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## Virginia Minority Business Commission

### Executive Summary of 2024 Interim Activity

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/541>

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Pursuant to the powers and duties authorized under § 30-444 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Minority Business Commission (the Commission) held two meetings during the 2024 interim with Chair Senator Williams Graves presiding. Materials presented at the meetings are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#). The Commission's first meeting occurred on July 31, 2024, and the second meeting occurred on October 8, 2024.

### Commission Members

Senator Angelia Williams Graves, Chair	Keenan Moore
Delegate Michael Feggans, Vice-Chair	D'Shawn Wright
Senator T. Travis Hackworth	Shu Yee
Senator Lamont Bagby	Tiffany Boyle
Delegate Luke E. Torian	Dr. Trina Coleman
Delegate Barry D. Knight	Steven Hammond
Delegate Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler	

### July 31, 2024 Meeting

The Commission met in Richmond for its first interim meeting of 2024. The meeting began with introductions and the election of Senator Angelia Williams Graves as chair and Delegate Michael Feggans as vice-chair.<sup>1</sup> Following the election, the Commission adopted a virtual meeting policy. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's website](#).

### Overview of Commission

*Joshua Kaplan, Attorney, Division of Legislative Services*

Joshua Kaplan, an attorney with the Division of Legislative Services, gave an overview of the Commission's prior work focusing on developing public policy recommendations to improve minority business support, outreach, data collection, and informatics on minority owned businesses. Four recommendations from the Commission were codified between 2022 and 2024 by the General Assembly:

- HB 815 (2022) created a mentorship pilot program for start-up women-owned and minority-owned businesses.
- HB 814 (2022) directed the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD) to annually review and provide feedback on state agencies' plans to enhance Small, Women, and Minority (SWaM) procurement.

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Senator Angelia Williams Graves (chair), Delegate Michael Feggans (vice-chair), Senator Lamont Bagby, Delegate Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler, Delegate Luke E. Torian, Dr. Trina Coleman, Steven Hammond

- HB 30 (Budget Bill, 2022) Item 123(I), directed SBSB and the Division of General Services (DGS) to develop recommendations on a new performance goal for SWaM business participation on state contracts.
- HB 1404 (2024), directed SBSB to conduct a new disparity study, to be completed by January 1, 2025.

### **Presentation on Statewide Disparity Study**

*Verneice Love, Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity*

Verneice Love with SBSB gave an overview of the new statewide Disparity Study. The 2020 Disparity Study showed that 13.3 percent of state contracts were awarded to women-owned and minority-owned businesses. Ms. Love shared that the 2025 Disparity Study will evaluate the need for enhancement and remedial measures to address the disparity between the availability and the utilization of women-owned and minority-owned businesses and recommend measures that consist of narrowly tailored procurement policies to address documented statistical disparities between the availability and utilization of women-owned and minority-owned businesses. The 2025 Disparity Study will also incorporate the findings of past disparity studies and evaluate Virginia's progress toward the recommendations of those studies. The results will allow SBSB to update a statewide goal for SWaM business procurement and similar individual goals for women-owned and minority-owned businesses for the purpose of closing any disparity.

### **October 8, 2024 Meeting**

The Commission met in Richmond for its second interim meeting of 2024. The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks from Chair Senator Williams Graves, presiding.<sup>2</sup> Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's website](#). The Commission discussed various ideas including encouraging localities to establish local minority business councils; participating as a vendor at resource fairs; pushing for more diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; and streamlining the Virginia's procurement process.

### **Presentation from Black BRAND**

*Blair Durham, Co-Founder/President, Black BRAND*

Blair Durham gave an overview of Black BRAND. Black BRAND is the Black Chamber of Commerce for Virginia's Hampton Roads whose mission is to promote group economics through professional development and community empowerment. She discussed the top barriers to minority businesses in Hampton Roads and detailed the ways Black BRAND works in the community.

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

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<sup>2</sup> **Members Present:** Senator Angelia Williams Graves (chair), Delegate Michael Feggans (vice-chair), Senator Lamont Bagby, Delegate Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler, Tiffany Boyle, Steven Hammond, Keenan Moore