

JULY 21, 2022

REMOTE PARTICIPATION AND ALL-VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY



NEED FOR NEW POLICY

- September 21, 2021 – *Policy for Individual Members to Participate Electronically in Meetings*
- HB 444 (2022) – Va. Code Sec. 2.2-3708.3 (effective September 1, 2022)
 - Applies in situations other than declared emergency
 - All-virtual meetings (all members participate remotely)
 - Remote participation (individual member is remote while quorum is physically assembled)
- Requires public body to adopt a policy by recorded vote before using new procedures

PERMITTED REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Prior Law

- Advance notice to board chairperson and approval required
- Temporary or permanent disability or medical condition
- Family member's medical condition
- Personal matter (two or 25% cap)

New Law

- Advance notice to board chairperson and approval required
- Temporary or permanent disability or medical condition
- Family member's medical condition
- **Principal residence 60+ miles from meeting location**
- Personal matter (two or 25% cap)

ALL-VIRTUAL MEETINGS

- Newly permitted without declared emergency (no physical quorum required)
- Limited to greater between two per year or 25% of meetings
- No consecutive all-virtual meetings
- No more than two members together in one location

VPRA-PROPOSED POLICY

- Draft policy provided to Board members on July 15, 2022 for review; resolution would adopt the policy
- Remote participation shall be approved for individual requests unless such participation would violate law
 - Mirrors prior policy
 - Physical quorum still required when individual remote participation approved
- Meetings may be all-virtual when chairperson deems it necessary or convenient
 - Two/25% rule
 - Non-consecutive rule
- Applies to each committee and subcommittee of VPRA



QUESTIONS?