VIRGINIA IT AGENCY

Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC)
April 09, 2026 - 10:00 am

Agenda

Call to Order and Welcome	Chair and Staff
Rollcall	Staff
Review of Agenda	Staff
Approval of Minutes	Staff
Presentations and Discussion	
Legislative Update	Jaime Hoyle Director, Legal and Legislative Services VITA
Proposed Technology Legislation	Delegate Michael Feggans
Other State Experience	Mike Geraghty CISO, State of New Jersey
AI Task Force Summary	Bob Osmond CIO, Commonwealth of Virginia
Officer Elections	Staff
Public Comment	Staff
Other Business	Staff
Adjourn	

Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC)
MINUTES – August 13, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
The Boulders, Mary Jackson Conference Room

Call to Order and Welcome

The Information Technology Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Mr. Craft welcomed all the members. Ms. Ly called the roll.

Presiding:

John Craft, Chair

Members Present:

Adam S. Lee

Sam Nixon

James S. Kraemer

Delegate Fernando "Marty" Martinez

Delegate Jackie H. Glass

Delegate Joshua E. Thomas

Senator Bill DeSteph

Lyn McDermid, Secretary of Administration

Bob Osmond, CIO of the Commonwealth

Commissioner Demetrios Melis on behalf of Secretary Slater

Virtual Members:

Anthony T. Gitalado

Robert I. Turner

Senator Saddam A. Salim

Dr. Timothy M. Tillman

Delegate Michael Feggans

Senator Jennifer B. Boysko

Mr. Gitalado, Mr. Turner, Dr. Tillman, Delegate Feggans, Senator Salim, and Senator Boysko participated remotely due to distance or travel.

Members Not Present:

Dena Kozanas, Vice-Chair

Ram Phea

Kane Cherif

Staff Present:

Joshua Heslinga, Director, Legal and Legislative Services

Mylam Ly, Policy & Governmental Affairs Manager

Harper Minarik, CAO Administration Specialist

April Gauldin, Legal & Legislative Services Coordinator

Richard Matthews, Chief Customer Experience Officer

Michael Watson, Chief Information Security Officer

Brahma Alaparthi, Chief of Enterprise and Cloud Solutions

Naveen Abraham, Chief of Core Infrastructure Services

Sam Taylor, External Communications Manager

Review of Agenda

Ms. Ly provided an overview of the agenda.

Readoption of Remote Participation Policy

Mr. Heslinga reviewed the readoption of the remote participation policy. No substantive changes were made and ITAC's policy remains to allow remote participation to the full extent permitted by law. Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3 requires the policy be adopted by a vote at least once annually. Upon a motion by Delegate Thomas to approve the Remote Participation Policy, and seconded by Mr. Lee, the motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes

The April meeting minutes were displayed on the screen. Upon a motion by Delegate Martinez to approve the minutes, and seconded by Delegate Thomas, the motion was unanimously approved through a voice vote.

Application Modernization and Six-Year Plan Update

Mr. Matthews presented on Application Modernization and the Six-Year Plan. He noted 61 of 62 agency IT Strategic Plans (ITSPs) are complete – an unprecedented milestone. Of the 2,552 applications assessed, 344 required urgent attention, while 1,600 were in stable condition. A total of 865 applications were identified for modernization, with 603 included in the six-year plan. About 500 applications are planned for FY'24-26 and 200 applications remain unsolved or unplanned post FY'30 and need more work. VITA is working with agencies to consolidate efforts and provide enterprise-level support through platforms and tools like the Microsoft Power Platform, RPA, and AI tools. More information can be found in the presentation.

Following Mr. Matthews, Mr. Alaparthi highlighted the transition from custom development to leveraging Microsoft platforms and AI. He discussed the development of the Commonwealth App Store, which aims to share applications across agencies, supporting both shared services and database support needs. He also noted the use of AI to enhance productivity, assist in coding, and potentially identify technical debt.

Several issues were raised during discussion, including the impact of removing legacy applications on existing data linkages and dependencies, the risk of data gaps when consolidating multiple systems, challenges related to data access and privacy, particularly with older applications, and ensuring enterprise security and safe use of AI in developing environments. The importance of properly handling sensitive data was emphasized, with a focus on encryption, data classification, and privacy. While agencies maintain autonomy, there was agreement on the need to use standards to ensure compliance across operational, financial, and security domains. Additional concerns included whether agencies have the resources to update their applications and the possibility of pre-funding development efforts. Suggestions were made to establish a transformation office or committees for agency heads across the Commonwealth to bridge business and IT, and to replicate successful models, such as the permitting system, for broader modernization efforts. Testing this model with FOIA was suggested.

Cybersecurity Risk Management

Mr. Watson presented on cybersecurity risk management, outlining threats such as AI-driven phishing, ransomware, and security threats from China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. He emphasized the need for improved cyber hygiene, stronger control for privileged accounts, and secure AI integration. Also discussed were completed cybersecurity projects, including the rollout of Splunk, updated multifactor authentication (MFA) protocols, and new vulnerability management tools. The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) has been awarded $25 million and has obtained participation from 159 local entities, with a focus on rural areas and critical security improvements. There was also discussion about whether localities have a forum to share cybersecurity challenges, with examples given of improved

collaboration through groups like ValGITE and VCPC. More information can be found in the presentation.

Members asked questions about training requirements and accessibility for privileged accounts, with confirmation that VITA provides infrastructure-level training, though enhanced monitoring remains necessary. Additional subjects of discussion included cognitive security and the risk of AI-related data leakage, with data loss prevention (DLP) tools currently being explored. There were also questions about third-party risk management, and it was confirmed that contractual controls are in place. Also discussed was transitioning from a defense model to a trust-based approach, with suggestions such as implementing passkeys and emphasizing employee education on security.

Officer Elections

Mr. Heslinga led the nomination and election of the Board Chair and Vice Chair, with the newly elected individuals to assume their roles at the next meeting in December. It was noted that, by code, the Chief Information Officer and the Secretary of Administration are ineligible to serve as Chair. As previously discussed, nominations were solicited, and both positions were uncontested.

Ms. Dena Kozanas, currently serving as Vice Chair, was nominated for the position of Chair. A motion was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Delegate Thomas and Mr. Nixon to approve Ms. Konzanas as Chair. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Adam Lee was nominated for the position of Vice Chair. A motion was made by Mr. Nixon and seconded by Delegate Thomas to approve Mr. Lee as Vice Chair. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Other Business

Mr. Craft opened the floor for other business. Ms. Ly discussed travel forms and the next meeting.

Adjourn

At 11:42 a.m., the meeting was adjourned after a motion was made by Mr. Nixon and seconded by Mr. Lee.

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Information Technology Advisory Council meeting

April 9, 2026

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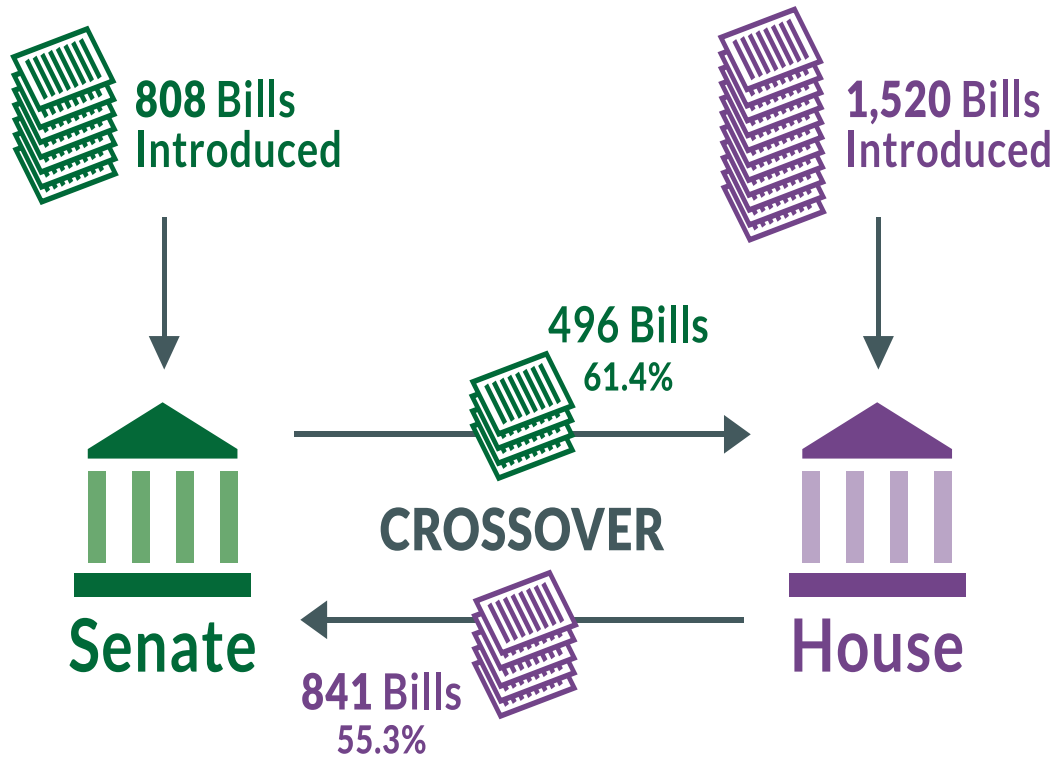
Legislative Update

Jaime Hoyle, Director
Legal & Legislative Services

April 9, 2026

2026 Session - Overall



https://www.vpap.org/visuals/visual/crossover-2026

- **Long Session (60 days)**
- **2,328 bills introduced**
- **Crossover – February 18th; Adjourned – March 14th**
  - 1,208 passed
  - 716 Failed
  - 438 Carried over
  - 86 Consolidated
- **April 13** – Deadline for Governor to sign, amend, or veto
- **April 22** – Veto Session
- **April 23** – Session to finalize budget

2026 Virginia General Assembly

- **Actively tracking approximately 50 bills that impact VITA or are of interest to VITA:**
  - AI
  - Cybersecurity
  - Procurement
  - Data Governance
  - State Government/Employees
- **5 VITA lead agency bills**

House Bill (HB) 83 (Feggans)

- **HB83 empowers VITA and the chief information officer (CIO) to establish a cyber civilian corps**
- Rapid response volunteer cybersecurity workforce to support public-sector incidents
- Consist of volunteer and advisory personnel available to assist municipalities, educational institutions, nonprofits and critical infrastructure entities in cybersecurity incidents
  - Continued to next year

HB707 (Hayes)

HB707 (Hayes): State government; transaction of public business; prohibited website domains

- **Mandates that all public bodies in Virginia use a ".gov" domain for official websites and employee public-facing email addresses**
- **Goal is to enhance cybersecurity and public trust through standardized ".gov" domains**
  - Continued to 2027 with a letter to Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) requesting a workgroup to study implementation

HB797 (Hayes)/SB384 (Graves)

HB797 (Hayes)/SB384 (Graves); VITA; artificial intelligence; independent verification organizations

- **Establishes licensing framework for private independent verification organizations (IVOs) to assess AI systems/applications for compliance with safety standards aimed at preventing personal injury or property damage**
  - As introduced, would have required VITA to promulgate regulations to license the IVOs
  - Also establishes an advisory board
- **Goal is to create regulatory infrastructure to support safe and accountable AI implementation**
  - Converted to a JCOTS study – Report due by Nov. 1, 2026
  - Awaiting Governor's signature

HB1161(Tran)

HB1161(Tran): Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act; dissemination of personal information to federal government; civil penalties

- **Tightens privacy protections around public sector data sharing**
- **Expands definition of personal information**
- **Specifies circumstances that allow data sharing**
  - Passed; awaiting Governor's signature

Bills of interest that passed

- **Procurement bills**
  - HB61: Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity; Small, Women-owned or Minority-owned (SWaM) business procurement
- **Cybersecurity bills**
  - HB178: Public schools; student support services, student personal information and data security, report
  - HB319: Department of Elections; workgroup on back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration
  - HB1041: Department of Corrections (DOC); functional literacy program for inmates; data sharing and tracking
  - SB190: Public schools; student support services; student personal information and data security: certification; requirements; grants; report

Bills of interest that passed (cont.)

- **Artificial intelligence bills**
  - HB580: Division of consumer counsel; duties; artificial intelligence fraud and abuse
  - HJ32: Study; Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC); artificial intelligence use policies in place at institutions of higher education
  - SB245: Social media platforms; school boards, artificial intelligence systems, civil penalties
  - SB394: Board of Education; artificial intelligence use in instructional settings; development of AI safety guidance required; AI Innovation in Education pilot program

Questions?

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Proposed Technology Legislation

Delegate Michael Feggans

April 9, 2026

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Other State Experience

Mike Geraghty
CISO, State of New Jersey

April 9, 2026

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Commonwealth of Virginia AI Strategy

Task Force Report Summary

CIO Robert Osmond

April 9, 2026

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force

- The Governor launched the Task Force to guide the Commonwealth's AI strategy.
- Established in 2024, the Task Force brought together leading experts in the AI field. Membership also included specialists from sectors most impacted by AI, including education, industry, law enforcement, and workforce development.
- The AI Task Force reflects a broad, bipartisan range of perspectives and professional backgrounds.
- The goal is to position Virginia to lead the nation in exploiting the full range of AI opportunities while maintaining appropriate guardrails.

Virginia AI Task Force: Distinguished Appointees

Virginia extends sincere appreciation to the distinguished members of the AI Task Force for their service and leadership. The Task Force brings together nationally recognized experts from technology, education, engineering, public safety, economics, and innovation.

- **John Bailey,** Founder, Vestigo Partners; Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute
- **Bill Cleveland,** Former Vice Mayor of Alexandria; Former Capitol Police Officer
- **Richard Culatta,** CEO, International Society for Technology in Education and ASCD
- **Dr. Isi Ero-Johnson,** Dean, School of Science, Hampton University
- **Zach Graves,** Executive Director, Foundation for American Innovation
- **Samuel "Sam" Hammond,** Senior Economist, Foundation for American Innovation
- **Tim Hwang,** Senior Technology Fellow, Institute for Progress
- **Jamil Jaffer,** Professor, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University
- **Lori Jennings,** Founder, Jennings ProSearch
- **Zack Kass,** Executive Advisor, UVA McIntire School of Commerce
- **Paige Kowalski,** Executive Vice President, Data Quality Campaign
- **Naren Ramakrishnan,** Professor of Engineering, Virginia Tech

Task Force Statement

With Virginia's many technology industries in data centers, defense, government, and research institutions, Virginia is poised to be the leading state to take advantage of the economic opportunities generated by responsible growth and the use of AI technologies.

Virginia's AI strategy and policy must emphasize safe, responsible, and ethical use of AI across state government and public services. The standards should promote AI-enabled learning while enforcing strong privacy protections, clear human oversight, and robust safeguards. Agencies must implement standards for the development, deployment, and ongoing monitoring of AI tools. Improvements in efficiency and innovation must not compromise citizen privacy or child safety. The framework should harness AI's benefits for society, while applying guardrails that mitigate risks.

Task Force Recommendations In Four Domains

Education

Promote thoughtful exploration of new AI tools, expand professional development, and educate students and teachers in best practices in the classroom and prepare them for the workforce of the future.

Workforce Development

Ensure that Virginia's workforce — both those currently employed and those seeking new or next careers — continually upskill to ensure they provide value beyond routine functions that can be automated.

Energy

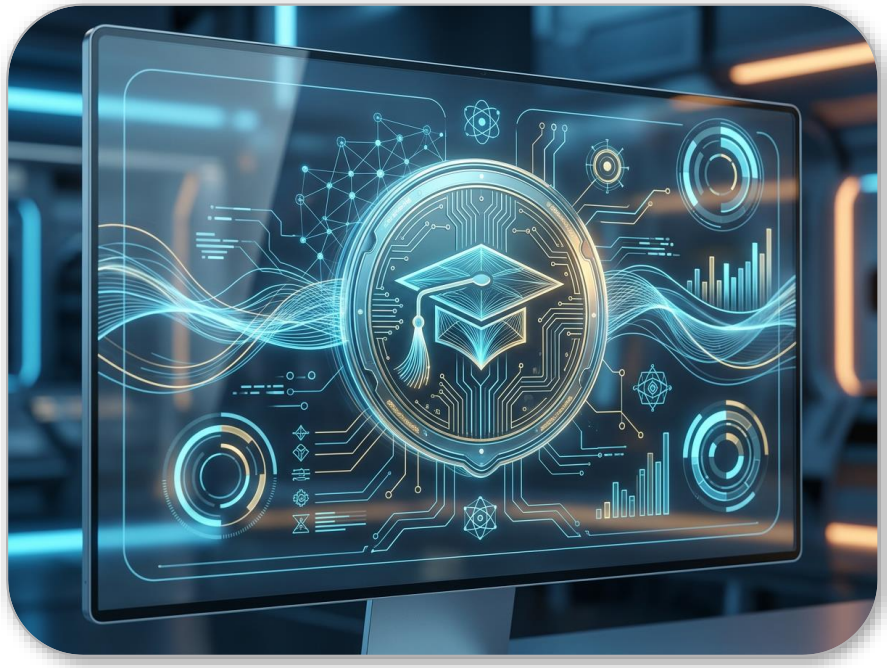
AI is driving investment in both power generation and transmission infrastructure while also optimizing energy use.

Economic Growth

Focus the Commonwealth on economic growth and limit overregulation, while also ensuring that incentives align private industry's goals with the Commonwealth's desire for trusted, safe, and secure AI capabilities.

Artificial Intelligence in Education Accomplishments

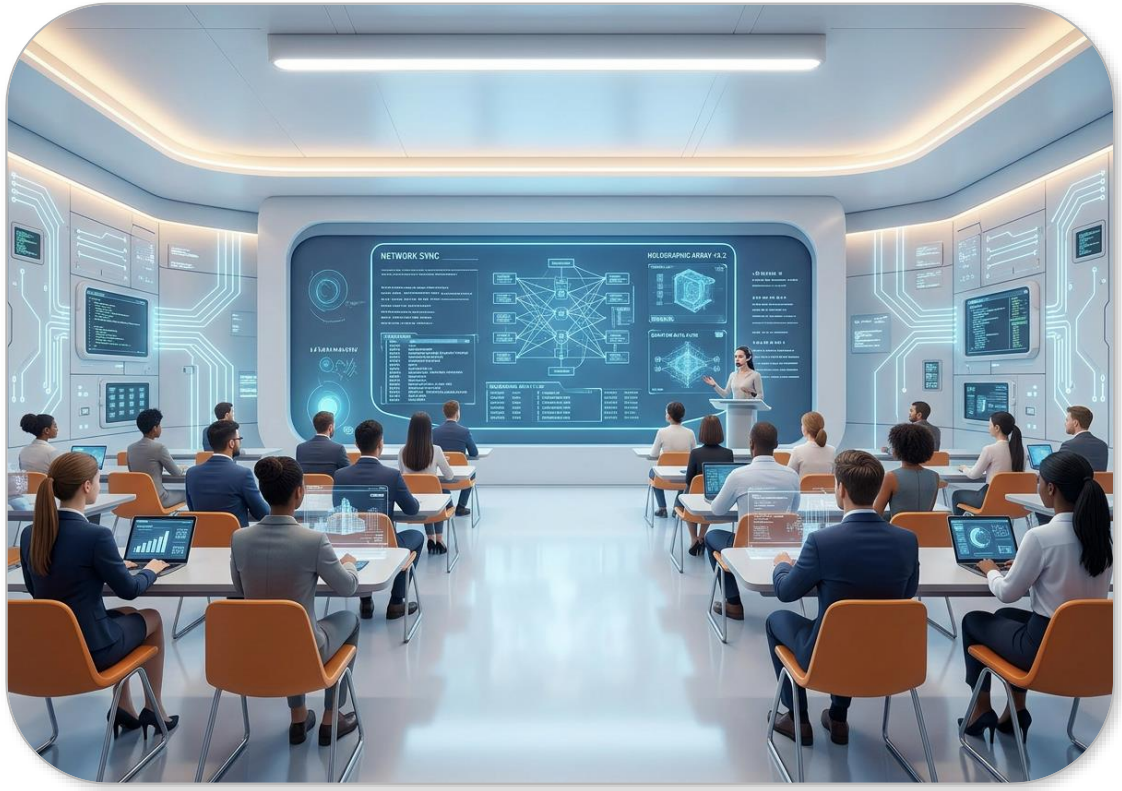
- **National Leadership:** Virginia became one of the first states to establish a strategic plan for AI integration from K-12 through postsecondary education.
- **Core Philosophy:** AI is viewed as an **opportunity**, not a threat—focused on fostering student creativity and reasoning, personalizing learning, and automating administrative tasks for teachers.
- **Key Accomplishments to Date:**
  - K-12 Integration: Launched the "Year of Learning" (supporting 75 school systems) and deployed Instructional Technology Resource Teachers (ITRTs) to coach educators.
  - Innovative Lab Schools: 15 partnership schools (e.g., SmithTECH, Academy of Technology and Innovation) are currently strengthening the AI talent pipeline.
  - Higher Ed Milestones: Established specialized degree programs (Hampton University) and advanced clinical simulations (UVA School of Nursing) and SCHEV released a Reference Guide on AI.
- **Governance:** Implementation of model policies focusing on **data privacy, ethical use, and internet safety**



Education: Strategic Roadmap and Future Objectives

- **Academic Integrity and Standards:** Commitment to rigorous standards to ensure students develop core reasoning skills and do not become "over-reliant" on AI tools.
- **Increasing AI Literacy:** Development of micro-credentials and "scenario-based" training for both teachers and students; Focus on identifying AI-generated misinformation and "hallucinations."
- **Local Empowerment:** Encouraging school divisions to develop autonomous policies while providing state-level guidance on acceptable use.
- **The Talent Pipeline:** Aligning dual-enrollment, community college certificates, and university programs to create a path into AI-enabled careers.
- **Community Engagement:** Partnering with organizations like Blue Ridge PBS to involve families in transparent dialogues about AI's role in the classroom.
- **Key Takeaway:** Virginia aims to lead the nation by balancing rapid technological adoption with human-centric safeguards and workforce readiness.

Workforce Development Transformation and Strategy



- **The Challenge:** As AI automates routine functions, Virginia's workforce must continually upskill to provide high-value, uniquely human contributions.
- **The Opportunity:**
  - Access: Expanding professional education through digital platforms.
  - Efficiency: AI-assisted job matching and applicant screening.
  - Growth: Supporting the "gig economy" and tech-forward career pivots.
- **Current Action – "Virginia Has Jobs":**
  - Launched a one-stop AI hub in partnership with Google, VEDP, and state universities.
  - Offers free certifications (Google AI Essentials and Prompting Essentials).
  - Provides curated, low-cost pathways for both beginners and those seeking AI-centric careers.

Workforce: The "Top State for Talent" 2030 Moonshot

- **The Vision:** By 2030, Virginia aims to have the **most AI-ready workforce in the U.S.**, ensuring every working-age Virginian receives foundational upskilling.
- **Strategic Pillars:**
  - Low-Barrier Entry: Communicating accessible AI literacy programs to the public.
  - Employer Collaboration: Tailoring upskilling programs specifically for current employees.
  - K-12 Integration: Building the talent pipeline from an early age.
- **Success Metrics (How We Measure Progress):**
  - Expansion of AI/Digital upskilling across all workforce programs.
  - Total number of citizens trained through American Job Centers.
  - Growth in employer partnerships and state-funded upskilling incentives.
  - Integration of AI literacy across K-12 school districts.

Energy: Powering The Future

- **The AI-Energy Paradox:** While AI drives massive energy demand for computational resources, it simultaneously provides the "smart" insights needed to optimize grid efficiency and deploy new energy sources.
- **Strategic Initiatives for Resource Adequacy:**
  - Direct Grid Partnerships: Managing large-scale load onboarding by coordinating data center operators with utilities and Regional Transmission Operators (RTOs).
  - Strategic Siting: Prioritizing "behind-the-meter" or co-located data centers near existing energy sources (particularly in South/Southwest Virginia) to reduce grid stress.
  - Net-New Generation: Ensuring new capacity is built so that increased AI demand does not raise electricity costs for Virginia citizens.
  - Building a "Smarter" Grid: Leveraging AI to identify efficiencies in energy development and deployment.

- **Regulatory and Technical Optimization:**
  - Streamlining project approvals through the SCC, FERC, and local governments.
  - Fast-tracking Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs), such as upgrading existing lines with high-capacity advanced conductors.

Strategic Actions to Support a High-Growth AI Economy

- Encourage growth of start-ups and small businesses by minimizing regulatory burdens that disproportionately limit new market entrants.
- Utilize non-regulatory tools—such as voluntary standards, credentialing, and university research—to address risks without stifling innovation.
- Ensure regulation empowers citizens and businesses through transparency, including disclosure of when and how AI informs key decisions.
- Expand use of AI inside government to streamline regulations, simplify guidance, evaluate costs and benefits, and reduce administrative burdens.
- Continue applying AI to regulatory modernization, building on Virginia's success in streamlining 35% of requirements and saving citizens over $1.4B annually.

A Legal Framework That Promotes Economic Growth

- **Innovation Over Constraint:** The core governing principle is to accelerate and expand Virginia's AI ecosystem. Avoid the "regulate first" approach seen in other jurisdictions (e.g., the EU) that can stifle startups and small businesses.
- **Leveraging Existing Laws:** Before creating new regulations, the state must identify specific "gaps." Most AI-related concerns—such as privacy, defamation, and consumer protection—are already covered by existing civil and criminal statutes.
- **Market-Based Guardrails:** Use voluntary industry credentialing and private standard-setting to signal trust and quality.
- **Incentives:** Align private industry goals with state safety objectives through incentives rather than mandates.
- **Targeted Protections:** Regulatory intervention should be a last resort, reserved for demonstrable risks that non-regulatory approaches cannot solve, with a specific focus on **child safety** and **public welfare.**

Modernizing Regulation Through Transparency & AI

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AI Use in State Government

- **Centralized Governance (VITA):** Under Executive Order 30, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) established a centralized system for registering, analyzing, and approving all new AI uses.
- **Security and Ethics:**
  - Existing cybersecurity policies are now aligned with AI-specific protections.
  - Focus on ensuring data privacy, integrity, and active mitigation of algorithmic bias.
  - Human-in-the-Loop: A core mandate that a human must remain responsible for any final decision; AI is a tool for processing, but output requires human review.
- **Innovation and Use Cases:**
  - 120+ active use cases: Including machine learning-enabled translation, accelerated permit/claims processing, and business process optimization.

- **Strategic Flexibility:**
  - Provides "latitude" for higher education and research institutions to explore AI freely.
  - Developing "enterprise patterns" to allow agencies to reuse proven AI tools quickly and efficiently rather than starting from scratch.

View the AI Task Report: https://www.vita.virginia.gov/media/vitavirginiagov/it-governance/ea/ai/pdf/COVA_AI_Strategy_EO30_TaskForceReport.pdf

Questions?