

MEMO

To: TJPD Commissioners

From: David Blount, Deputy Director

Date: June 3, 2021

Re: Remote Electronic Participation in Meetings Policy

Purpose:

To consider adoption of a Commission policy allowing members to participate in meetings by electronic communication means.

Background:

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act, at § 2.2-3708.2 of the *Code of Virginia*, permits individual members of a public body to participate in a public meeting through electronic participation. Such participation is authorized only if the public body has adopted a written policy allowing for and governing participation of its members by electronic communication means, including an approval process for such participation. In May, 2020, the Commission adopted a Remote Meeting Policy to allow, consistent with state enabling provisions, its meetings to be held without the physical presence of members during a declared state of emergency. However, the Commission has not adopted a policy, as enabled in 2018, to authorize remote participation by individual members at Commission meetings when a quorum is physically assembled.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the attached policy, titled Remote Electronic Participation, as authorized by subsection C of § 2.2-3708.2 of the *Code of Virginia*.