conducting a meeting with electronic participation shall be in accordance with [Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3](#).

### **Procedures:**

1. One or more members of the Board or a committee may participate electronically if, on or before the day of a meeting, the member notifies the chair and the executive director that he/she is unable to attend the meeting due to:
  - a. a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance;
  - b. a medical condition of a member of the member's family requires the member to provide care that prevents the member's physical attendance;
  - c. the member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location identified in the required notice for such meeting; or
  - d. the member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter.

No member, however, may use remote participation due to personal matters more than two meetings per calendar year or 25% of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

2. Participation by a member through electronic communication means must be approved by the board chair or president. The reason for the member's electronic participation shall

be stated in the minutes in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3(A)(4). If a member's participation from a remote location is disapproved because it would violate this policy, it must be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

3. The board or committee holding the meeting shall record in its minutes the remote location from which the member participated; the remote location, however, does not need to be open to the public and may be identified by a general description.