



Manufacturing Development Commission

August 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Senate Room 305/A

<http://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/mdc.htm>

The Manufacturing Development Commission (the Commission) met in Richmond with Senator Williams Graves, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks by the chair. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [*Commission's meetings webpage*](#).

Adoption of Virtual Meeting Policy

Senator Williams Graves, Chair

The Commission adopted an updated virtual meeting policy based on legislative updates to statutory requirements from the 2025 session. The changes are minor and the policy is largely similar to the policy adopted last year.

Report on 2025 Legislation

Marvi Ali & Nikhil Edward, Attorneys, DLS

Attorneys from legislative services provided an overview of legislative updates, including legislation considered by the Commission in 2024, legislation related to manufacturing that did not pass, and legislation related to manufacturing that did pass and was enacted in 2025.

In 2024, the Commission considered a measure related to the Virginia Public Procurement Act and prohibiting forced and child labor. This measure was recommended by the Commission and introduced as SB 913 (Stanley), which passed and was enacted as 2025 Acts Ch. 439.

In 2024, the Commission also considered measures related to workplace safety regulations to be administered by the Department of Labor and Industry; eligibility of energy technologies for the renewable portfolio standard; licensure requirements and subject matter expert teaching certificates for public school teachers; and the establishment of a recycling development center.

During the 2025 session, the following bills were considered and did not pass: SB 302 (DeSteph), relating to establishment of a manufacturing incentive program; SB 1190 (Deeds), relating to establishment of an energy facility review board, local plans and ordinances related to the siting of critical interconnection projects, regional energy plans, establishing a clean energy technical assistance center, and other provisions; and HB 1616 (Feggans), relating to the development of training resources to advance workforce development in the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth.

¹ **Members Present:** Senator Angelia Williams Graves (Chair), Delegate Rozia A. Henson Jr. (Vice Chair), Senator Lamont Bagby, Delegate Robert S. Bloxom Jr., Delegate Michael Feggans (virtual), Delegate Fernando J. Martinez, Dr. Dawit Haile, Mike Watson, Kimberlee Humphrey.

Members Absent: Senator William M. Stanley Jr., Delegate Nicholas J. Freitas, Brett Vassey, Amy White.

During the 2025 session, HB 2024 (Seibold)/ SB 1165 (Salim) passed and was enacted as 2025 Acts Ch. 618. This bill prohibits state and local agencies from including a contract provision that directs the exclusion of using any materials or products associated with solar photovoltaic equipment and facilities that are manufactured in the United States.

During the 2025 session, HB 2179 (Clark)/ SB 1231 (Aird) passed and was enacted as 2025 Acts Ch. 178. This bill authorized Virginia Investment Performance Grants to be awarded under more lenient requirements if the recipient is located in a locality with an unemployment rate and poverty rate that exceeds the state average, subject to other conditions of eligibility.

Presentation by Virginia Works

Nicole Overly, Commissioner, Virginia Works

Nicole Overly presented information on Virginia Works, including the mission and functions of the agency, which include providing strategic direction for statewide workforce development programs, engaging directly with employees and businesses, supporting career coaching and job training and placement, and delivering workforce services in the Commonwealth. The presentation included a map of job centers in 14 local workforce development areas. The presentation also included an overview of workforce needs of the manufacturing industry, including a list of high demand jobs and a graph representing trends in wages for the past decade. The presentation highlighted the opportunity of registered apprenticeships, in which participation has grown during the past five years. Additionally, the presentation included information about which resources are available on the Virginia Works website for employers and job seekers.

Public Comment and Next Meeting

There were no public commenters. The next meeting will be held in Norfolk on September 16, 2025.

For more information, see the [Commission's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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