



SCHEV Report on a Minimal Uniform Standard for Livestreaming, Recording and Archiving Meetings of College and University Governing Boards

Background/Legislative History

HB2452 (Hodges) was enacted in the 2025 General Assembly. The bill establishes several requirements, subject to a reenactment clause, relating to public access to meetings of the governing boards of baccalaureate public institutions of higher education. With the exception of closed sessions, the bill provides for the livestreaming, recording and archiving of all meetings of the boards of visitors of the 14 public institutions in the Commonwealth.

The bill consists of three enactment clauses; clause 1 and 3 assigned SCHEV the responsibility for the study of and recommendations for minimum standards to inform the implementation of the legislation.

- I. The bill requires that each full board meeting, committee meeting and subcommittee meeting be livestreamed, recorded and archived on the institution's website in such a way that the recordings are accessible to the public within five business days following the conclusion of the meeting. The recording must remain accessible on the institution's official website for no less than five years from the date of the meeting. The recordings must include closed captioning for accessibility compliant with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12131 *et seq.*).

The State Council of Higher Education is tasked with developing educational guidelines to assist the institutions with complying with the provisions of this section, including recommendations for technological standards and accessibility features.

The board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education will be required to report on the institution's compliance with the provisions of this section in its annual report submitted pursuant to subdivision B 13 of § [23.1-1303](#).

- II. The first enactment of this act will not go into effect unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly.
- III. The bill requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council and a representative from the Library of Virginia, to work with the public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and with technology experts to develop minimal uniform standards, to the extent practicable, for (i) providing the public with real-time access to the meetings of governing boards of public institutions of higher education and the meetings of committees of such boards, (ii) archiving the recordings of such meetings, and (iii) taking minutes at such meetings. The bill requires any such minimal uniform standards to be implemented by each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth no later than July 1, 2026.

Full text of the bill: <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/HB2452>

Process

SCHEV invited staff from the board of visitors to all public institutions, technology experts from the institutions, the Library of Virginia records analyst assigned to higher education, and a member of the FOIA Council, to form a 22 person workgroup. In addition, the workgroup listened to a presentation from technology accessibility experts. The group met twice as a whole in June 2025 and then formed subcommittees to discuss the main elements of the bill in detail. The subcommittees met several times between June 2025 and September 2025. The workgroup convened as a whole three times in September and October to discuss the recommendations as determined in the subcommittees. Representatives from SCHEV attended all subcommittee meetings.

The three subcommittees studied and discussed the following:

1. The fiscal impacts of the requirements as provided in the first enactment clause.
2. The logistical needs of the requirements as provide in the first enactment clause.
3. The accessibility requirements as mandated by the ADA 1990 and the new ADA mandates taking effect April 24, 2026, and the impact of those requirements on

the provisions of HB2452.

In addition to discussions and expert testimony, the institutions were surveyed to determine current practices for live-streaming and recording board meetings. Each institution was asked to estimate the fiscal impact of adding additional meetings to livestream, record and archive. The institutions also audited past livestreaming data to determine the average number of online viewers per livestreamed meeting. The results of these analyses determined that the fiscal impacts of livestreaming all board meetings provide a very low return on investment. The institutional audits found that for the majority of institutions, the typical viewership for livestreamed meetings is low and often comprises institution staff who could attend in person.

Each subcommittee provided a summary of its discussions and subcommittee recommendations to all workgroup members. The recommendations in this report are the product of the final discussions of the workgroup.

Recommendations:

Minimum Uniform Standards

- I. Continue livestreaming full board meetings in venues that are already equipped for live streaming. Implementation of the minimum standards to livestream, record and archive all board meetings including committee and subcommittees as provided in the bill will be a financial and logistical burden on all institutions, but some will have greater struggle meeting the standards than others. The ADA compliance standards will be updated before the required implementation of the new standards. The technology to meet the new ADA standards is cost prohibitive for the institutions and will require staff training and additional funding.
- II. SCHEV concludes that until the technology is available to effectively and efficiently livestream all board meetings, the boards should be allowed to continue to concentrate on full board meetings for livestreaming and recording as described in the above recommendations.
- III. SCHEV will continue to explore options for greater transparency and technology solutions and share with the board staff from the public

institutions. The public baccalaureate institutions have demonstrated their commitment to public access and transparency by following the long-standing public meeting guidelines as provided in Code.

- IV. If livestreaming meetings of committees and subcommittees is required, delay implementation of new standards until July 1, 2027, to allow for further review of the new ADA requirements and to allow for technological improvements. The delay would also allow for additional state funding to staff and equip meetings to meet the bill requirements.
- V. Video record and archive committee meetings to avoid costs of live captioning. The recording would be available upon request and could be captioned post-production as needed.
- VI. Livestream meetings with available technology and add speaker names with corrected captioning post-production within two weeks of the meeting's conclusion to allow human captioning on a cost-effective timeline. Provide accessible presentations and other accessible meeting materials prior to the meeting.
- VII. Provide state-level training in ADA compliance training to board staff, citizen appointed board members and presenters. This training would cover the necessary actions needed to make meetings ADA-compliant, including pausing the meeting to describe the visual portion of the presentation, procedures for meetings when there are technical difficulties and what is required to be included in captions. State-level training for board members would require an explanation of their role in making livestreamed meetings ADA-compliant.