

**MINUTES – April 9, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.****Call to Order and Welcome**

The Information Technology Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Due to the Chair position being currently vacant and the Vice Chair being unavailable for the meeting, Director of Legal and Legislative Services for VITA, Jaime Hoyle, acted as Chair Pro Tem for this meeting in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Ms. Hoyle welcomed all the members. Ms. Gauldin called the roll.

Presiding:

Jaime Hoyle, Chair Pro Tem

Members Present:

Sam Nixon

Delegate Fernando "Marty" Martinez

Anthony Gitalado

Delegate Michael Feggans

Dr. Timothy M. Tillman

Traci Deshazor, Secretary of Administration

Robert I. Turner

Bob Osmond, CIO of the Commonwealth

Virtual Members:

John Craft

Senator Bill DeSteph

Cherif Kane

Senator Jennifer B. Boysko

James Kraemer

Senator Saddam A. Salim

Mr. Craft, Mr. Kane, Mr. Kraemer, Senator Salim, Senator DeSteph, and Senator Boysko participated remotely due to distance or work conflict.

Members Not Present:

Adam Lee

Phea Ram

Delegate Joshua Thomas

Delegate Jackie Glass

Staff Present:

Jaime Hoyle, Director, Legal and Legislative Services

April Gauldin, Legal and Legislative Services
Coordinator

Michael Watson, Chief Information Security Officer

Jason Brown, Chief Administrative Officer

Richard Matthews, Chief Customer Experience
Officer

Cynthia Cordova-Edwards, Chief Financial
Officer

Brahma Alaparthy, Chief of Enterprise and
Intelligent Solutions

Naveen Abraham, Chief of Core
Infrastructure Services

Sam Taylor, External Communications
Manager

Review of Agenda

Ms. Gauldin provided an overview of the agenda.

Legislative Update

Ms. Hoyle presented on the current Legislative Update. This General Assembly session was a long session of 60 days, in which 2,328 bills were introduced. Of those bills, 1,208 passed, 716 failed, 438 were carried over, and 86 were consolidated. April 13 will be the deadline for the Governor to sign, amend, or veto a bill. The Veto Session convenes on April 22 and the Session to finalize the budget convenes on April 23. VITA is actively tracking approximately 50 bills that impact the agency or are of interest to the agency, which includes bills on AI, cybersecurity, procurement, data governance, and state government/employees. VITA is currently the lead agency for 5 bills. These include House Bill (HB) 83, from Delegate Feggans, that empowers VITA and the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to establish a cyber civilian corps to provide a rapid response volunteer cybersecurity workforce to support public sector incidents. This Civilian Cyber Corps will consist of volunteer and advisory

personnel available to assist municipalities, educational institutions, nonprofits and critical infrastructure entities in cybersecurity incidents. HB83 was continued to next year. HB707, from Delegate Hayes, mandates that all public bodies in Virginia use a .gov domain for official websites and employee public-facing email addresses. HB707 was continued to 2027 with a letter to the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) requesting a workgroup to study implementation. HB797, introduced by Delegate Hayes, and Senate Bill (SB) 384, introduced by Senator Graves, establish licensing frameworks for private independent verification organizations (IVOs) to assess AI systems/applications for compliance with safety standards aimed at preventing personal injury and property damage. The goal of these bills is to create regulatory infrastructure to support safe and accountable AI implementation. These bills were converted to a JCOTS study due by November 1 and are awaiting the Governor's signature. HB1161, introduced by Delegate Tran, tightens privacy protections around public sector data sharing and expands the definition of personal information. HB1161 passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Proposed Technology Legislation

Delegate Feggans presented proposed technology legislation, particularly the Civilian Cyber Corps bill (HB83) that he introduced initially in 2024 and was reintroduced this year. Delegate Feggans asked that the bill again be continued due to the large amount of legislation that had occurred this General Assembly session and wanting to expand on the legislation in cooperation with VITA before being reintroduced next year. The legislation would create a corps of specialized civilians to advise in a volunteer capacity during a cybersecurity incident. These civilians would be screened prior to their use in the Corps to include a Virginia State Police background check. The Delegate noted that there would not be a large fiscal impact.

Other State Experience

Mr. Michael Geraghty, Chief Information Security Officer for the State of New Jersey, presented that state's experience with legislation on the creation of a Civilian Cyber Corps. This Corps was created by the New Jersey Organized Domestic Security Preparedness Act and includes elections, public utilities, policy, National Guard, operations, and intelligence. It is similar to a National Security Council but at the state level. The advisory council includes members from Emergency Management, IT resources, academic institutions, private sector, and suppliers and is provided oversight by the State Emergency Operations Plan. Council members must reach certain thresholds to be able to volunteer, including professional thresholds (system engineer experience, incident/threat intelligence, and tech competencies), employer support letters, skills assessments, and background checks. The Onboarding Lifecycle entails recruitment, screening, agreement, and orientation. There is no compensation for time spent on the missions, but the state does cover expenses related to it (i.e. driving). After the initial training, the volunteers will be required to attend a minimum of two state provided training

programs/exercises per year. The operational capabilities of the Corps include incident response and recovery, target hardening, threat intelligence, strategy and policy, and training. The Corps serves many public sector entities as well as private sector organizations that provide critical infrastructure. These recipients reach out to report an incident, and it is prioritized by severity and impact. The volunteers in the Corps are not required to respond to any incident but will work alongside the recipients IT staff if they accept the assignment. The services are provided at no cost and require an “as-is” provision that provides no guarantee of outcomes or effectiveness. The recipient retains all legal duties for notification and compliance, and their Intellectual Property remains protected. Deployment records and reports are exempt from public disclosure under the NJ Open Public Records Act, which is the equivalent of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Secretary Deshazor asked Mr. Geraghty about their recruitment efforts. Mr. Geraghty stated that they had intentional recruitment that went out in bulletins to the cybersecurity community in the state and LinkedIn. The recruitment was met positively and the response was overwhelming. The Secretary then asked how the Service Agreement process worked. Mr. Geraghty stated that they looked at other state’s templates and had help from New America to build the starting point. They then looped in the Attorney General’s office. Senator Boysko asked about the fiscal impact of the program. Mr. Geraghty stated that it was currently to be determined with \$500k in reserve in the budget that will be allocated. There are a lot of things that are already in place, like training and equipment, that won’t need to be accounted for. Delegate Feggans mentioned that the General Assembly asked for \$300k this session for our legislation and that they currently have a running list of about 30 interested candidates for membership in the Virginia version of this program. Delegate Feggans then asked how New Jersey prioritizes what entities get the support of the commission. Mr. Geraghty stated that it is based on critical risk (utilities, public health, safety). They see what resources are available and what they can provide.

AI Task Force Summary

Mr. Osmond presented on the AI Task Force that the Governor launched to guide the Commonwealth’s AI strategy. The task force was established in 2024 and brought together many leading AI experts and specialists across various sectors. The goal of the task force is to create strategy and policy that emphasizes safe, responsible, and ethical use cases of this technology across the state and public services. The task force provided recommendations in four key domains. In education, to promote thoughtful exploration of AI tools and educate both students and teachers in best practices for the classroom and beyond. Virginia became one of the first states to establish a strategic plan for AI integration from K-12 through postsecondary education. The core philosophy in education is to view AI as an opportunity, not a threat. In workforce development, to ensure the Commonwealth’s workforce is continually upskilling to provide value beyond routine functions. This includes expanding professional education and increasing efficiency. In energy, to drive investment in both power generation and transmission infrastructure while also optimizing energy use. While AI drives massive energy demand it also provides insights needed to optimize grid efficiency and deploy new energy

sources. And in economic growth, focusing on growth while also ensuring incentives align for trusted, safe, and secure AI capabilities. This requires a legal framework that promotes economic growth and modernizing regulation through transparency and AI. Use cases for high stakes decision making yielded the recommendation that the current AI technology is not ready for this type of work on its own and that human support must be included in the model and VITA will provide capability in a safe and secure way. Mr. Osmond provided the link to view the full AI Task Force report.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Other Business

Ms. Hoyle opened the floor for other business. Ms. Gaudin discussed travel forms and the next meeting.

Adjourn

At 11:19 a.m., the meeting was adjourned after a motion was made by Delegate Feggans and seconded by Mr. Nixon.

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