



## **HB 150**

### Support w/ recommendation

HB 150 would require local public bodies to proactively post their minutes to their website, and, in the event that the body does not have a website, to the same locations where notice of public meetings is posted.

#### **VCOG supports this bill, though we would also suggest what we consider a friendly amendment.**

Current law (§ 2.2-3707.1) requires state public bodies to post minutes of their meetings to their websites and on a central electronic location like the Commonwealth Calendar.

Though most local public bodies do post their minutes, there is no requirement comparable to the one for state bodies.

Meeting minutes represent the history of the public body. They have both short-term and long-term value, which is why they are required to be maintained as public records indefinitely.

Virginians today, especially younger generations, expect such information to be readily, easily available without having to ask for them through a FOIA request and/or having to wait indefinitely for them to be posted to a website.

VCOG would make the **following recommendation**, however, to put this bill more in line with the current law for state bodies:

- Add a requirement that draft minutes be posted within a certain amount of time after the conclusion of the meeting.

Some public bodies are weeks and even months behind giving “final approval” of their minutes. Access to meeting minutes should be available in a more timely and consistent fashion.

***Please contact Megan Rhyne (540-353-8264 or [mrhyne@opengovva.org](mailto:mrhyne@opengovva.org)) with questions.***