



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

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

**March 24, 2026**

**11:00 AM**

**Library of Virginia**

**800 E. Broad St.**

**Richmond, VA 23219**

Members Present

Cliff Fleet

Joel Griffin

Heywood Fralin

Kenneth Johnson

Senator L. Louise Lucas (virtual)

Members Absent

Jim Cheng

Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Mr. Cliff Fleet, 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 not present.

Mr. Fleet noted that a member was running behind and that the Consent Agenda would be moved to the end of the agenda so that quorum would be achieved to take action.

Public Comment

Mr. Fleet 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.

## Staff Report

Mr. Fleet recognized Mr. Anderson to provide the staff report.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) items that remained for consideration by the Governance and Policy Committee.

Mr. Anderson noted that Policy Consideration 2, which referred to a recommendation that the GO Virginia Board revise its policies to allow smaller organizations, which meet criteria set by the Board, to receive a portion of their GO Virginia award at the start of the grant period, has been under consideration at DHCD. Mr. Anderson noted that the DHCD Fiscal Office has been working on several options for an agency-wide policy that would potentially allow the Board to implement this recommendation. Mr. Anderson reported that an update on this agency policy will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of JLARC recommendation 16, which refers to a recommendation that the Board revise its policies to allow increased capacity for GO Virginia regions to conduct planning activities from the Board established limit of \$250,000 per year. Mr. Anderson noted that the Board created a policy allowing planning to be a GO Virginia fundable activity under the assumption that planning would lead to a pipeline of GO Virginia fundable implementation projects. Mr. Anderson noted that the current conversion rate of planning to implementation was 50%.

Mr. Anderson also provided an overview of recent policy changes adopted by the State Board to provide flexibility and capacity for GO Virginia regions to conduct more planning activities. The policy changes described removed site development planning and broadband planning from counting against regional planning grant limits.

Discussion occurred regarding multi-regional competitive planning grant limitations and the potential to increase the amount of money two regions may receive if they participate in a competitive planning grant.

After discussion, the Committee chose to not move forward with a recommendation to increase regional planning grant limits, noting additional flexibility that recent policies created. The Committee directed staff to report at the next meeting of the Committee on

potential options for increasing the amount of funding two regions may receive for multi-region competitive planning projects.

#### Discussion Items

Mr. Fleet recognized Mr. Jack Honig, GO Virginia Program Administrator at DHCD, to provide an overview of the Commonwealth of Virginia's efforts to support childcare.

Mr. Honig noted that at the September 9, 2025, meeting of the Board, the Board referred the topic of whether projects supporting childcare availability should be considered a fundable activity by the Board. Mr. Honig provided an overview of childcare investments made by the General Assembly of Virginia, noting that between \$500,000,000 and \$600,000,000 across a variety of initiatives have been appropriated yearly to address childcare availability by the General Assembly, in comparison to the \$30,000,000 appropriated to the GO Virginia program each year.

After discussion, the Committee determined that childcare is a pivotal concern for the economy of the Commonwealth and that special consideration and advocacy for addressing childcare should be a priority; however, addressing childcare challenges as a GO Virginia fundable activity should not be considered due to the limited resources available to the program.

#### Information Items

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Board Membership and Turnover Report. Mr. Anderson noted that three members would have their terms expiring in 2026: John King, Kenneth Johnson, and Jon Peterson.

Mr. Anderson explained that gubernatorial appointees wishing to be considered for reappointment should apply through the website of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates should reach out to the Speaker's Office with interest in being reappointed.

Mr. Anderson also noted that Speaker Don Scott, who is empowered by the Code of Virginia to appoint three legislators to serve on the GO Virginia State Board, reappointed Delegate Michelle Maldonado and Delegate Terry Kilgore to the Board. Speaker Scott chose to not reappoint himself and appointed Delegate Virgil Thornton to take his place.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Fleet noted that the consent agenda, including the minutes of the July 30, 2025, meeting of the Committee and the minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting of the Committee would be voted on as a block.

A motion was made by Mr. Fralin and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT