



**AGENDA**  
**VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**600 E. Main St. Room 3-305**  
**Richmond, VA 23219**

**December 15 2025**  
**10:30 A.M.**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| I. OPENING   |               |
| a. Call to order   | Chair         |
| b. Roll Call   | Cody Anderson |
| c. Public Comment  | Chair         |
|  |               |
| II. Consent Agenda – <b>Action Item</b>                    | Chair         |
| a. Approval of July 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes              |               |
| b. 2026 Governance and Policy Committee Meeting Schedule   |               |
|  |               |
| III. Staff Report  |               |
| a. Review of Committee Charter                             | Sara Dunnigan |
| b. Board Self-Assessment & New Member Orientation Process  | Shara Gibson  |
| c. JLARC Recommendations Roadmap                           | Cody Anderson |
| d. Recommendation 16 Discussion – <b>Action Item</b>       | Cody Anderson |
|  |               |
| IV. Discussion Items                                       | Chair         |
| a. Referred Topic: Early Childhood Education and Childcare |               |
| b. September 15, 2026, Board Retreat Input                 | Shara Gibson  |
|  |               |
| V. Information Item  |               |
| a. Board Membership Turnover Report                        | Cody Anderson |
|  |               |
| VI. ADJOURNMENT  | Chair         |

**FY2026 Committee Meeting Calendar**  
Tuesday, May 21 (virtual)  
Tuesday, September 15 (in-person)  
Tuesday, November 17 (virtual)



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
OPPORTUNITY**  
IN EACH REGION

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**VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**July 30, 2025**

**3:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee

Jim Cheng

The Honorable Stephen Cummings

Heywood Fralin

Joel Griffin

Kenneth Johnson

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Emily O'Quinn

Members Absent

Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Ms. Emily O'Quinn, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board Governance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Ms. O'Quinn opened the floor for public comment.

No members of the public appeared before the Committee for the public comment period.

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the consent agenda consisted of the March 1, 2025, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Mr. Fralin to approve the minutes. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

#### Nomination of Officers

Chair O'Quinn recognized Nancy Agee to conduct the nomination of officers.

Ms. Agee announced that three candidates had emerged as interested candidates for the three pending Board leadership positions: Emily O'Quinn for the position of Chair, Jim Cheng for the position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation, and John King for the position of Vice Chair of Regional Councils.

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Mr. Fralin to nominate Emily O'Quinn for the position of Chair of the Board. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Lucas; Nay: None; Abstention: O'Quinn).

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Ms. O'Quinn to nominate Jim Cheng for the position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Senator Lucas to nominate John King for the position of Vice Chair of Regional Councils. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Johnson, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

#### Staff Report

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the roadmap for addressing the JLARC report on GO Virginia's recommendations.

Mr. Anderson led a discussion about a JLARC recommendation that suggested either eliminating local match requirements or reducing the local match from 20% to 10%. Mr. Anderson noted that staff recommends not taking action on this item due to rapid changes in the overall match policy resulting from legislative changes during the most recent General Assembly session. Mr. Anderson explained that if the Board noticed a concerning trend in resource utilization, the committee could choose to take action on this recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Anderson presented a JLARC recommendation that suggested increasing the amount of planning money a region may access

from \$250,000 of their per capita allocation to 25% of their per capita allocation and to raise the cap on individual planning efforts from \$100,000. Mr. Anderson noted that staff had completed an initial analysis of planning grant conversions to implementation. The analysis concluded that approximately 51% of GO Virginia planning grants either led to an implementation or led to a recommendation to not move forward with further implementation. Mr. Anderson noted that during the analysis, staff noted several inconsistencies with Board policy and administrative guidance, and in order to better prepare for a recommendation on the recommendation, staff would like more time to evaluate those inconsistencies.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of a recommended change to Board policy to create flexibility in GO Virginia regional planning grant limits. Mr. Anderson noted that currently, the \$250,000 limit on planning activities for a region includes both site planning applications and normal planning applications. Staff recommended adopting a change to board policy which would exclude site planning and broadband planning activities from counting toward a region's planning grant cap.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Agee to approve the policy amendment as presented. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Johnson, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

#### Information Items

Mr. Anderson noted that the information item in the Committee packet included a Board Membership Turnover Report, detailing new Board appointments and upcoming member term expirations.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.



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## GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee

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### **2026 Committee Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday, May 21 (virtual)

Tuesday, September 15 (in-person)

Tuesday, November 17 (virtual)

All meetings will be held at 11:00 a.m.



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
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IN EACH REGION

# **VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE CHARTER**

## **ARTICLE I            PURPOSE**

The Governance and Policy Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board (“GO Virginia” or “Board”) is charged with assisting the Board in overseeing matters of governance and policy as outlined within.

## **ARTICLE II          AUTHORIZATION**

The Governance and Policy Committee was established by the Growth and Opportunity Board via the adoption of amended bylaws at the September 12, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board.

## **ARTICLE III        MEMBERSHIP**

The Governance and Policy Committee shall have a total membership of 10 members. Membership on the Committee shall, at minimum, consist of the following: the Chair of the Growth and Opportunity Virginia Board, the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, and one of the gubernatorial-appointed Cabinet Secretary members of the Board. The Governance and Policy Committee shall include a majority membership of non-legislative citizen members that have significant private-sector experience. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and shall be a non-legislative citizen member.

## **ARTICLE IV        AUTHORITY**

The Committee shall have all rights, powers and duties bestowed by, and be subject to the limitations and restrictions set forth in, the Code of Virginia or the Appropriations Act and the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board bylaws.

Committee business shall be conducted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) unless exempt pursuant to §2.2-3711. A.48 of the Code of Virginia.

## **ARTICLE V        RESPONSIBILITY**

### *Section 1          Governance*

The Governance and Policy Committee shall be charged with development of Board members, including developing Board member orientation programs and planning periodic Board retreats. Members of the Committee shall be responsible for participating in on-boarding of new Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board members.

The Committee shall also be charged with identifying and developing non-legislative citizen members for Board leadership roles. The Committee shall confer and provide recommendations to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and Board Chair for non-legislative citizen members that may be well suited for nomination to leadership positions.

## *Section 2*      Policy

The Committee shall be charged with the development of Board Policies. This development shall include recommendations to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board for new policies or for amendments to existing Board policies. Board policy review and development may be directed by the Committee or may be at the direction of the Board. All policy recommendations shall be introduced to the Board as a standing motion and are subject to Board approval.

The Committee shall be charged with discussion and development of recommendations to the Governor on policy matters consistent with the GO Virginia mission as outlined in the § 2.2-2486 section 5 of the Code of Virginia. These recommendations shall be developed in the form of a letter to the Governor. All recommendations to the Governor shall be introduced to the Board as a standing motion and are subject to Board approval.

## **ARTICLE VI            MEETINGS**

The Committee shall meet at minimum twice annually preceding the regularly scheduled meeting of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board. The Committee may call special meetings that shall be conducted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) unless exempt pursuant to §2.2-3711. A.48 of the Code of Virginia.

## **ARTICLE VII           QUORUM**

A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Any decision by the Committee shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Committee present and voting.





## Memorandum

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**TO:** GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

**FROM:** DHCD Staff

**RE:** State Board Self-Assessment and New Member Orientation Process

**DATE:** 12/15/2025

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen governance, engagement, and strategic leadership, GO Virginia administered its first-ever self-assessment to the State Board. This assessment is a foundational step toward building a performance-driven culture, aligned with the program's next phase of growth and impact.

The self-assessment focused on key areas of board effectiveness, including mission clarity, engagement, operational support, regional understanding, and perceptions of roles and responsibilities. Fourteen of the twenty-four board members responded, offering candid and constructive feedback. While the response rate indicates strong engagement from a core group, it also highlights an opportunity to reinforce full participation across the Board moving forward.

The attached summary report provides topline findings, key reflections from board members, and proposed strategies to deepen engagement, boost funding fluency, and better leverage board expertise. These insights will help guide future onboarding, meeting structure, and opportunities for deeper regional involvement.

# GO VIRGINIA

## STATE BOARD ENGAGEMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT



## Summary

The assessment reveals that the GO Virginia State Board demonstrates strong alignment with the mission, mutual respect among members and staff, and a high level of engagement in meetings. However, there are opportunities to strengthen role clarity (especially regarding regional councils), improve perceptions of board diversity in skills utilization, and expand board member readiness for regional engagement and funding fluency. The overall tone of the responses suggests thoughtful participation and a readiness for greater clarity, connection, and impact.

Fourteen of twenty-four GO Virginia State Board members completed the inaugural board engagement assessment, yielding a response rate of approximately 58%. While not a full representation of the Board, this response rate provides a meaningful baseline and reflects a core group of members who are actively engaged and willing to contribute to the program's continuous improvement efforts.

Survey response rate also signals an opportunity to strengthen board-wide accountability and participation expectations. In a performance-driven governance culture, full engagement — including timely input on assessments — is foundational. Future assessments will aim for 100% participation to ensure the insights reflect the full diversity of board experience and perspectives.



## Key Findings

The assessment revealed several important themes shaping the Board's current engagement. A primary concern is the noticeable gap in funding fluency and clarity around the Board's role in funding oversight and accountability.

At the same time, there is clear opportunity to better leverage Board members beyond formal meetings through special projects, ad hoc committees, or regional engagement assignments. While meeting participation is relatively strong, deeper initiative outside the boardroom, including more intentional regional liaison roles, could help strengthen alignment and program impact across the Commonwealth.

### ***Mission, Vision, Purpose***

- 100% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they understand and support the mission of GO Virginia.
- 64% use the mission to guide decisions, indicating a strong but improvable link between strategic purpose and individual decision-making.

- Opportunity: Reinforce how the board’s decisions align with long-term strategic impact (economic development goals) through briefings or agenda framing.

### ***Roles, Responsibilities & Relationships***

- 100% understand their role; however:
  - Only 62% feel confident explaining the board's role to others.
  - Only 46% agree they understand each region’s priorities.
  - 31% feel the relationship with regional councils is collaborative—suggesting a major area for improvement.
- Board-Staff Relations were very positive: 100% agree or strongly agree they feel supported and respected by GO Virginia staff.

### ***Engagement***

- **100%** of board members believe they are active and engaged.
- 92% feel prepared and timely in communication.
- Only 54% take initiative outside meetings, such as participating in application reviews or stakeholder engagement.
- When asked about being more available to regional councils:
  - 77% are “definitely open,”
  - 23% are “somewhat open,”
  - 0% are opposed.

### ***Operations***

- High confidence in meeting quality, decision-making, and personal capacity:
  - 100% agree meetings are efficient, inclusive, and that the board has the right mix of skills.
  - However, only 69% feel their own skills are fully utilized.

### ***Resources***

- 100% are aware of the state funds (Planning, Implementation, Collaboration), but:
  - Only 54% understand how the funds work or what they're for.
  - Only 38% feel they have access to resources/training to be effective in their role.
- One comment emphasized the variation in board commitment, noting the tension between deeply engaged members and those perceived as checking a box.



## **Open-Ended Comments**

Board feedback revealed a growing awareness of regional differences, with some members only now beginning to reflect on the unique dynamics across regions. One respondent emphasized the importance of personal responsibility, noting that board members must take initiative rather than rely solely on structure. Across responses, there was a clear call to elevate engagement — reinforcing that GO Virginia’s work is serious and demands active, strategic participation from its leaders.



*Virginia’s regions are working better together because of GO Virginia*



*I hadn't thought as much about the regional councils but these questions make me realize that I don't fully appreciate the roles and responsibilities .... and distinctions of each region vs the work of GO Virginia*



*...My personal opinion is, if you sign up, you know what the role is and the importance with millions of dollars at stake and people's potential investment and livelihood. That requires more than your typical civic engagement and should be treated as such*



## Recommendations

To strengthen the impact and cohesion of the GO Virginia State Board, several targeted strategies are recommended across five key areas: connectivity, capacity, engagement, culture, and accountability. By better leveraging members' expertise through strategic engagements and skills mapping, the Board can further elevate its influence and effectiveness.

### Deepen Regional Connectivity

- Assign informal regional liaisons to each council to create a consistent point of contact to improve communication and regional understanding.
- Include regional success spotlights at each board meeting - This promotes peer learning, elevates visibility of local efforts, and reinforces the Board's connection to on-the-ground results
- Continue strategic engagements between board-regional council during retreat or virtual roundtables

### Boost Funding Fluency

- Develop a concise, visually engaging one-page explainer that breaks down GO Virginia's three core funding streams
- Add a short, focused learning opportunity (virtual or in-person) to the agenda of an upcoming board meeting. This session will walk members through real-world scenarios that demonstrate how projects move through the funding pipeline
- Consider a digital "GO Virginia 101" module for new board members.

### Better Utilize Board Expertise

- Conduct a skills mapping exercise to match members to strategic initiatives.
- Invite board members to co-lead briefings, subcommittees, or policy explorations. This approach gives members ownership of the program's evolution, deepens buy-in, and enhances the quality of policy decisions by grounding them in real-world perspective.

### Strengthen Board Culture

- Reinforce expectations during onboarding: "this is more than civic engagement." Refresh the State Board onboarding experience to clearly convey that board service is not symbolic or ceremonial — it is a strategic leadership role with real influence over the direction of Virginia's regional economies.
- Publicly recognize board members who go above and beyond (e.g., attend regional events). Recognition could occur during board meetings (e.g., a "spotlight moment"), through internal

communications, or in public-facing newsletters or websites. This not only celebrates leadership but also models the type of engagement expected across the board.

### **Establish Annual Check-ins**

- Use this assessment as a baseline and repeat every 12–18 months to track growth.
- Share topline results in an executive summary during the board retreat or final meeting of the year.



## Memorandum

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**TO:** GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

**FROM:** DHCD Staff

**RE:** JLARC Recommendations Review Roadmap

**DATE:** 12/15/2025

**BACKGROUND:**

On December 10, 2023, the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission released its report on the [Growth and Opportunity Virginia \(GO Virginia\) Program](#). This report culminated in sixteen recommendations as well as two additional policy options. At the December 11, 2023 meeting of the GO Virginia Board, Board leadership announced the intention of dividing consideration of the JLARC recommendations amongst three of the Board's committees: the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee, the Governance and Policy Committee, and the Healthcare Taskforce.

Currently, the GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee has two JLARC recommendations to consider. The first, Recommendation 16, pertains to potentially raising the amount of planning grant capacity a region may access from \$250,000 to 25% of their per capita allocation. The second, Policy Recommendation 2, recommends the Board consider allowing smaller, lower capacity organizations to access a portion of their grant funds up-front without the need for immediate reimbursement documentation.

Recommendation/ Policy Consideration Number	JLARC Report Recommendation	Committee Responsibility	Notes	Status
5	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to include a more detailed definition of traded sector activities, modeled on definition used by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership's Virginia Jobs Investment Program, which can be used to determine project eligibility.	Governance and Policy Committee	<b>Status - Complete</b> The GO Virginia Board approved an amendment to Board Policy #4 on September 10, 2024, which defined traded sector activities.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> At the September 10, 2024 meeting of the Board, an amendment to Board Policy #4 was adopted, which defined traded sector activities.
7	The GO Virginia board should replace the eligibility requirement that all grant projects must create higher wage jobs with a requirement that all grant projects must create a new or expanded workforce or economic development activity.	Governance and Policy Committee	<b>Status - Complete</b> The Governance and Policy Committee discussed this item on September 10, 2024. Staff conducted an audit of all program documents and clarified language to focus on traded industries as the program focus.	<b>Complete:</b> At the September 10, 2024 meeting of the Board, the Governance and Policy Committee reported that a review of existing policy and guidance had occurred and the Committee determined that higher wage jobs are not a project eligibility requirement. The Committee reported that staff had conducted a review of existing policies and guidance and inserted clarifying language where applicable that the GO Virginia program is designed to promote growth in traded industry
8	The GO Virginia board should either eliminate or reduce the local match requirement for all grants.	Governance and Policy Committee	<b>Status - Complete</b> The Governance and Policy Committee chose to take no action on this item at the July 30, 2025 Committee meeting.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> This item was discussed at the July 30, 2025 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee. The Committee chose to take no action on the recommendation, citing recent changes in match requirements that reduced the program's local match requirement. This decision was presented to the GO Virginia Board at the September 9, 2025 meeting.
9	The GO Virginia Board should expand eligibility requirements for statewide competitive funds by making these grants available to (i) any region that has awarded or is about to award all or almost all of its per capita funds in a given year and is not carrying a significant unobligated funding balance, and (ii) projects that require a grant amount that is equal to or greater than half of the region's unobligated per capita funds. Projects that involve multiple regions should continue to be eligible for these funds.	Governance and Policy Committee	<b>Status - Complete</b> Guidelines adopting these recommendations were formalized at the December, 2023 meeting of the State Board.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> At the March 12, 2024 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee reviewed changes made to the administrative guidance governing the Competitive Fund that were approved by the Board at the December 12, 2023 meeting of the Board. The Committee concluded that those approved changes addressed this recommendation.
11	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to delegate grant approval authority to the director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for any regional per capita implementation grant that has been dutifully reviewed and approved by a regional council and recommended for administrative approval by a board designated workgroup.	Governance and Policy Committee	<b>Status - Complete</b> The Governance and Policy Committee discussed this item on March 11, 2024 and chose to take no action on the item, citing the limited impact on the timeline of grant approval. This was communicated to the Board at the March 11, 2024 Board meeting.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> At the March 11, 2024 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee reviewed the timeline for the review of grants. The Committee concluded that increased delegated authority to the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for those projects that had been dutifully reviewed and approved by a Regional Council and approved by a Board designated workgroup would not meaningfully accelerate the approval process for grants. The Committee chose to take no action on this item and this was reported to the Board at its September 12 meeting.
15	The GO Virginia board should adopt a policy that defines a cycle for full and lighter reviews of regional growth and diversification plans.	Governance and Policy Committee	<b>Status - Complete</b> This recommendation was adopted by DHCD staff by way of a stakeholder engagement process. This was discussed at the Committees March 11, 2025 meeting.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> DHCD staff has engaged stakeholders to determine the best path forward for defined cycles of Regional Growth and Diversification Plan Review. These stakeholder sessions have resulted in a process of alternating full and light review cycles, now defined as "full reviews" and "interim reviews". DHCD staff will report further progress on these reviews to the Governance and Policy Committee at the Spring meeting.

Recommendation/ Policy Consideration Number	JLARC Report Recommendation	Committee Responsibility	Notes	Status
16	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to allow regions to award up to 25 percent of their annually allocated per capita funds for planning grants and raise or eliminate the \$100,000 per grant limit.	Governance and Policy Committee	This recommendation is in progress and further review of DHCD guidelines are ongoing.	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DHCD staff provided an overview of data of planning to implementation conversion rates for planning grants at the July 30, 2025 meeting of the Committee. DHCD staff requested additional time to evaluate internal documents and guidance. This recommendation will be discussed at a future meeting of the Committee.
Policy Consideration 2	The GO Virginia board could revise its policies to allow smaller organizations, which meet criteria specified by the board, to receive a portion of their GO Virginia award at the start of the grant period.	Governance and Policy Committee	GO Virginia has traditionally been a reimbursement based grant, making this recommendation logistically challenging from a fiscal standpoint. Further internal evaluation will be required.	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> DHCD staff is working internally with DHCD's Fiscal Department to formalize a Department wide policy for utilizing similar processes for up-front allocation of grant funds. This recommendation will be discussed at a future meeting of the Committee once this policy is finalized.





## Memorandum

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**TO:** GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

**FROM:** DHCD Staff

**RE:** JLARC Recommendation #16 – Increasing Planning Grant Limits

**DATE:** 12/15/2025

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the 2023 JLARC Report regarding the GO Virginia Program, the Commission adopted a series of recommendations. Specifically, Recommendation 16 recommended that the Board amend its policy on planning grant caps by modifying the total amount allowed for planning efforts from the current cap of \$250,000 a year for all regions and adjusting the maximum amount for an individual planning grant from the current cap of \$100,000.

The specific language of recommendation #16 reads as follows:

*“The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to allow regions to award up to 25 percent of their annually allocated per capita funds for planning grants and raise or eliminate the \$100,000 per grant limit.*

The GO Virginia State Board initially adopted Board Policy #3 in 2018, establishing two rules regarding the use of regional per capita allocations for planning grants.

- 1. The Board limited the resources that any Region could allocate in a single fiscal year for planning to \$250,000. It was envisioned that a small subset of the Regional allocations could be utilized as a pipeline development tool for future implementation projects while also keeping a majority of the regional funds focused on implementation efforts.
- 2. The Board limited the resources that an applicant could request for a single planning effort to \$100,000 (for administrative approval). Planning efforts in excess of \$100,000 must be approved by the GO Virginia State Board.

DHCD analyzed the impact of Planning, Pilot, Feasibility Grants, or Planning Grants, by reviewing 72 GO Virginia planning grants. The goal was to assess the outcomes of these grants and determine if they have successfully transitioned into full-scale projects, either within or outside the GO Virginia framework. DHCD found that planning grant activities resulted in implementation activities at a rate of approximately 51%.

As a result of this review, staff found opportunities to improve alignment across Board Policies #3 and #9, as well as DHCD planning grant administrative guidance. The changes to the respective board policies have created flexibility for regions by excluding site development planning projects and broadband planning projects from counting toward the \$250,000 planning grant limit. Administrative guidance for the planning has also been strengthened to ensure that funded planning projects have a stronger emphasis on future GO Virginia fundable implementation.

**Staff recommends that the Committee take no action at this time in light of the recent changes made to the planning guidance and flexibilities created through the Board's adoption of updates to both Board Policy #3 and Board Policy #9.**



## Memorandum

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**TO:** GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

**FROM:** DHCD Staff

**RE:** Referred Topic: Early Childhood Education and Childcare

**DATE:** 12/15/2025

**BACKGROUND:**

At the September 9, 2025, meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board received an application from GO Virginia Region 2 to request funding support for a business plan for the operation of a to-be-constructed childcare facility. This application was accompanied by public comment from several regional councils urging the Board to consider funding projects to support early childhood education and childcare-related projects. In response to the application and public comment, this topic was referred to the Governance and Policy Committee for consideration.

The enabling legislation for the GO Virginia Program, [§ 2.2-2487](#), outlines the uses of GO Virginia funds:

*“B. Moneys in the Fund shall be used to facilitate regional collaboration on economic growth and diversification. Specifically, the Fund shall be used to incentivize and encourage cooperation among business, education, and government on regional strategic economic development and workforce development efforts.”*

The Code of Virginia also authorizes the Board to develop and implement guidelines and procedures for the application for and use of any moneys in the Fund.

The Board has adopted [Board Policy #4](#), which establishes the following;

*“It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that program funds shall be used to support the growth of prioritized traded industry clusters as identified in each Regional Council’s Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.”*

This policy also allows the Board to adopt superseding policies that make targeted exceptions to this policy, should a challenge be identified, that would otherwise hinder the growth of traded industry clusters.

The Board has funded one childcare-related proposal in its history. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board created the Economic Recovery and Resilience Program. This program created wide-ranging program flexibilities, guidance, and policy exemptions to allow localities and applicants to propose critical projects in response to the pandemic that may not have otherwise been allowed.

This allowed the State Board to consider the United Way of Southwest Virginia – Employer-Sponsored Childcare Benefit. The goal of this project was to increase labor force participation rates in Southwest Virginia by piloting a program that coordinated with employee funding, employer match, and private foundation funds to subsidize the cost of childcare for employees and prospective employees. GO Virginia funds for this project were used for salaries of United Way employees to coordinate the effort.

This project closed and reported that of the 38 jobs that were projected to be filled through the effort, only 8 were realized. The applicant noted that this was not due to a lack of interest in the project, but due to a pervasive regional lack of childcare availability for employees to access.



## Memorandum

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**TO:** GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

**FROM:** DHCD Staff

**RE:** Upcoming Expiring Terms and Board Membership Turnover Report

**DATE:** 12/15/2025

**UPCOMING EXPIRING TERMS:**

**Gubernatorial Appointees:**

Kenneth Johnson, Expiration 06/30/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

John King, Expiration 06/30/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

**House of Delegates Appointees:**

Jonathan Peterson, Expiration 11/4/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

## FULL BOARD ROSTER:

Name	Member Type	GOVA Region	Expiration of Current Term	Seat Requirements
<b>Gubernatorial Appointees:</b>				
<b>Sec of Finance - Steve Cummings</b>	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
<b>Sec of Commerce and Trade – Juan Pablo Segura</b>	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
<b>Sec of Labor – Bryan Slater</b>	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
<b>VACANT</b>	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
<b>Kenneth Johnson</b>	<b>non-legislative citizen member</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6/30/2026</b>	<b>significant private-sector business experience</b>
<b>John King</b>	<b>non-legislative citizen member</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6/30/2026</b>	<b>significant private-sector business experience</b>
<b>Nancy Howell Agee*</b>	non-legislative citizen member	2	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
<b>Emily O’Quinn</b>	non-legislative citizen member	1	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
<b>Cliff Fleet</b>	non-legislative citizen member	5	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
<b>Jim Cheng</b>	non-legislative citizen member	9	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
<b>Reggie Aggarwal</b>	non-legislative citizen member	7	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
<b>Fouad Qreitem</b>	non-legislative citizen member	7	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
<b>William Dotson</b>	non-legislative citizen member	6	6/30/2029	significant private-sector business experience
<b>Thomas Ransom</b>	non-legislative citizen member	4	6/30/2029	significant private-sector business experience
<b>Virginia Senate Appointees:</b>				
<b>Benjamin J. Davenport Jr. *</b>	non-legislative citizen member	3	4/11/2027	Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector

				business experience
<b>Heywood W. Fralin*</b>	non-legislative citizen member	2	4/11/2027	Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
<b>Virginia House of Delegates Appointees:</b>				
<b>Jonathan M. Peterson</b>	non-legislative citizen member	7	11/4/2026	Appointed by the Speaker of the House from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
<b>Joel Griffin</b>	non-legislative citizen member	6	01/20/2029	Appointed by the Speaker of the House from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
<b>Virginia Senate Members:</b>				
<b>L. Louise Lucas</b>	Senate Member - ex-officio	5	Coincident w/ office term	Chair of Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
<b>Creigh Deeds</b>	Senate Member	9	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
<b>Ryan McDougle</b>	Senate Member	4	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
<b>Virginia House of Delegates Members:</b>				
<b>Don Scott</b>	House Member	5	Coincident w/ office term	Member Appointed by the Speaker of the House
<b>Luke Torian</b>	House Member	7	Coincident w/ office term	Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations
<b>Terry Kilgore</b>	House Member	1	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the House appointed by Speaker of the House
<b>Michelle Maldonado</b>	House Member	7	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the House appointed by Speaker of the House
<b>*Not Eligible for Reappointment</b>				