



### Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) training and technical assistance

Currently, the Virginia Conflict of Interest Council does not have enough staff to provide training at key times of the year.

#### Amendment

- **HB 30: [Item 15#1h](#)** (Hodges)

#### Background

The Virginia Conflict of Interest Council has very limited staff and is unable to provide training at key times of the year (i.e., in the first few months after newly elected officials are sworn into office). Additional staff could help alleviate the backlog for this training that is so vital to elected officials.

#### What this amendment would accomplish

Provide state funding to the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council to enable it to hire an additional staff member to perform critical training and to respond to questions from those covered under COIA and the public.

#### Key points

- State and local elected officials are subject to COIA provisions.
- Local elected officials are required to take COIA training after election to office.
- The lack of staff at the state council's office causes significant delays in receiving required training, particularly early in the calendar year when local officials take office.
- The addition of a staff person can help ensure in-person training events, which are more beneficial for participants.

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