

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 30-178 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Freedom of*
 3 *Information Advisory Council; membership; effect of missing meetings.*

4 [H 2144]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 30-178 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 30-178. Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council; membership; terms; quorum;**
9 **expenses.**10 A. The Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council (the Council) is hereby created as an
11 advisory council in the legislative branch to encourage and facilitate compliance with the Freedom of
12 Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 *et seq.*).13 B. The Council shall consist of ~~12~~ 14 members as follows: the Attorney General or his designee; the
14 Librarian of Virginia or his designee; the Director of the Division of Legislative Services or his
15 designee; ~~four~~ five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, ~~one~~ two of whom
16 shall be a ~~member~~ members of the House of Delegates, and three nonlegislative citizen members, at
17 least one of whom shall be or have been a representative of the news media; ~~three~~ four members
18 appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, ~~one~~ two of whom shall be a ~~member~~ members of the
19 Senate, one of whom shall be or have been an officer of local government, and one nonlegislative
20 citizen at-large member; and two nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Governor, one of
21 whom shall not be a state employee. The local government representative may be selected from a list
22 recommended by the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League, after due
23 consideration of such list by the Senate Committee on Rules. The citizen members may be selected from
24 a list recommended by the Virginia Press Association, the Virginia Association of Broadcasters, and the
25 Virginia Coalition for Open Government, after due consideration of such list by the appointing
26 authorities.27 C. All appointments following the initial staggering of terms shall be for terms of four years, except
28 that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms in the same manner as the original
29 appointment. No nonlegislative citizen member shall be eligible to serve for more than two successive
30 four-year terms. However, after the expiration of a term of three years or less, or after the expiration of
31 the remainder of a term to which appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional terms may be served by
32 such member if appointed thereto. Legislative members and other state government officials shall serve
33 terms coincident with their terms of office. Legislative members may be reappointed for successive
34 terms.35 D. The members of the Council shall elect from among their membership a chairman and a
36 vice-chairman for two-year terms. The chairman and vice-chairman may not succeed themselves to the
37 same position.38 E. The Council shall hold meetings quarterly or upon the call of the chairman. A majority of the
39 Council shall constitute a quorum. *Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection C, if any nonlegislative*
40 *citizen member of the Council fails to attend a majority of meetings of the Council in a calendar year,*
41 *the Council shall notify the member's appointing authority. Upon receipt of such notification, the*
42 *appointing authority may remove the member and appoint a successor as soon as practicable.*43 F. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be
44 reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as
45 provided in §§ 2.2-2813, 2.2-2825 and 30-19.12, as appropriate. Funding for expenses of the members
46 shall be provided from existing appropriations to the Council.