

Subtitle III Collegial Body Organization

	Purpose	Membership	Staffing	Expiration
Standing Collegial Bodies (Ch. 12)	Study, report, and make recommendations regarding broad policy areas on a long term, semi-permanent basis	Mixture of legislative and non-legislative members	Independent staff such as executive directors, counsel, and others	At least 8 years or more, if there is an expiration at all
Joint Commissions and Committees (Ch. 13)	Study, review, and make recommendations regarding broad policy areas on a long term, semi-permanent basis	Legislative membership only	Admin support often provided by the Clerks' offices; legal, research, and policy analysis provided by DLS	None
Special Advisory Commissions (Ch. 14)	Provide a forum for a particular community to advise the General Assembly on topics of interest	Mixture of legislative and non-legislative membership; often includes non-legislative members with specific expertise or relevant background	Admin support often provided by the Clerks' offices; legal, research, and policy analysis provided by DLS	Various expiration dates ranging from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028; contingent expiration dates based on funding
Oversight Commissions (Ch. 15)	Monitoring, overseeing, or reviewing the actions or responsibilities of another entity or state agency	Mixture of legislative and non-legislative members	Generally, admin support often provided by the Clerks' offices; legal, research, and policy analysis provided by DLS	None
Commemorative or Educational Commissions (Ch. 16)	Educate, commemorate, or memorialize a topic or individual for the benefit of the Commonwealth	Mixture of legislative and non-legislative members	Generally, admin support often provided by the Clerks' offices; legal, research, and policy analysis provided by DLS	None

Study Commissions (Ch. 17)	Studying, reviewing, evaluating, assessing, investigating, etc. a particular topic or issue, in order to report to the GA and make recommendations	Mixture of legislative and non-legislative membership; often includes non-legislative members with specific expertise or relevant background	Generally, admin support often provided by the Clerks' offices; legal, research, and policy analysis provided by DLS	Various short term expiration dates (July 1, 2026; July 1, 2027)
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Subtitle III. Legislative Commissions.

Chapter 11

General Provisions

Chapter 12

Standing Collegial Bodies

- Article 1 Virginia Crime Commission
- Article 2 Virginia Housing Commission
- Article 3 Virginia Commission on Youth
- Article 4 Behavioral Health Commission
- Article 5 Joint Commission on Health Care
- Article 6 Joint Commission on Technology and Science
- Article 7 Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Article 8 Commission on Electric Utility Regulation
- Article 9 Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council
- Article 10 Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council
- Article 11 Virginia-Israel Advisory Board
- Article 12 American Revolution 250 Commission

Chapter 13

Joint Commissions and Committees

- Article 1 Joint Commission on Administrative Rules
- Article 2 Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability
- Article 3 Joint Commission on Unemployment Compensation
- Article 4 Joint Subcommittee to Evaluate Tax Preferences

Chapter 14

Special Advisory Commissions

- Article 1 Small Business Commission
- Article 2 Manufacturing Development Commission
- Article 3 Virginia Minority Business Commission
- Article 4 Virginia Coal and Energy Commission
- Article 5 State Water Commission
- Article 6 Virginia Disability Commission
- Article 7 Commission on Updating Virginia Law to Reflect Federal Recognition of Virginia Tribes
- Article 8 School Health Services Committee

Article 9 Autism Advisory Council

Chapter 15 Oversight Commissions

Article 1 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee

Article 2 MEI Project Approval Commission

Article 3 Health Insurance Reform Commission

Article 4 Public-Private Partnership Advisory Commission

Article 5 Intercollegiate Athletics Review Commission

Chapter 16 Commemorative or Educational Commissions

Article 1 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

Article 2 Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program and Fund

Article 3 Commission on Civic Education

Chapter 17 Study Commissions

Article 1 Virginia Commission to End Hunger

Article 2 Commission on School Construction and Modernization

Article 3 Commission on Women's Health

Subtitle III Suggested General Provisions

1. Imposing 3 year sunset to legislative collegial bodies.

Two possible approaches:

- An automatic 3 year sunset section
- Including a 3 year sunset in each bill draft (as it is in executive branch)

“After January 1, 2003, all bills creating an advisory board, council, commission, or other collegial body in the executive branch of state government shall contain a provision requiring the expiration of such body three years after its creation.” (currently § 30-19.1:9. Duration of state boards and commissions.)

2. Legislative membership requirement for chair and vice-chair of collegial bodies.

“The chair and vice-chair of any collegial body shall be members of the General Assembly.”

3. Voting equalization.

Modify language so that new commissions going forward shall have more legislative members than nonlegislative voting members. This is derived from a recommendation of the legislative guidelines published by the Joint Rules Committee and was discussed at the August 2024 meeting of the Code Commission.

- “For any legislative collegial bodies created on or after July 1, 2026, the number of legislative members shall exceed the number of nonlegislative citizen members and voting ex officio members.”

Add a statement that the majority of legislators have to agree on a committee decision. This was discussed at the August 2024 meeting, but members weren’t comfortable changing the makeup of existing committees/commissions.

- No recommendation of [the body] shall be adopted if a majority of legislative members votes against the recommendation.
- No recommendation of the Commission shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members appointed to the Commission (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the Commission.

4. All other state agencies must assist bodies upon request.

Some variation of this language is currently found in several different collegial body sections. To streamline the Subtitle, it could be helpful to instead impose this language as a blanket statement in General Provisions. This was briefly discussed at the August 2024 Code Commission meeting.

- “All agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Commission upon request.”

5. Removal authority.

“Any nonlegislative citizen member appointed by either the Speaker of the House, the Senate Committee on Rules, or the Joint Rules Committee to any Authority, Board, Commission, Committee, or other deliberative body in the Commonwealth shall serve at the pleasure of such appointing authority. Any such member may be relieved of his appointment at any time, with or without cause.” Item 1. M. of HB 30, 2024 session (and others in past).

6. Only appointing authority is the Speaker, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Joint Rules Committee.

This is derived from a recommendation of the legislative guidelines published by the Joint Rules Committee and was discussed at the August 2024 meeting of the Code Commission.

- “All appointments for legislative studies shall be made by either the Speaker of the House, the Senate Committee on Rules, or the Joint Rules Committee.”