



SB152 Support

SB 152 defines what is considered by an "official public government website" within the Freedom of Information Act's provisions on notice of upcoming public meetings.

VCOG strongly supports this legislation.

- Section 2.2-3707(C)(1) requires that notice of a public meeting be posted, among other places, on the public body's "official government website, if any."
- In October 2020, a Wise County/Norton general district judge ruled "official government website" meant only those websites with a .gov domain name.
- Scores of websites in use by counties, cities, towns, school districts, public universities and even a few state agencies use domain name extensions other than .gov (for example, .com, .org) yet have routinely complied with 2.2-3707(C)(1) by posting meeting notices on those websites.
- This bill became necessary to ensure that the judge's ruling did not spread to any other jurisdiction.
- There was no opposition to the need for this fix.

Please contact Megan Rhyne (540-353-8264 or mrhyne@opengovva.org) with questions.