

**Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership**  
**March 18, 2026**  
**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**One James Center, 9th Floor – Board Room**  
**Richmond, Virginia**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. by Chair Steven Stone. A quorum was present.

Committee Members In-Person:      Todd House, Emily O’Quinn, Nick Rush, Steven Stone

Committee Members Absent:        Sonya Montgomery and Anne Oman

Other Board Members present:      Mimi Coles, Rick Harrell, John Hewa, Bill Hayter,  
Pace Lochte, Connie Loughhead, Secretary Mark Sickles

**Public Comment Period**

Chair Stone solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for December 10, 2025 Meeting**

Chair Stone requested approval of the December 10, 2025, minutes. Upon motion by Mr. Rush, seconded by Ms. O’Quinn, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Election Update**

Ms. Akers reported that two Senate vacancies resulting from the November election and a gubernatorial appointment were filled by former Delegates Mike Jones (15th District) and Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (39th District). She further noted that membership assignments across several key Senate committees have shifted.

Ms. Akers also reported that, since the last meeting, five House of Delegates seats were filled through special elections, resulting in the election of Delegates McPike, McGuire, Schmidt, Bulova, Franklin, and Delegate-elect Rice. In addition, she noted significant membership and leadership changes across key House committees following the recent elections.

**Congressional Redistricting**

Ms. Akers reported that a statewide referendum on redistricting is scheduled for April 21, following passage of a resolution by both chambers to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot. She noted that while related litigation is pending before the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court has allowed the referendum to proceed. The outcome is expected to affect this year’s congressional elections.

## **General Assembly Update**

Ms. Akers provided an overview of the high volume 2026 General Assembly Session, noting the introduction of more than 3,000 bills, 1,992 budget amendments, multiple special elections, and significant legislative turnover. She reported that the Governor signed the caboose budget into law in February, which included items of interest such as a one-time state employee bonus, provisions related to rejoining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, congressional redistricting language, and several tax policy changes affecting businesses.

Ms. Akers also summarized key budget and legislative actions impacting economic development, workforce initiatives, child care, incentives, tax policy, data centers, and agency operations. She noted that VEDP's agency legislation primarily involved MEI-approved custom performance grants, and that numerous additional bills of interest were enacted, continued, or tabled during the session.

Copies of Ms. Aker's presentations are available in the meeting materials.

## **Closed Session**

Mr. Rush motioned, seconded by Ms. Loughhead, to move to a closed meeting. The members unanimously approved the motion below:

I move that the Legislation and Policy Committee of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority convene a closed meeting to discuss elements of VEDP's Strategic Plan, Marketing Plan, and Operational Plan pursuant to Subdivision A 50 of §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, which allows for the discussion of such activities that would reveal to Commonwealth's competitors for economic development projects the strategies intended to be deployed, thus adversely affecting the financial interests of the Commonwealth.

## **Return to Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call Vote:**

After the Committee reconvened in open meeting, Counsel certified the closed meeting via a roll call vote:

Do you certify, that to the best of your knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of FOIA were discussed in the closed meeting, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:

Mr. House	Aye
Ms. Montgomery	Not present
Ms. Oman	Not present
Emily O'Quinn	Aye
Mr. Rush	Aye
Mr. Stone	Aye

## **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Legislation and Policy Committee will be held on June 3, 2026. There being no further business, Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.