



Commission on Women's Health

Life Experiences Subcommittee

June 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/775>

The Life Experiences Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the Commission on Women's Health (the Commission) met electronically with Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Subcommittee's website](#).

Discussion of Scope and Proposed Interim Subcommittee Work

Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Chair

Delegate Anthony proposed a statement of the scope of work for the Subcommittee during the 2026 interim. The proposed statement provides that the work of the Subcommittee will focus on the range and stages of health throughout a woman's life from reproductive health, fertility, and pregnancy to midlife health, including perimenopause and menopause.² The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed scope statement and after a short discussion adopted the statement by voice vote.

Review of Relevant Legislation from 2026 Session of the General Assembly

Sabrina Miller-Bryson, Senior Legislative Counsel/Specialist, Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Miller-Bryson presented relevant successful and unsuccessful legislation from the 2026 Regular Session and discussion of these bills followed. Delegate Anthony suggested that the Subcommittee should review the bills that passed as they are implemented and Senator Russet W. Perry suggested reaching out to the patrons of failed or withdrawn bills to inquire whether such patrons wish to pursue these bills in the future and, if so, whether they would like to present such bills to the Subcommittee. Additionally, Ms. Miller-Bryson, in response to a question from Natalie Shorter, stated that she would compile information for the Subcommittee regarding (i) related fatality review teams currently in the Code of Virginia and (ii) legislation regarding maternal health from previous General Assembly sessions.

Data Requests and Invitations for Presentations

Members of the Subcommittee discussed information that would be beneficial to have presented or reviewed during future meetings. Delegate Shelly A. Simonds suggested that the State Board of Local and Regional Jails be requested to present to the Subcommittee concerning the lactation regulations they plan to put into place as directed by HB 860 (Cousins, 2026 Regular). It was also suggested that the Subcommittee invite commissioners of relevant agencies or their

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate Bonita G. Anthony (chair), Senator Russet W. Perry, Delegate Shelly A. Simonds, Theresa Nicole Bremby, Natalie Shorter

Members Absent: Delegate Hillary Pugh Kent, Kenda Sutton-El

² Life stages such as preventative care and aging are within the purview of other subcommittees of the Commission.

designees to present on the topics discussed and address any gaps such commissioners or designees see in their area of practice or expertise.

Public Comment and Next Meeting

Members of the public were given a chance to speak in response to the information presented in the meeting but no public testimony was given. Delegate Anthony noted that the next meeting will likely be in Richmond instead of electronic but the next meeting date was not scheduled.

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

Madison Richardson, Program Coordinator, DLS
mrichardson@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1854

Sabrina Miller-Bryson, Senior Legislative Counsel/Specialist, DLS
smiller-bryson@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1876
