

Public participation guidelines exist to promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of an agency's regulations. Under §2.2-4007.02 of the Code of Virginia, every rulemaking body in Virginia is required to adopt public participation guidelines and to use these guidelines in the development of its regulations. Chapter 321 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly (effective July 1, 2008) mandates that by December 1, 2008, agencies either adopt model public participation guidelines issued by the Department of Planning and Budget or if they need to make significant changes to the model guidelines, promulgate new public participation guidelines as fast-track regulations. The amendments repeal the current public participation guidelines and promulgate the model public participation guidelines. Highlights of the model public participation guidelines include the addition of negotiated rulemaking panels and regulatory advisory panels and instructions for notification lists.