

JLARC Meeting
November 13, 2023 – MINUTES

JLARC Members Present:

Delegate Robert E. Orrock (acting Chair), Vice Chair; Senator Mamie E. Locke; Senator Jeremy S. McPike; Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.; Senator Lionel Spruill, Sr.; Delegate Terry L. Austin; Delegate Betsy B. Carr; Delegate Barry D. Knight; Delegate Kenneth R. Plum, Delegate Luke Torian; Delegate Tony Wilt; and Staci Henshaw, Auditor of Public Accounts.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Orrock, who welcomed the Commission members.

Topic Selection Subcommittee Report

Vice Chair Orrock then introduced Mr. Hal Greer, who gave an overview of the agenda before introducing Senator McPike, chair of the JLARC Topic Selection Subcommittee. Senator McPike briefed the Commission on the October 16, 2023 meeting of the JLARC topic selection subcommittee. Senator McPike then introduced Mr. Justin Brown, who presented the eight study topics and resolutions for consideration that were all recommended by the subcommittee. Senator McPike moved a motion to approve the following six resolutions: access to broadband across the Commonwealth, tolling and traffic congestion reduction, state government modernization, transfer of the Department of Juvenile Justice to the Health and Human Resources Secretariat, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System governance, and a review of the Virginia Department of Health. The Commission decided unanimously by voice vote to approve all six resolutions. The Commission deferred action on the data center and higher education cost efficiency resolutions until the December meeting of the Commission.

JLARC Impacts: Actions Taken and Needed

Mr. Greer gave an overview of JLARC's impacts and actions taken and needed on recommendations from JLARC studies over the past four years. Mr. Greer then presented the Commission with JLARC's performance measures, including JLARC's implemented and partially implemented recommendations. JLARC associate directors then highlighted actions taken from studies under their management. Mr. Greer then presented the status of JLARC recommendations that, to date, have not been implemented by legislative action. Following, there were no comments or questions from JLARC members.

Indigent Defense and Commonwealth’s Attorneys

Mr. Greer gave an overview of the study of indigent defense and Commonwealth’s attorneys, then introduced Mr. Justin Brown, who addressed the Commission briefly before introducing Mr. Joe McMahon and Ms. Brittany Utz who presented the findings from the review. During Ms. Utz’s and Mr. McMahon’s presentations, there were several questions from Commission members. Ms. Maria Jankowski, executive director, Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, then addressed the Commission. Following Ms. Jankowski’s presentation, there were several questions from Commission members.

2023 VITA Update

Ms. Kimberly Sarte gave an overview of both the 2023 update on VITA and of Ms. Ellen Miller’s Economic Development Incentives presentation, which followed the VITA presentation. Ms. Sarte then introduced Mr. Jamie Bitz, who gave JLARC’s update on VITA. Following, there was a question from a Commission member. Mr. Robert Osmond, chief information officer, VITA, then addressed the Commission and there were no questions from Commission members.

Economic Development Incentives


Ms. Ellen Miller presented JLARC’s 2023 Economic Development Incentives report to the Commission. There were no questions from Commission members.

Adjournment

Mr. Greer announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2023. There being no further business, Delegate Orrock, Vice Chair, adjourned the Commission at 3:04 p.m.

Approved by: 
Hal E. Greer, JLARC Director

Date: 1/8/2024

Prepared by: 
Elizabeth C. Gibbs, JLARC Business Manager/Fiscal Officer