

23101483D

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1423

House Amendments in [ ] - January 26, 2023

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-208.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the School Readiness Committee; renaming as Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education; purpose; membership; powers and duties.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Coyner

Referred to Committee on Education

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 2.2-208.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-208.1. Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education.**

A. In recognition of the fact that early care and education of young children is linked to academic success and workforce readiness, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and upon receiving recommendations for appointments from the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia School Boards Association, the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, the Virginia Council for Private Education, the Virginia Child Care Association, the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education, the Virginia Head Start Association, the Virginia Alliance for Family Child Care Associations, and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, shall establish and appoint members to the School Readiness Committee (the Committee) *Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education (the Commission) is hereby established for the purpose of providing recommendations for and tracking progress on the financing of a comprehensive birth-to-five early childhood care and education system as established in § 22.1-289.03 that provides stable, high-quality early childhood care and education services for families who need them the most, empowers parents with choices that meet their needs and preferences, and supports both school readiness and workforce participation.*

B. The ~~Committee~~ *Commission* shall have a total membership of no fewer than 27 [ 29 31 ] members that shall consist of ~~seven~~ *nine* legislative members, no fewer than [ 46 18 ] nonlegislative citizen members, and four ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: ~~four~~ *five* members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; ~~three~~ *four* members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules on the recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Health; and no fewer than [ 46 18 ] nonlegislative citizen members to be appointed by the Secretary of Education. *The Secretary of Education, upon receiving recommendations for appointments from the Virginia Council for Private Education, the Virginia Child Care Association, the Virginia Head Start Association, the Virginia Alliance for Family Child Care Associations, and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, shall appoint nonlegislative citizen members to the Commission in a manner that ensures representation from each of the nine Ready Regions identified by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (Ready Regions).* Nonlegislative citizen members shall include at least ~~three~~ *representatives* of the office of the Secretary of Education, ~~one~~ *representative* of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, ~~one~~ *representative* of a baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with a teacher education program, ~~one~~ *representative* of an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with a teacher education program, ~~one~~ *representative* of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, ~~one~~ *representative* of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, ~~four~~ *one* ~~representative~~ *representative* of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, ~~three~~ *executive-level* representatives of the private business sector *who each represent different Ready Regions*, ~~one~~ *early* ~~childhood education teacher from a public early childhood education program,~~ *childhood education teacher from a public early childhood education program,* ~~one~~ *early* ~~childhood education teacher from a private early childhood education program~~ *local government representative recommended by the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League,* ~~one~~ *administrator* from a public early childhood education program, ~~one~~ *administrator* from a faith-based private early childhood education program, ~~one~~ *administrator* from a non-faith-based private early childhood education program, ~~one~~ *administrator* from a Head Start program, ~~one~~ *administrator* from a family child care program, ~~one~~ *representative* from an organization advocating for children with disabilities, [ and ] ~~one~~ *parent* ~~three~~ *parents* or ~~guardian~~ *guardians* of a ~~child~~ *children* who is ~~participating~~ *are age-eligible or who were recently age-eligible to participate in early childhood care and education in the Commonwealth [ , one educator from a public early childhood education program, and one educator from a private early childhood education program ] .* The ~~Commissioner~~ *Commissioner* of Social

ENGROSSED

HB1423E

59 Services or his designee, the Secretary of Education or his designee, the Secretary of Health and Human  
60 Resources or his designee, and, the Secretary of Labor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his  
61 designee, and the Commissioner of Social Services, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with voting  
62 privileges.

63 C. ~~In recognition of the fact that one~~ The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

64 1. Expand access to and the quality of child care in all regions of the Commonwealth;

65 2. Analyze all existing and potential new opportunities for financing early childhood care and  
66 education programs with a focus on outcomes that are verifiable by data;

67 3. Retain, grow, and strengthen the quality of the Commonwealth's early childhood care and  
68 education workforce;

69 4. Gather and study information and data to accomplish its purposes as set forth in this section;

70 5. Gather and analyze data on the current and the projected five-year availability, quality, cost, and  
71 affordability of early childhood care and education throughout the Commonwealth for children from  
72 birth to age five, determine needs and priorities for early childhood care and education, and develop  
73 funding recommendations focused on family choice, access, affordability, and quality, giving due  
74 consideration to potential unforeseen impacts of funding and policy changes on the early childhood care  
75 and education sector;

76 6. Annually report on specific expenditures, outcomes, and impact, including the number of children  
77 served, demographics, child-level assessment data via the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program  
78 (VKRP), classroom-level assessment data via the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5),  
79 teacher turnover and retention data, and parental employment data;

80 7. Support the development of an integrated early childhood longitudinal data process to capture and  
81 link access, quality, and educator data with preschool growth and school readiness outcome data  
82 through third grade and facilitate the sharing and use of such data and the seamless integration of the  
83 early childhood longitudinal data process with other student longitudinal data systems and processes;  
84 and

85 8. Monitor and support ongoing research and evaluation conducted by the Department of Education,  
86 the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and any other higher  
87 education or research institutions as deemed relevant, to continuously improve the quality of early  
88 childhood care and education services in the Commonwealth.

89 D. One of the most important factors in learning outcomes for young children is the capabilities,  
90 exposure to high-quality teacher-student interactions made possible through the hiring, training, and  
91 retention of skilled educators who support their growth and learning. In recognizing the importance of  
92 strong professional supports, and competitive compensation of the to retaining skilled educators who  
93 support their growth and learning, the primary goal of the Committee is to provide recommendations for  
94 and track progress on the financing of a comprehensive birth-to-five early childhood care and education  
95 system in the Commonwealth that addresses both affordability for families and adequate compensation  
96 for educators Commission shall prioritize financing early childhood care and education services using  
97 the Department of Education's cost of quality estimation model. Adoption of this model will ensure that  
98 early childhood care and education programs are resourced to attract and retain talented educators and  
99 consistently deliver high-quality services, yielding strong school readiness and literacy outcomes for  
100 participating young children. As part of this effort, the Committee Commission should consider best  
101 practices and innovations in the private and public sector from across the Commonwealth and the  
102 country. The Committee Commission should consider different sources of revenue and establish  
103 long-term goals and targets for affordable access to quality care and education for all birth-to-five  
104 children in the Commonwealth. Based on disparities in school readiness outcomes, the Committee  
105 Commission should ensure that all recommendations address societal inequities and address the needs of  
106 the Commonwealth's more most vulnerable children, families, and early childhood educators. The  
107 Committee Commission shall periodically review the goals set forth in this subsection and other  
108 priorities within the early childhood care and education systems system and make submit no later than  
109 October 1 of each year recommendations to the Board of Education, the State Council of Higher  
110 Education for Virginia, the Department of Social Services, and the Chairmen of the House Committee  
111 on Education, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the House Committee on Health, Welfare  
112 and Institutions, and the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services. The Board of  
113 Education shall review the recommendations of the Committee and submit to the Governor and the  
114 Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance and  
115 Appropriations, the House Committee on Commerce and Energy, the Senate Committee on Commerce  
116 and Labor, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health, in  
117 advance of the next regular session of the General Assembly, any comments on such recommendations  
118 that the Board of Education deems appropriate. The Commission shall also post such recommendations  
119 on its website in a manner and format that ensure ease of access by interested parents and other  
120 members of the public.

~~D.~~ *E.* Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. All legislative members and nonlegislative citizen members may be reappointed.

~~E.~~ *F.* After the initial staggering of terms, legislative members and nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for terms of three years.

~~F.~~ *G.* No legislative member or nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment.

~~G.~~ *H.* The ~~Committee~~ *Commission* shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. *The chairman shall be a legislative member. The vice-chairman shall be a nonlegislative citizen member who is an executive-level representative of the private business sector.* A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the ~~Committee~~ *Commission* shall be held *at least four times per year* at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.

~~H.~~ *I.* Recommendations and other actions by the *Commission* shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the *Commission*.

~~J.~~ *J.* The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation shall provide for the facilitation of the work of the ~~Committee~~ *Commission* under the direction of the Secretary of Education or his designee and with the guidance of a steering ~~subcommittee~~ *committee* that includes the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of ~~Health and Human Resources~~ *Labor*, one legislative member, one *executive-level* representative of the private business sector, one representative of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and one ~~early childhood education teacher or administrator from a private early childhood education program parent or guardian of a child who is age-eligible or was recently age-eligible to participate in early childhood care and education in the Commonwealth.~~

~~I.~~ *K.* The chairman may request and access the expertise of additional representatives and organizations relating to the ~~Committee's~~ *Commission's* goals and priorities. ~~In order to meet the federally mandated requirements for early childhood advisory councils, the chairman may establish and appoint additional members to advisory subcommittees to address areas of special concern and priority.~~

~~J.~~ *L.* The Department of Education and the Department of Social Services shall provide staff support to the ~~Committee~~. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the ~~Committee~~, upon request. *The Commission may appoint, employ, and remove an executive director and such other persons as it deems necessary, and determine their duties and fix their salaries or compensation within the amounts appropriated therefor. The Commission may also employ experts who have special knowledge of the issues before it.*

*M.* ~~The Commission may request and shall receive from every department, division, board, bureau, commission, authority, or other agency created by the Commonwealth, or to which the Commonwealth is party, or from any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, cooperation and assistance in the performance of its duties.~~

**2. That the initial appointments of nonlegislative citizen members by the Secretary of Education shall be staggered as follows: [ ~~four~~ five ] members for a term of one year, [ ~~five~~ six ] members for a term of two years, and [ ~~six~~ seven ] members for a term of three years.**

**3. That the terms of the current members of the School Readiness Committee shall expire on the effective date of this act.**