



Shinbaum, Lesley &lt;lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

## Meeting with the Secretary

**Shinbaum, Lesley** <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>  
To: Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>  
Cc: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 4:34 PM

Thanks - looking forward to it!

On Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 4:34 PM, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Lesley,  
I am planning to attend, looking forward to catching up on the 19th.  
Regards,  
Chuck Lessin

On Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 4:30 PM, Shinbaum, Lesley <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov> wrote:  
We can do that. Is Chuck planning to attend as well?

On Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 4:25 PM, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com> wrote:

Lesley,

I can make it on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am

Please confirm and looking forward to seeing you and Brian Ball

Best,

Mel

**From:** Shinbaum, Lesley [mailto:lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2018 10:09 AM  
**To:** Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>  
**Cc:** Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with the Secretary

Mel,

Secretary Lee will not be available for this meeting. This meeting would be with Deputy Secretary Brian Ball and myself. The following times work for us:

7/11/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - Meeting with the Secretary

Friday, April 13 from 9:00-12:00

Thursday, April 19 from 9:00-12:00

Do any of these work for you?

Thanks,

Lesley

On Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 12:21 PM, Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)> wrote:

Lesley,

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Purpose would be to introduce her to what we do and to meet in person.

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If this can be done at the same time that would be great.

Can you please get me some days and times and I will adjust my schedule to come to Richmond.

Best,

Mel

Lesley Shinbaum

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam

w) 804-225-4517

c) 804-380-8922

7/11/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - Meeting with the Secretary

--

Lesley Shinbaum  
Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam  
w) 804-225-4517  
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7/11/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - Thanks for coming in



Shinbaum, Lesley <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>

## Thanks for coming in

**Mel Chaskin** <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>  
To: Lesley Shinbaum <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>

Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 3:02 PM

I appreciate your time and Secretary Ball.  
Looking forward to meet with VEDP and working together.

Best,

Mel

[Get Outlook for Android](#)

On Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 2:11 PM -0400, "Lesley Shinbaum" <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov> wrote:

Mel / Chuck,

Thank you both for taking the time to visit with us this morning. I've spoken with the folks at VEDP, and someone will be in touch with you about setting up a meeting with Stephen Moret.

Thanks,  
Lesley

--

Lesley Shinbaum  
Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam  
w) 804-225-4517  
c) 804-380-8922



Shinbaum, Lesley &lt;lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Meeting with the Secretary**

6 messages

**Mel Chaskin** <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 12:21 PM

To: "lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov" &lt;lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

Cc: Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt;, Charles Lessin &lt;chucklessin@gmail.com&gt;

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Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 10:08 AM

To: Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt;

Cc: Charles Lessin &lt;chucklessin@gmail.com&gt;

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Shinbaum, Lesley <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Travel approval

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**Mel Chaskin** <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Fri, Apr 27, 2018 at 2:18 PM

To: "Shinbaum, Lesley" <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>

Cc: "brian.ball@governor.virginia.gov" <brian.ball@governor.virginia.gov>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, "Johnson, Dennis" <dennis.johnson@governor.virginia.gov>

Lesley,

In reference to our conversation today I am requesting travel approval for Dov Hoch travel expenses from May 11 – 16.

He is currently our representative in Israel and will be in Chicago for other business.

We would like for him to travel to Virginia and meet with your office/ VEDP and other leaders in Virginia.

He is also the designated ED for the Board starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Legislative services said that they would also like to meet with him and discuss his employment.

We have the funds to cover his travel from Chicago and back to Israel. It is expected to be about \$1,500 to \$ 2,000.

I would appreciate it if you would approve this.

Best,

Mel



Shinbaum, Lesley <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Virginia Israel Advisory Board and EL AL airline

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Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>  
To: lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov  
Cc: Julie Strauss <JAStrauss@outlook.com>

Tue, May 1, 2018 at 2:19 PM

Hi Leslie,

I hope this e mail finds you well. You may recall that VIAB members escorted and helped plan Governor McAuliffe's July 2016 trip to Israel. Our last meeting of that trip was at the headquarters of EL AL, and we were hosted by their CEO and President among others including two members of the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority. We discussed the possibility of EL AL establishing a direct flight from Dulles to Tel Aviv. It was a great discussion but they were already committed to opening San Francisco and Miami and their next direct flights. They did however promise to revisit Dulles as a future possibility.

Since then, one of our newest VIAB board members, Julie Strauss, has asked that we move the discussion forward with EL AL. Julie is an attorney in NOVA and travels to Israel frequently. I am hoping that Julie and I can visit with Secretary Ball and catch him up about this opportunity. Before and after the Governor McAuliffe trip, we met several times with Secretary Maurice Jones regarding this issue. Please let me know if a meeting is possible as we are ready and willing to help in anyway to make this a reality. This new origination point for EL AL would create new jobs in Virginia, and create lots of new tourism in NOVA. Please let me know a few times that might work to meet and Julie and I can plan accordingly.

As always, thanks for all of your help.

Regards,  
Chuck Lessin  
Vice-chairman  
Virginia Israel Advisory Board





Shinbaum, Lesley <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Virginia Israel Advisory Board and EL AL airline

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Shinbaum, Lesley <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>  
To: Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>  
Cc: Julie Strauss <JAStrauss@outlook.com>

Thu, May 3, 2018 at 7:23 AM

Chuck,

It would be more appropriate for you all to talk with Rita McClenny with Virginia Tourism about this matter as VTC is more directly involved with airline recruitment than Secretary Ball. Her assistant's email is [carolyn.wren@virginia.org](mailto:carolyn.wren@virginia.org). Carolyn can help you set up a time to chat.

Best,  
Lesley

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Lesley Shinbaum  
Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam  
w) 804-225-4517  
c) 804-380-8922



Westfall, Lana < Lana.Westfall@governor.virginia.gov >

**VIAB 2018 Board Profile Sheet**

1 message

**Kim Clark** <kclark@vanguardresearch.com> Fri, Mar 2, 2018 at 1:59 PM  
To: "Westfall, Lana (GOV)" < Lana.Westfall@governor.virginia.gov >  
Cc: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, "Thomasson, Kelly (GOV)" <kelly.thomasson@governor.virginia.gov>

Good afternoon,

Attached is the VIAB 2018 Profile Sheet. Mel Chaskin, Chairman of the VIAB, can be reached at mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com or at 703-416-0400.

Regards,

*Kim Clark* (for Mel Chaskin – Chairman, VIAB)

Director of Human Resources

Vanguard Research, Inc.

8001 Forbes Place, #310

Springfield, VA 22151

703-416-0400

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Westfall, Lana (GOV)" < Lana.Westfall@governor.virginia.gov >  
Date: Feb 17, 2018 01:09  
Subject: Appointments update and Board Profiles  
To: "Westfall, Lana (GOV)" < Lana.Westfall@governor.virginia.gov >

Friends,

I hope your new year is off to a good start! As you know, Governor Northam took office in January and is committed to building a state government that works for everyone, no matter who you are or where you live. We are looking forward to the many appointments to be made during his administration – we've got over 800 vacancies across the 300 boards and commissions in 2018!

As we kick off the administration, we have a couple of updates and requests:

- I'm grateful that Governor Northam has reappointed me, as well as Secretary Kelly Thomasson and Deputy Secretary Traci Deshazor. In addition, Caroline Corl is staying on so most of your SOC contacts will remain the same! Leslie Frazier has moved back to the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; we're planning to bring on someone very soon to fill that position formerly held by Jen Sayegh and Leslie.
- As you know, at the beginning of every year, we send the Board Profile sheet for you to fill out and return to us. This year, we're asking that you return the sheet as soon as possible **after the General Assembly session**. This will allow you to include any legislation that passed this session affecting your board membership. I have attached the 2018 board profile sheet for you to complete and return in March.
- We are sending an email to all board appointees to advise them to communicate with their board administrator (that's you!) if they wish to be reappointed (obviously we're not asking anyone to make that decision until the year their term is set to expire). We thought this would be the easiest and most effective way of keeping everyone in the loop. As we begin work on each of your boards, the SOC staff person assigned to your area will be in touch to assess the board and learn from you which of your members wish to be reappointed.

We're looking forward to working with you during the Northam Administration. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions or suggestions moving forward.

Best,

Lana

p.s. I'll be out of the office starting Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> for 4-6 weeks on medical leave. I hope to be checking emails periodically, but if you need anything in my absence, please don't hesitate to contact Caroline, Traci or Kelly (copied on this email).

*Lana Orme Westfall*

Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Secretary of the Commonwealth

1111 East Broad Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Richmond, VA 23219

(804)786-9550 (direct)

Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam

Commonwealth of Virginia

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**WITHHELD**

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**WITHHELD**

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Westfall, Lana <lane.westfall@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Re: VIAB 2018 Board Profile Sheet

1 message

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**Westfall, Lana (GOV)** <lane.westfall@governor.virginia.gov> Fri, Mar 2, 2018 at 11:59 PM  
To: Kim Clark <kclark@vanguardresearch.com>  
Cc: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, "Thomasson, Kelly (GOV)" <kelly.thomasson@governor.virginia.gov>

Many thanks, Kim.

Stay safe.

Lana

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 2, 2018, at 1:59 PM, Kim Clark <kclark@vanguardresearch.com> wrote:  
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> Good afternoon,  
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>  
> Regards,  
>  
> Kim Clark (for Mel Chaskin – Chairman, VIAB)  
> Director of Human Resources  
> Vanguard Research, Inc.  
> 8001 Forbes Place, #310  
> Springfield, VA 22151  
> 703-416-0400  
>  
> ----- Forwarded message -----  
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> Date: Feb 17, 2018 01:09  
> Subject: Appointments update and Board Profiles  
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> Lana

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- > Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions
- >
- > Secretary of the Commonwealth
- > 1111 East Broad Street, 4th Floor
- > Richmond, VA 23219
- > (804)786-9550<tel:(804)%20786-9550> (direct)
- >
- >
- > Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam
- > Commonwealth of Virginia
- >
- > <VIAB Profile Sheet 2018.pdf>



Westfall, Lana <lane.westfall@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Re: VA-Israel Advisory Board

1 message

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**Westfall, Lana** <lane.westfall@governor.virginia.gov>

Tue, Apr 24, 2018 at 11:16 AM

To: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

I wanted to be sure we were on the same page. We should be set until 2020 unless someone resigns.

Thanks!

On Tue, Apr 24, 2018 at 11:11 AM, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com> wrote:

Lana,

I think that is correct. Which means that Marc Broklawski, Eileen Filler-Corn and Will Frank will come off the Board.

The Governor will not appoint any one this year.

Please confirm

Best,

Mel

---

**From:** Westfall, Lana [mailto:lane.westfall@governor.virginia.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:55 AM

**To:** Mel Chaskin

**Subject:** Fwd: VA-Israel Advisory Board

Sent to wrong email address...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Westfall, Lana** <lane.westfall@governor.virginia.gov>

Date: Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 4:15 PM

Subject: VA-Israel Advisory Board

To: mchaskin@vriusa.com

Mel,

It was great seeing you and meeting Mr. Lessin.

In reading HB 1297 again, I realized the current members whose terms end 2019 - 2021 can remain until the end of their term. **It won't be until 2020 when the board is reduced to 3 remaining members that the Governor can appoint two new members to bring the board to a total of 5 going forward.**

If any of the 10 remaining members with terms expiring in 2019, 2020, 2021 should resign, the Governor can appoint someone to fill their unexpired term.

HB 1297

***"That the provisions of this act shall not affect current members of the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board whose terms have not expired as of July 1, 2018. However, beginning July 1, 2018, with the exception of appointments to fill the remainder of an unexpired term, the Governor shall not appoint any citizen members to the Board until such time as the number of gubernatorial citizen appointees serving on the Board is less than five."***

I just wanted to be certain we are on the same page.

Many thanks.

Best,

Lana

--

*Lana Orme Westfall*

Coordinator - Gubernatorial Appointments to Boards and Commissions  
(Education, HHR & Public Safety)

Governor Ralph S. Northam

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Patrick Henry Building

1111 East Broad Street, 4th Floor

Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 786-9550 (direct)

lana.westfall@governor.virginia.gov

--

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7/12/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - Re: VA-Israel Advisory Board





Navarro, Angela <angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Solar companies in VA

---

Aviva Frye <aviva@energix-group.com>

Wed, Apr 18, 2018 at 1:08 PM

To: "angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov" <angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov>

Good afternoon Angela ,  
There is an organization of solar companies in VA.  
Do you know the name of it and who is head of it ?

Aviva Frye

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Navarro, Angela <angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov>

---

## Meeting this morning

---

**Aviva Frye** <aviva@energix-group.com>  
To: "Navarro, Angela" <angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov>

Thu, Apr 26, 2018 at 7:51 AM

We are here

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---

**From:** Aviva Frye  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 7:32:20 AM  
**To:** Navarro, Angela  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting this morning

Will do !  
Thank you

Get Outlook for iOS

---

**From:** Navarro, Angela <angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 7:30:31 AM  
**To:** Aviva Frye  
**Subject:** Meeting this morning

Aviva,

Please call my direct dial when you arrive and I will come down to get you: 804-692-2549.

Best regards,

Angela

--

Angela L. Navarro

Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources

Office of Governor Northam

1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 786-0044

angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov



Navarro, Angela <angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov>

---

## Follow up on our meeting

---

Aviva Frye <aviva@energix-group.com>  
To: "Navarro, Angela (GOV)" <angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov>

Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 3:26 PM

Dear Angela:

We are all looking forward to the meeting tomorrow.  
Here are the people attending:

Robert Kampf. CEO Caden Energy  
Ken Niemann. Director of Development Caden Energy  
Moran Berman. VP of Development. Energix Renewable Energy  
Aviva Frye. Director of Regulation and Public Regulations CadenEnergix LLC

Thank you,

Aviva Frye

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---

**From:** Navarro, Angela (GOV) <Angela.Navarro@governor.virginia.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 2:57:03 PM  
**To:** Aviva Frye  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up on our meeting

Aviva,

I look forward to seeing you and your team at 12:30 tomorrow. I hope to have Brian Ball from the Commerce and Trade Secretariat joining us. Would you mind sending me the names of the individuals on your team who will be attending the meeting?

Best regards,

Angela

Angela L. Navarro  
Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources  
Office of Governor Northam  
1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 786-0044  
angela.navarro@governor.virginia.gov

On Jan 29, 2018, at 10:46 AM, Aviva Frye <aviva@energix-group.com> wrote:

Dear Angela:

Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me.  
Here is the information on Kentucky Utilities , as per our discussion:

1. Wise site help with Kentucky Utilities: Kentucky Utilities has made it clear to Energix that they are uninterested in providing renewable

energy in Wise. The data center, which is already there, wants to expand. Del Kilgore told us that at least two other data centers want to locate in Wise County if the renewable energy were available. But they MUST have solar power, hence the utility company is keeping good jobs out of Wise County.

The Contact information at Kentucky Utilities is as follows: Allyson Sturgeon, Senior Attorney at LG&E, 802-627-2088 (Allyson.Sturgeon@lge-ku.com). Also, Kendrick Riggs at Stoll, Keenan, Ogdor 502-560-4222(kendrick.riggs@skofirm.com). Jack Kennedy can give more details on this issue.

Thank you for all of your help,

If you need further information please let me know.  
Aviva

Aviva Frye  
Director of Regulation and Public Relations  
Caden-Energix LLC  
mobile( 276) 451-4428

Sent from my iPad



Bradford, Frances <fran.bradford@governor.virginia.gov>

---

**Fwd: Buy a Painting - Support Minds in Motion- Make a Difference**

1 message

---

Aviva Frye <aviva@energix-group.com>

Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 11:45 AM

To: atif.qarni@governor.virginia.gov, fran.bradford@governor.virginia.gov

As per our discussion..  
Here is a nice write up on Minds in Motion.  
Thank you both so much for meeting with me.  
I am sending the information on NY State in a separate email.  
Any information on sustainability at William and Mary would be most appreciated.

Aviva

Aviva Shapiro Frye  
Director of Regulation  
& Public Relations  
CadenEnergix LLC  
(M) 276-451-4428

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Mel Chaskin, Chairman, VIAB" <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>  
**Date:** February 21, 2018 at 8:01:03 AM EST  
**To:** springtime0691@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Buy a Painting - Support Minds in Motion- Make a Difference  
**Reply-To:** mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com



**BUY A PAINTING. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



For more than 20 years, Richmond Ballet's *Minds In Motion* program has brought students from across the Commonwealth together on stage to share the joy of dance. These children, from all walks of life, perform together and experience joy together.

Nearly a decade ago, the Virginia Israel Advisory Board reached out to Richmond Ballet, envisioning the *Minds In Motion* program reaching students in Israel. Through the partnership, Richmond Ballet traveled the program to Israel, and for the past eight years, Jewish-Israeli and Arab-Israeli students have come together to perform a *Minds In Motion* experience for their families and schools. The result is inspiring.

*"We don't understand Arabic, and they don't understand Hebrew. So, the connection is from dancing. For a second you'll look at them, and you're like...hmm. And then you see they're actually Arab kids that they're exactly like us. So, okay. Cool." - Ethan*

From March 9 - 16, more than seventy artists and guests from Israel will travel to Virginia for **Art For Understanding**. This collaboration and cultural exchange connects students from *Minds In Motion* in Virginia and *Matter of Color*, a group of artists from Israel.

As part of this exchange, *Matter of Color* artists have created a special exhibition of over 100 paintings tied to the theme of empathy and understanding that are now available for bid. From now until March 15, 2018, you have the unique opportunity to view the artwork online or by visiting locations throughout the Commonwealth, from Northern Virginia to Central Virginia to Hampton Roads.

### **Click Here to Bid or Find Locations!**

We invite you to participate in the exchange at two special **Art For Understanding** events: *An Evening of Empathy and Understanding* at Kingsmill Resort on March 14 and the *Art For Understanding Exhibit*, a celebration of Israeli art and culture, at Binns of Williamsburg on March 15.



To learn more about **Art For Understanding** and its related events or to explore and bid

on a painting, visit [richmondballet.com/a4u](http://richmondballet.com/a4u). All proceeds from the auction and related events will support the *Minds In Motion* programs throughout Virginia, as well as the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel.

*"The fact that they're Jews doesn't mean that we won't get along. We're different, but we behave like brothers " - Salim*

Be a part of this incredible exchange and bid on your favorite paintings today!

*Art For Understanding is sponsored by Binns of Williamsburg and the Virginia Israel Advisory Board.*

		<p><b>Virginia Israel Advisory Board</b> <i>Office of the Governor</i> 8300 Boone Blvd, Suite 450 Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182 <a href="http://www.viab.org">www.viab.org</a> Join VIAB on LinkedIn</p>
---	---	--

Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) Office of the Governor, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Tysons Corner, VA 22182

SafeUnsubscribe™ [springtime0691@yahoo.com](mailto:springtime0691@yahoo.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)



Hermerding, Benjamin &lt;benjamin.hermerding@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

---

**On October 1, 2017, Ralph retired from the VIAB Re: Board Appointment Certificates**

1 message

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**Ralph Robbins** <dovhoch@viab.org>  
To: benjamin.hermerding@governor.virginia.gov

Mon, Nov 27, 2017 at 10:34 AM

On October 1, 2017, Ralph Robbins retired from the VIAB. He will no longer receive any email at this address.

**Please contact one of our program coordinators.** They will assist you or direct your questions to our Chairman, Mel Chaskin, or Vice-Chairman, Chuck Lessin:

<b>Julie Krachman</b> Tel: 202-321-5824 email: julieK@viab.org	<b>Aliza Asher</b> 305-710-7888 email: Aliza@viab.org
--	---

**Ralph Robbins personal email:** ralphrobbins@gmail.com  
Ralph's Mobile phone: 703-879-5736 (reaches Ralph in the US and in Israel)  
Ralph's Mobile phone in Israel: 050-3666178

--  
Dov Hoch  
dovhoch@viab.org  
Virginia Israel Advisory Board

US: (914) 775-5631  
Israel: 054 203-3740





Caumont, Carrie <carrie.caumont@governor.virginia.gov>

---

## TIMELY - can we please chat about this at your earliest convenience, Carrie? Thanks

---

Eileen Filler-Corn <eileenfillercorn@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 3, 2018 at 6:58 PM

To: "Caumont, Carrie (GOV)" <carrie.caumont@governor.virginia.gov>

Please see attachment as an explanation of "Art for Understanding" and a list of several events in Richmond and Williamsburg starting next Monday (March 12th)

### ART FOR UNDERSTANDING

Binns of Williamsburg is Hosting and creating an "Israeli Culture Week" in Williamsburg

Benefits and Proceeds of the Event goes to the Outreach Program, Minds In Motion, produced by The Richmond Ballet.

85 Attendees have paid their own way to visit Virginia, traveling from Tel Aviv Israel, to attend events in Washington DC, Richmond and culminating in Williamsburg, VA.

The stops in DC and Richmond by the delegation from Israel are for the purposes of raising awareness of the culminating events in Williamsburg, VA. The events created and sponsored Binns of Williamsburg is the sole reason these

These Israeli Citizens have never visited Williamsburg, VA, yet they are engaged in fortune 500 companies, or are entrepreneurs of their own large companies, Government Knesset Members, Doctors, Lawyers, University Professors, Fashion Designers, Generals from the Israeli Defense (I.D.F.), A robust Diverse group of fully engaged citizens.

Israel is second to Silicon Valley in terms of Digital, Computer, and start up companies.

They are world leaders in Innovation and Medical Advancement, etc.

Binns has been asked to host this group by the Virginia Israel Advisory Board. The purpose of this board is to foster Business, Academic, Economic, Art and Cultural Relationships between any Israeli Company and any Company Operating in the Virginia Commonwealth.

Thomas Smith is being considered a candidate for Inclusion on the board, and I believe that the City of Williamsburg, James City and York County can benefit from networking opportunity of hosting this event.

### MATTER OF COLOR

A group of 120 artist, who have been painting together in Givatayim, Israel. They range from more than just Hobby Painters to Gallery Quality Artist.

These artist will also be painting "En Plein Aire" throughout Williamsburg during their visit.

### Monday, March 12th 2018

The group will tour the State Capital anytime in the morning between 9:00- 12:00.

Can the Governor and First Lady address the group?

Opportunity to tour mansion and/or potential reception at the mansion?

This is a Binns Request in cooperation with the Richmond Ballet (Binns as Host and creators of this concept)

Binns is a 92 year old company, serving people from around the world, a family run business.

### Governor and First Lady:

#### Dinner Event in Williamsburg VA:

at Kingsmill

March 14th

6:30 to 9:00 PM

Could the Governor and/or FLOVA welcome the group (one or the other or both) in Williamsburg

We are working with The Reeves Center Executives

Taylor Reveley, President of College of William and Mary has requested faculty and staff work with us for mutual collaboration, even after this event.

This program has the support of the Virginia Israeli Advisory Board

CEO, His Wife and other guest of Coco Cola Israel

CEO, of Hewlett Packard Israel, (world headquarters of R&D)

Dr. Avi And Mrs. Bruria Hassner of Israel

World renowned Immunologist who discovered and named the Aids Virus while working at Berkley. (Avi)

Curator of the painters group (Bruria)

Former First Lady of Israel, Miri Shafirhnavon

6/27/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - TIMELY - can we please chat about this at your earliest convenience, Carrie? Thanks

Ashby Kilgore, Retired Superintendent of Newport News School System (National Recognized in America for Excellence) She  
IDF 2008 Commander/General for the Israeli Intelligence  
University Professors from various Fields  
The list goes on and on.  
85 Socially engaged Israeli citizens  
The list goes on and on. Seriously. And this is not a general VIP list of people that usually come together.

Art and ..... Arts influence on various Social Change projects.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Art-for-Understanding-285345495280721/>

**Event Name: Art for Understanding**

Date of Event: March 13, 14, 15 th, 2018

**Thomas Smith**

**Social Entrepreneur, Coordinating Global Resources for Local Causes Creating Positive Change**  
**Vice President, Binns of Williamsburg**  
**President, Luxury Services Group, USA**  
**President, Luxury Buyers Services**  
**Development Chair, Igor Karl Fabergé Foundation Geneva**  
**Project Creator/manager, Art for Understanding, Israel, USA**  
**757.561.3652 - cell**

ACIMA Private Wealth (1)  
Atlee Family & Cosmetic Dentistry (1)  
Bella Arte Gallery (2)  
Binns of Williamsburg (10)  
Carole and Marcus Weinstein Jewish Community Center (35)  
Corrugated Box Building (3)  
Davenport & Co. - Richmond Office (1)  
Gardner Orthodontics - Gaskins Office (2)  
Gardner Orthodontics - Willow Lawn Office (1)  
George Mason University - Founders Hall Gallery (10)  
Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (3)  
Marsh & McLennan Companies - Downtown Richmond (1)  
Marsh & McLennan Companies - Libbie Mill (1)  
Page Bond Gallery (2)  
PricewaterhouseCoopers - Richmond Office (1)  
Rappahannock Art League (3)  
Reba and Sam Sandler Family Campus (4)  
Richmond Ballet (2)  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1)  
SunTrust Center - Downtown Richmond (10)  
Temple Beth-El (2)  
Virginia Public Radio/Radio IQ (11)  
Zinger Plastic Surgery (

Eileen Filler-Corn

cell 7039306758

email [eileenfillercorn@gmail.com](mailto:eileenfillercorn@gmail.com)

Delegate office 5712493453

Delegate email [eileen@eileenfillercorn.com](mailto:eileen@eileenfillercorn.com)

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 **The Reflector Article - revised.docx**  
19K

## ART FOR UNDERSTANDING

### *Celebrating Israeli Culture and Bringing Communities Together Through Art and Dance*

From March 9 – 16, more than seventy artists and guests from Israel, including former First Lady Miri Shafir Navon, will travel to Virginia as part of **Art For Understanding**, a collaboration and cultural exchange between students from *Minds In Motion*, Richmond Ballet's celebrated outreach program reaching nearly 2,000 students throughout Virginia and Israel, and *Matter of Color*, a group of artists from Israel.

The brainchild of Thomas Smith of Binns of Williamsburg, **Art For Understanding** came to be after Mr. Smith was introduced to *Minds In Motion* through the Virginia Israel Advisory Board. "I was inspired by all that Richmond Ballet does in both Virginia and Israel," states Mr. Smith. "I have strong ties to Israel, and upon seeing how *Minds In Motion* uses the power of dance to break through barriers, connecting the Jewish and Arab communities, I wanted to help bring awareness to this incredible program."

*Matter of Color*, led by instructor and curator Bruria Hassner of Tel Aviv, have been painting together for over two decades. The group is comprised of approximately 120 women and a few men who paint weekly and explore a variety of themes through the creation and expression of their art. As part of the **Art For Understanding** exchange, *Matter of Color* artists have created a special exhibition of over 100 paintings tied to the theme of empathy and understanding. From now until March 13<sup>th</sup> the public has the unique opportunity to view the artwork by visiting many locations throughout the Commonwealth; these include, among others, the Carole and Marcus Weinstein Jewish Community Center in Richmond, the Reba and Sam Sandler Family Campus in Virginia Beach, Binns of Williamsburg, Richmond Ballet, and the SunTrust Center located in downtown Richmond. All paintings are available for bid online at [richmondballet.com/a4u](http://richmondballet.com/a4u).

During their time in Virginia, the artists will travel throughout the Commonwealth, meeting with various groups and dancing and painting with *Minds In Motion* students. The public is invited to attend two special events with the artists. The first being *An Evening of Empathy & Understanding* on March 14<sup>th</sup>, a ticketed event at Kingsmill Resort which includes dinner and a unique opportunity for open dialogue with the *Matter of Color* artists. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the cultural exchange will culminate at the **Art For Understanding** Exhibit, a celebration of Israeli art and culture at Binns of Williamsburg. From 3pm to 9pm guests may view the entire collection of paintings as well as clothing and jewelry by Israeli designers. Highlights of this event will include an appearance by renowned Yemenite jeweler Ben Zion David and upscale clothing from noted Israeli fashion house Maskit. Proceeds from the art auction and related events will support the *Minds In Motion* programs throughout Virginia and Israel.

"**Art For Understanding** provides an opportunity for our communities to meet each other personally, share and explore our similarities, and celebrate our rich cultural and personal differences," explains Brett Bonda, Managing Director for Richmond Ballet. "The Richmond Ballet mission is to uplift and awaken the human spirit, and I cannot think of a better way to do so than by bringing together communities through art and movement. We hope the Commonwealth will be a part of this incredible exchange by bidding on a painting or attending one of the events."

**Art For Understanding** is sponsored by Binns of Williamsburg and the Virginia Israel Advisory Board. To learn more about **Art For Understanding** and its related events, *Minds In Motion*, or to bid on a painting, visit [richmondballet.com/a4u](http://richmondballet.com/a4u).



Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Fwd: VIAB Charter Legislation

1 message

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Aimee Perron Seibert <aimee@hillbridgegroup.com>  
To: Lauren Schmitt <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 2:55 PM

TO: VIAB Board Members

FROM: Mel Chaskin, Chairman

DATE: January 25, 2018

RE: Attached Bill for changes to our Charter

Attached is the legislation that is being proposed in the General Assembly reflecting changes with the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB).

I respectfully request you review the bill and let me know if you APPROVE or DISAPPROVE and if you disapprove what suggested changes you may have.

The Bill makes four (4) changes to our current Charter:

1. It further defines us as an independent Board
2. Changes the quorum requirement
3. It changes the staffing from the Governor's office to the Board as having the responsibility for the hiring of all staff.
4. Adds back the requirement that the Governor and all other agencies shall assist the Board upon request.

We believe that this will accomplish what we have been talking about in our Board meeting for the last couple of years.

Below is an explanation related to some questions about some of these proposed changes:

- Adding the word "independent" – This shows that we are not

part of any other agency or government office, which was the original idea in establishing the Board. We would continue working with the VEDP and the Sec. of Commerce and Trade as well as the Sec of Education, as well as any other organization that will help us meet our mission.

Being independent helps us to function without any outside pressures.

- Quorum – reducing the quorum size will insure the Board is able to approve action items. The only action items usually are the approval of the minutes from past meeting and the voting for Chairman and Vice Chairman which is done annually. We DO NOT have, nor are we requesting any grant authority or do we ever allocate funds to any of the companies we are trying to bring into Virginia.

- Hiring the staff – as you all know that we still do not have an Executive Director. The Board is best qualified as to know what we need and the position would not be political.

- Operation from other offices/agencies – that has always been in our charter. It seems that at the last printing it was left out.

As Time is of the Essence, please reply to me by 3:00 PM on Friday, January 26th.

<winmail.dat>

## 2 attachments

 **noname.html**  
2K

 **HB 1227 Sub 1-22-18 ( VIAB ).pdf**  
16K

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 1297

## 2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the House Committee on Rules

4 on \_\_\_\_\_)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Hugo)

6 A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-2424 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia-Israel Advisory  
7 Board.

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 2.2-2424 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

10 **§ 2.2-2424. Virginia-Israel Advisory Board; purpose; membership; terms; compensation and**  
11 **expenses; staff; chairman's executive summary.**

12 A. The Virginia-Israel Advisory Board (the Board) is established as an independent advisory  
13 board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government. The purpose of the  
14 Board shall be to advise the Governor on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the  
15 Commonwealth and the State of Israel, with a focus on the areas of commerce and trade, art and education,  
16 and general government.

17 B. The Board shall consist of 31 members that include 29 citizen members and two ex officio  
18 members as follows: six citizen members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, who may  
19 be members of the House of Delegates or other state or local elected officials; six citizen members  
20 appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, who may be members of the Senate or other state or local  
21 elected officials; 13 members appointed by the Governor who represent business, industry, education, the  
22 arts, and government; the president, or his designee, of each of the four Jewish Community Federations  
23 serving the Richmond, Northern Virginia, Tidewater and Peninsula regions; and the Secretary of  
24 Commerce and Trade and the Secretary of Education, or their designees, who shall serve as ex officio  
25 voting members of the Board.

26 C. Nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Governor shall serve for terms of four years  
27 and nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the  
28 House of Delegates shall serve for terms of two years. Legislative members and the Secretaries of  
29 Commerce and Trade, and Education, or their designees, shall serve terms coincident with their terms of  
30 office. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term.  
31 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Any member may be  
32 reappointed for successive terms.

33 D. The members of the Board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman annually from among its  
34 membership. The Board shall meet at such times as it deems appropriate or on call of the chairman. ~~A~~  
35 ~~majority of the Eight~~ members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

36 E. Members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, all members shall be  
37 reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as  
38 provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of the expenses of the members shall be  
39 provided by the Office of the Governor.

40 ~~F. The Office of the Governor shall serve as staff to~~ Staffing shall be the responsibility of the  
41 Board. Employees and appointees in all staff positions shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

42 ~~G. The Office of the Governor and all other agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Board~~  
43 upon request.

44 H. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual  
45 executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular  
46 session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures  
47 of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports  
48 and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

49 #



Schmitt, Lauren &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

**Fwd: VIAB Charter Legislation**

2 messages

**Will Frank** <williamfrank@gmail.com>  
To: lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov

Sun, Jan 28, 2018 at 9:23 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Will Frank** <williamfrank@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 26, 2018 at 3:19 PM

Subject: Re: VIAB Charter Legislation

To: Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt;

Cc: "aaronmichaelroberts@gmail.com" <aaronmichaelroberts@gmail.com>, Abby Moore <abymooreva@gmail.com>, "springtime0691@yahoo.com" <springtime0691@yahoo.com>, Bob Budoff <bob.budoff@gmail.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, "DFogel@JewishRichmond.org" <DFogel@jewishrichmond.org>, "dtenzer@gfdg.com" <dtenzer@gfdg.com>, "Eileen Filler-Corn (eileenfillercorn@gmail.com)" <eileenfillercorn@gmail.com>, Irving Blank <irvblank@parisblank.com>, "myerson@myersonlaw.net" <myerson@myersonlaw.net>, Jeffrey Brooke <jbrooke@poolemahoney.com>, "jerome.chapman@aporter.com" <jerome.chapman@aporter.com>, "sarfans@aol.com" <sarfans@aol.com>, wndyctyfn1 <wndyctyfn1@aol.com>, "john@stresco.com" <john@stresco.com>, Julie Strauss <jstrauss@outlook.com>, "koholl1@gmail.com" <koholl1@gmail.com>, "Ldavidson@davidsonsclothing.com" <Ldavidson@davidsonsclothing.com>, "lkrakove@msn.com" <lkrakove@msn.com>, "marc.broklawski@gmail.com" <marc.broklawski@gmail.com>, "cweinstein@weinsteinproperties.com" <cweinstein@weinsteinproperties.com>, "mdreyfus@ecpi.edu" <mdreyfus@ecpi.edu>, "mgillette@bsvinc.com" <mgillette@bsvinc.com>, "shornannette4@gmail.com" <shornannette4@gmail.com>, "nshor@slnusbaum.com" <nshor@slnusbaum.com>, "rmancoll@ujft.org" <rmancoll@ujft.org>, Sophie Hoffman <seaside.sophie@gmail.com>, "sskaist@hf-law.com" <sskaist@hf-law.com>, "steven.valdez.lu@gmail.com" <steven.valdez.lu@gmail.com>, "swendell@ujcvp.org" <swendell@ujcvp.org>, Kim Clark <kclark@vanguardresearch.com>, Aliza Asher <aliza@viab.org>, "Julie Krachman (julieK@viab.org)" <julieK@viab.org>

Mel,

Thank you for the email and the opportunity to review. I may be in the minority but I do have some concerns. Do we know if there is a fiscal impact on this? The original bills had language requiring the Governor to provide office space for staff, this one does not. This bill also requires the board to control all staff and take on that responsibility. The FIS on the original bill says the boards budget \$215,184 could absorb the costs. Does that still work? Is there a budget amendment? I understand what you are trying to do but I do have concerns of unintended consequences of this action.

Also, how many other boards have been detached from the Governor's office but still had the Governor's financial support for reimbursements and other items. That seems inconsistent to me that the board will be responsible for its own staff but rely on the Governor's office for reimbursements. I would suggest striking out that part on lines 38-39.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Will

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 12:13 PM, Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt; wrote:

TO: VIAB Board Members

FROM: Mel Chaskin, Chairman



DATE: January 25, 2018

RE: Attached Bill for changes to our Charter

Attached is the legislation that is being proposed in the General Assembly reflecting changes with the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB).

I respectfully request you review the bill and let me know if you **APPROVE** or **DISAPPROVE** and if you disapprove what suggested changes you may have.

The Bill makes four (4) changes to our current Charter:

1. It further defines us as an independent Board
2. Changes the quorum requirement
3. It changes the staffing from the Governor's office to the Board as having the responsibility for the hiring of all staff.
4. Adds back the requirement that the Governor and all other agencies shall assist the Board upon request.

We believe that this will accomplish what we have been talking about in our Board meeting for the last couple of years.

Below is an explanation related to some questions about some of these proposed changes:

- Adding the word "independent"** – This shows that we are not part of any other agency or government office, which was the original idea in establishing the Board. We would continue working with the VEDP and the Sec. of Commerce and Trade as well as the Sec of Education, as well as any other organization that will help us meet our mission. Being independent helps us to function without any outside pressures.
- Quorum** – reducing the quorum size will insure the Board is able to approve action items. The only action items usually are the approval of the minutes from past meeting and the voting for Chairman and Vice Chairman which is done annually. We **DO NOT** have, nor are we requesting any grant authority or do we ever allocate funds to any of the companies we are trying to bring into Virginia.
- Hiring the staff** – as you all know that we still do not have an Executive Director. The Board is best qualified as to know what we need and the position would not be political.
- Operation from other offices/agencies** – that has always been in our charter. It seems that at the last printing it was left out.

***As Time is of the Essence, please reply to me by 3:00 PM on Friday, January 26th.***

**Will Frank** <williamfrank@gmail.com>  
 To: lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov

Sun, Jan 28, 2018 at 9:23 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Will Frank** <williamfrank@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jan 28, 2018 at 9:16 PM

Subject: Re: VIAB Charter Legislation

To: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Cc: "aaronmichaelroberts@gmail.com" <aaronmichaelroberts@gmail.com>, Abby Moore <abbymooreva@gmail.com>, "springtime0691@yahoo.com" <springtime0691@yahoo.com>, Bob Budoff <bob.budoff@gmail.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, "DFogel@JewishRichmond.org" <DFogel@jewishrichmond.org>, "dtenzer@gfdg.com" <dtenzer@gfdg.com>, "Eileen Filler-Corn (eileenfillercorn@gmail.com)" <eileenfillercorn@gmail.com>, Irving Blank <irvblank@parisblank.com>, "myerson@myersonlaw.net" <myerson@myersonlaw.net>, Jeffrey Brooke <jbrooke@poolemahoney.com>, "jerome.chapman@aporter.com" <jerome.chapman@aporter.com>, "sarfans@aol.com" <sarfans@aol.com>, wndyctyfn1 <wndyctyfn1@aol.com>, "john@streco.com" <john@streco.com>, Julie Strauss <jastrauss@outlook.com>, "koholl1@gmail.com" <koholl1@gmail.com>, "Ldavidson@davidsonsclothing.com" <Ldavidson@davidsonsclothing.com>, "lkrakove@msn.com" <lkrakove@msn.com>, "marc.broklawski@gmail.com" <marc.broklawski@gmail.com>, "cweinstein@weinsteinproperties.com" <cweinstein@weinsteinproperties.com>, "mdreyfus@ecpi.edu" <mdreyfus@ecpi.edu>, "mgillette@bsvinc.com" <mgillette@bsvinc.com>, "shornannette4@gmail.com" <shornannette4@gmail.com>, "nshor@slnusbaum.com" <nshor@slnusbaum.com>, "rmancoll@ujft.org" <rmancoll@ujft.org>, Sophie Hoffman <seaside.sophie@gmail.com>, "sskaist@hf-law.com" <sskaist@hf-law.com>, "steven.valdez.lu@gmail.com" <steven.valdez.lu@gmail.com>, "swendell@ujcvp.org" <swendell@ujcvp.org>, Kim Clark <kclark@vanguardresearch.com>, Aliza Asher <aliza@viab.org>, "Julie Krachman (julieK@viab.org)" <julieK@viab.org>

I only heard a few responses. I cannot support this legislation as written but would be happy to assist in any edits to ensure a cleaner separation.

Again, my concern is that this bill as written is a little messy and could result in some problems down the road. I just looked back in the section 2.2-2100 and there is no definition of an "independent advisory board". I also have concerns with the reimbursement language and the boards budget.

If this is the direction the board wishes to go this bill could be written better.

Mel, can you provide the members with a breakdown of the boards budget and expenses so we know this could absorb any additional costs? Is it in the annual report?

Thank you

Will

On Fri, Jan 26, 2018 at 3:19 PM, Will Frank <williamfrank@gmail.com> wrote:

Mel,

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Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Connecting on VIAB

1 message

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**Hutchinson, Carter (GOV)** <carter.hutchinson@governor.virginia.gov>

Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 5:39 PM

To: mdreyfus@ecpi.edu

Cc: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Mark, thank you for the call earlier. I wanted to connect you with Lauren Schmitt, the Governor's Deputy Legislative Director, who has been working on this bill for the Governor.

Best,

Carter Hutchinson

Deputy Policy Director

804-629-8683

[carter.hutchinson@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:carter.hutchinson@governor.virginia.gov)



Schmitt, Lauren &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

**VIAB, HB 1470**

11 messages

**Matthew Benka** <Matt@mdbstrategies.com> Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 9:35 AM  
To: "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Amigo Wade <AWade@dls.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vriusa.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>  
Cc: Dean Goodson <dean.goodson@timhugo.com>

Amigo: do you have time to meet with those copied on Hugo's VIAB HB 1470 preferably tomorrow morning or sometime tomorrow? Looking to work on a substitute for the Delegate. Let us know when you have time and we will make ourselves available. Thanks very much, Matt

Matthew D. Benka  
MDB Strategies  
804.240.7984

**Amigo Wade** <awade@dls.virginia.gov> Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 10:29 AM  
To: Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>  
Cc: "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vriusa.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Dean Goodson <dean.goodson@timhugo.com>

Would Tomorrow at 9 a.m. work for everyone?

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MDB Strategies  
804.240.7984

**Matthew Benka** <Matt@mdbstrategies.com> Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 10:31 AM  
To: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>  
Cc: "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vriusa.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Dean Goodson <dean.goodson@timhugo.com>

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---

**Charles Lessin** <[chucklessin@gmail.com](mailto:chucklessin@gmail.com)>

Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 10:40 AM

To: Amigo Wade <[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)>

Cc: Matthew Benka <[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)>, "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" <[lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>, Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vriusa.com](mailto:mchaskin@vriusa.com)>, Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)>, Dean Goodson <[dean.goodson@timhugo.com](mailto:dean.goodson@timhugo.com)>

9 A.m. tomorrow, Wednesday morning, works for me. Thank you Chuck

Sent from my iPhone

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**Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)** <[lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>

Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 11:12 AM

To: Matthew Benka <[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)>

Cc: Amigo Wade <[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)>, Charles Lessin <[chucklessin@gmail.com](mailto:chucklessin@gmail.com)>, Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vriusa.com](mailto:mchaskin@vriusa.com)>, Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)>, Dean Goodson <[dean.goodson@timhugo.com](mailto:dean.goodson@timhugo.com)>

Yes, 9am works for me. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

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Cc: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vriusa.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Dean Goodson <dean.goodson@timhugo.com>

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On Feb 6, 2018, at 10:32 AM, Matthew Benka <[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)> wrote:

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Matthew D. Benka

MDB Strategies

[804.240.7984](tel:804.240.7984)

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**Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)** <[lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 8:23 AM

To: Amigo Wade <[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)>, Matthew Benka <[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)>

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 8:22 AM

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**Subject:** Re: VIAB, HB 1470

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Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 8:28 AM

To: Amigo Wade <[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)>

Cc: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <[lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>, Charles Lessin <[chucklessin@gmail.com](mailto:chucklessin@gmail.com)>, Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vriusa.com](mailto:mchaskin@vriusa.com)>, Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)>, Dean Goodson <[dean.goodson@timhugo.com](mailto:dean.goodson@timhugo.com)>

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Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Revised Substitute for HB 1297

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**Amigo Wade** <awade@dls.virginia.gov>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 6:59 PM

To: Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Delegate Hugo <DHugo@house.virginia.gov>, Tim Hugo <DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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 **Revised substitute - HB 1297.pdf**  
16K



HOUSE BILL NO. 1297

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules

on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Hugo)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 42.1, consisting of sections numbered 30-281.1 and 30-281.2, and to repeal Article 11 (§ 2.2-2424 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 42.1, consisting of sections numbered 30-281.1 and 30-281.2, as follows:

CHAPTER 42.1.

VIRGINIA-ISRAEL ADVISORY BOARD.

§ 30.1-281.1. Virginia-Israel Advisory Board; purpose; membership; terms; compensation and expenses; staff; chairman's executive summary.

A. The Virginia-Israel Advisory Board (the Board) is established as an advisory board in the legislative branch of state government. The purpose of the Board shall be to advise the General Assembly on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the Commonwealth and the State of Israel, with a focus on the areas of commerce and trade, art and education, and general government.

B. The Board shall consist of 31 members that include 29 citizen members and two ex officio members as follows: seven citizen members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, who may be members of the House of Delegates or other state or local elected officials; seven citizen members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, who may be members of the Senate or other state or local elected officials; 11 members appointed by the Governor who represent business, industry, education, the arts, and government, the president, or his designee, of each of the four Jewish Community Federations serving the Richmond, Northern Virginia, Tidewater and Peninsula regions each of whom shall be a

27 resident of the Commonwealth; and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the Secretary of Education,  
28 or their designees, who shall serve as ex officio voting members of the Board.

29 C. Nonlegislative citizen members serve for terms of four years. Legislative members and the  
30 Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, and Education, or their designees, shall serve terms coincident with  
31 their terms of office. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the  
32 unexpired term. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Any member  
33 may be reappointed for successive terms.

34 D. The members of the Board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman annually from among its  
35 membership. The Board shall meet at such times as it deems appropriate or on call of the chairman. Eight  
36 members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

37 E. Members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, all members shall be  
38 reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as  
39 provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.

40 F. Funding for the costs of expenses of the members and the operations of the Board, including  
41 staffing needs, shall be from such funds as appropriated by the General Assembly.

42 G. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual  
43 executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular  
44 session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures  
45 of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports  
46 and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

47 **§ 30.1-281.2. Powers and duties of the Board.**

48 A. The Board shall have the power and duty to:

49 1. Undertake studies and gather information and data in order to accomplish its purposes as set  
50 forth in § 30.1-281.1, and to formulate and present its recommendations to the Governor and the General  
51 Assembly.

52 2. Apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public, quasi-public or private  
53 sources, including any matching funds as may be designated in the appropriation act, to enable it to better  
54 carry out its purposes.

55 3. Report annually its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.  
56 The Board may make interim reports to the Governor and the General Assembly as it deems advisable.

57 4. Account annually on its fiscal activities, including any matching funds received or expended by  
58 the Board.

59 B. In addition, the Board shall meet with the Governor at least annually to (i) provide a review of  
60 the Board's economic and cultural development activity, and (ii) assist in planning an economic  
61 development and cultural exchange mission to Israel.

62 C. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Board upon request.

63 **2. That Article 11 (§ 2.2-2424 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**

64 **3. That any unexpended balances of the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board that have accrued in the**  
65 **executive department pursuant to a general appropriation act shall be transferred to the Virginia**  
66 **Advisory Board in the legislative department.**

67  
68



Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Revised Substitute for HB 1297

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Schmitt, Lauren (GOV) <Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 7:14 PM

To: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Delegate Hugo <DHugo@house.virginia.gov>, "Hugo, Timothy" <DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Thanks Amigo. Our team will get back to you and the group once we've reviewed it. To confirm, it will be heard in House Rules tomorrow morning?

From: Amigo Wade [mailto:[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:59 PM

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Let me know if you have any questions.

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## Revised Substitute for HB 1297

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Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 7:20 PM

To: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Cc: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>, Delegate Hugo <DHugo@house.virginia.gov>, "Hugo, Timothy" <DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Hi Amigo, thanks so much for the efforts! I will review it within the next hour or so and get back to you. Thank you again  
Chuck

Sent from my iPhone

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Amigo,

Thanks for all your help.

I will do it and get back to you in a couple of hours.

Best,

Mel

---

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 6:59 PM

**To:** Charles Lessin <[chucklessin@gmail.com](mailto:chucklessin@gmail.com)>; Delegate Hugo <[DHugo@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DHugo@house.virginia.gov)>; Tim Hugo <[DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov)>; Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)>; Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov

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We want to clarify to the best of our ability that the **Board** will appoint ALL staff including the Executive Director, that issue is the impetus for the bill. Can we add to line 41, a sentence that reads; All Staff members shall be appointed by the Board.

Line 65 needs to have the word **Israel** inserted after Virginia.

Regards,

Chuck Lessin  
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Virginia Israel Advisory Board

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Hi Everyone,

The only concern we have is with Line 62:

C. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Board upon request.

Since the Board will no longer be in the Executive Branch, that requirement won't apply. Can we remove that line?

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Amigo

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## Revised Substitute for HB 1297

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Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 9:53 PM

To: Delegate Hugo <DHugo@house.virginia.gov>, Tim Hugo <DeIHugo@house.virginia.gov>, "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Hello all,

Here is the second revision incorporating Chuck' and Lauren's changes.

Amigo

On Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 6:59 PM, Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov> wrote:

Delegate Hugo and consensus group,

Attached is the revised substitute for HB 1297. I apologize for the delay in getting this out. I will be around late tonight and am committed to incorporating any consensus changes tonight. I also note that the draft is being reviewed by our editing department and there may be a couple of non-substantive changes to come.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Amigo

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**2nd Revised- Substitute HB 1297.pdf**  
17K

HOUSE BILL NO. 1297

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules

on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Hugo)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 42.1, consisting of sections numbered 30-281.1 and 30-281.2, and to repeal Article 11 (§ 2.2-2424 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 42.1, consisting of sections numbered 30-281.1 and 30-281.2, as follows:

CHAPTER 42.1.

VIRGINIA-ISRAEL ADVISORY BOARD.

§ 30.1-281.1. Virginia-Israel Advisory Board; purpose; membership; terms; compensation and expenses; staff; chairman's executive summary.

A. The Virginia-Israel Advisory Board (the Board) is established as an advisory board in the legislative branch of state government. The purpose of the Board is to advise the General Assembly on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the Commonwealth and the State of Israel, with a focus on the areas of commerce and trade, art and education, and general government.

B. The Board shall have a total membership of 31 members that shall consist of 29 citizen members and two ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: seven citizen members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, who may be members of the House of Delegates or other state or local elected officials; seven citizen members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, who may be members of the Senate or other state or local elected officials; 11 members appointed by the Governor who represent business, industry, education, the arts, and government: the president, or his designee, of each of the four Jewish Community Federations serving the Richmond, Northern Virginia, Tidewater, and



27 Peninsula regions, each of whom shall be a resident of the Commonwealth; and the Secretary of  
28 Commerce and Trade and the Secretary of Education, or their designees, who shall serve as ex officio  
29 voting members of the Board.

30 C. Nonlegislative citizen members shall serve for terms of four years. Legislative members and  
31 the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the Secretary of Education, or their designees, shall serve terms  
32 coincident with their terms of office. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled  
33 for the unexpired term. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Any  
34 member may be reappointed for successive terms.

35 D. The members of the Board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman annually from among its  
36 membership. The Board shall meet at such times as it deems appropriate or on call of the chairman. A  
37 majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

38 E. Members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, all members shall be  
39 reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as  
40 provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.

41 F. The Board shall appoint all staff positions supporting its operations. Funding for the costs of  
42 expenses of the members and the operations of the Board, including staffing needs, shall be from such  
43 funds as appropriated by the General Assembly.

44 G. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual  
45 executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular  
46 session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures  
47 of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports  
48 and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

49 **§ 30.1-281.2. Powers and duties of the Board.**

50 A. The Board shall have the power and duty to:

51 1. Undertake studies and gather information and data in order to accomplish its purposes as set  
52 forth in § 30.1-281.1, and to formulate and present its recommendations to the Governor and the General  
53 Assembly;

54 2. Apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public, quasi-public, or private  
55 sources, including any matching funds as may be designated in the appropriation act, to enable it to better  
56 carry out its purposes;

57 3. Report annually its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.  
58 The Board may make interim reports to the Governor and the General Assembly as it deems advisable;  
59 and

60 4. Account annually on its fiscal activities, including any matching funds received or expended by  
61 the Board.

62 B. In addition, the Board shall meet with the Governor at least annually to (i) provide a review of  
63 the Board's economic and cultural development activity and (ii) assist in planning an economic  
64 development and cultural exchange mission to Israel.

65 **2. That Article 11 (§ 2.2-2424 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**

66 **3. That any unexpended balances of the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board that have accrued in the**  
67 **executive department pursuant to a general appropriation act shall be transferred to the Virginia-**  
68 **Israel Advisory Board in the legislative department.**

69 #



Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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## Revised Substitute for HB 1297

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**Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)** <Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 7:39 AM

To: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>, Delegate Hugo <DHugo@house.virginia.gov>, "Hugo, Timothy" <DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Thanks Amigo. This looks good on our end. See you in a little while!

**From:** Amigo Wade [mailto:[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 9:54 PM

**To:** Delegate Hugo <[DHugo@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DHugo@house.virginia.gov)>; Hugo, Timothy <[DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelTHugo@house.virginia.gov)>; Schmitt, Lauren (GOV) <[Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>; Charles Lessin <[chucklessin@gmail.com](mailto:chucklessin@gmail.com)>; Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Revised Substitute for HB 1297

Hello all,

Here is the second revision incorporating Chuck' and Lauren's changes.

Amigo

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Let me know if you have any questions.

Amigo





Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

---

## VIAB bill

Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Sun, Feb 11, 2018 at 4:16 PM

To: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Dean Goodson <dean.goodson@timhugo.com>

Cc: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

Lauren – thanks for the reminder. I will get with Dean, Amigo and House staff to figure this out. Thank you, Matt

---

**From:** <Schmitt>, "Lauren (GOV)" <Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

**Date:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 3:46 PM

**To:** Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>, Dean Goodson <dean.goodson@timhugo.com>

**Cc:** Amigo Wade <AWade@dls.virginia.gov>

**Subject:** VIAB bill

I received an e-mail from DPB that we need a budget amendment for the VIAB bill. The funds budgeted for the Board in the Executive Department have to be transferred to the Legislative Department. I asked if the language that's currently in the bill about transferring funds would apply, and they said that's only for unexpended funds.

Not sure how it works at this point in the process, but we'll need to move quickly. Dean, can Del. Hugo talk to Chairman Jones and find out the appropriate next steps?

Thanks,  
Lauren



Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

---

## VIAB bill

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**Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)** <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov> Sun, Feb 11, 2018 at 5:42 PM  
To: Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>, Dean Goodson <dean.goodson@timhugo.com>  
Cc: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

Sure, let me know if there's anything I can do on my end to help.

---

**From:** Matthew Benka [[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 4:16 PM  
**To:** Schmitt, Lauren (GOV); Dean Goodson  
**Cc:** Amigo Wade; Charles Lessin  
**Subject:** Re: VIAB bill

Laureen – thanks for the reminder. I will get with Dean, Amigo and House staff to figure this out. Thank you, Matt

---

**From:** <Schmitt>, "Lauren (GOV)" <[Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>  
**Date:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 3:46 PM  
**To:** Matthew Benka <[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)>, Dean Goodson <[dean.goodson@timhugo.com](mailto:dean.goodson@timhugo.com)>  
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Thanks,  
Lauren



Schmitt, Lauren &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

**VIAB, Hugo / Senate Budget / Senate Rules Meeting Tomorrow**

6 messages

**Matthew Benka** <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Tue, Feb 27, 2018 at 6:17 PM

To: "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

Cc: Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt;, Charles Lessin &lt;chucklessin@gmail.com&gt;

Lauren:

Unfortunately there has been a bit of confusion on VIAB issues in the Senate. Had a long conversation with Senator Ruff this afternoon, Hugo and Senate staff to try to get everyone back on same page.

Can we talk early tomorrow face to face so I can give you an update and so that we are on the same page for the Senate Rules meeting tomorrow afternoon? Am free anytime so just let me know where and when – can go to your office if easy.

Thanks very much!

Matt Benka

MDB Strategies

Direct: (804) 240-7984

[www.mdbstrategies.com](http://www.mdbstrategies.com)**Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)** <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Tue, Feb 27, 2018 at 9:23 PM

To: Matthew Benka &lt;Matt@mdbstrategies.com&gt;

Cc: Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt;, Charles Lessin &lt;chucklessin@gmail.com&gt;

Sure, I have a two bills up tomorrow morning but should be free by 10:30 if that works for you. I just need to be at another meeting at 11:15. Could you meet at Pocahontas at 10:30? Or the Capitol at 11?

**From:** Matthew Benka [[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)]**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018 6:17 PM**To:** Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)**Cc:** Mel Chaskin; Charles Lessin**Subject:** VIAB, Hugo / Senate Budget / Senate Rules Meeting Tomorrow

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Direct: (804) 240-7984  
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**Matthew Benka** <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 6:31 AM

To: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Cc: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

11 am would work well. Outside caucus? Thabjs.

Matthew D. Benka  
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804.240.7984

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To: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <[lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>

Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 10:57 AM

I am in the basement at info booth. Thanks, M

Matthew D. Benka  
MDB Strategies  
804.240.7984

On Feb 28, 2018, at 6:45 AM, Schmitt, Lauren (GOV) <[Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)> wrote:

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Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

## Virginia Israel Advisory Board

Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 2:14 PM

To: mjay@hac.virginia.gov, jpowell@sfc.virginia.gov, rvaughn@hac.virginia.gov

Cc: Tim Hugo <DelTHugo@house.state.va.us>, Dean Goodson <goodson.dean@gmail.com>, district04@senate.virginia.gov, athorup@house.virginia.gov, "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vriusa.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>, Dov Hoch <dovhoch@viab.org>

Michael, Jason:

1. Delegate Hugo's House Bill 1297 passed this Session which moves the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) from the executive branch to the Legislative branch and allows the Senate and House Rules Chairman to appoint the VIAB executive director. The VIAB wants to make certain that the current annual allocation of \$215,000 gets transferred over without issue. Can you please draft appropriate language and send to this group for review at your earliest convenience?

2. The VIAB is meeting Tuesday, March 27th at 10:00 AM in House Room One. VIAB Chairman Mel Chaskin and Vice Chairman Chuck Lessin would like to meet with you both either separately or together after that meeting to get acquainted, give you an update on their activities and review the basic purpose and workings of the board. Could you both please let us know your availability for a brief meeting?

Thank you very much and please feel free to contact Mel, Chuck or me at anytime.

Sincerely,  
Matt Benka  
MDB Strategies  
Direct: (804) 240-7984  
[www.mdbstrategies.com](http://www.mdbstrategies.com)



Schmitt, Lauren &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Virginia Israel Advisory Board

---

Charles Lessin &lt;chucklessin@gmail.com&gt;

Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 3:39 PM

To: Matthew Benka &lt;Matt@mdbstrategies.com&gt;

Cc: mjay@hac.virginia.gov, jpowell@sfc.virginia.gov, rvaughn@hac.virginia.gov, Tim Hugo &lt;DelTHugo@house.state.va.us&gt;, Dean Goodson &lt;goodson.dean@gmail.com&gt;, district04@senate.virginia.gov, athorup@house.virginia.gov, "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;, Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt;, Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vriusa.com&gt;, Dov Hoch &lt;dovhoch@viab.org&gt;

Thanks Matt  
Chuck

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 19, 2018, at 2:14 PM, Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com> wrote:

>

> Michael, Jason:

>

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> Sincerely,

> Matt Benka

> MDB Strategies

> Direct: (804) 240-7984

> [www.mdbstrategies.com](http://www.mdbstrategies.com)



Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

---

## VIAB meeting.

**Matthew Benka** <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Sun, Mar 25, 2018 at 8:19 PM

To: Lauren Schmitt <Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Cc: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

Th VIAB board meets this Tuesday at 10:00 am in the cap. If you could show am sure the board would like to show their appreciation to you and the gov. If the gov is around that would be even better!! He could be in and out in ten minutes. Please let us know if you can attend. Best, Matt

Matthew D. Benka  
MDB Strategies  
804.240.7984



Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

---

## VIAB meeting.

---

Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 26, 2018 at 1:14 PM

To: Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Cc: Lauren Schmitt <Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>, Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Great idea, thanks Matt

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 25, 2018, at 8:19 PM, Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com> wrote:

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>

> Matthew D. Benka

> MDB Strategies

> 804.240.7984



Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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## VIAB meeting.

Lauren Schmitt <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Mon, Mar 26, 2018 at 2:26 PM

To: Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Cc: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

Hi Matt,

Just heard your voicemail- sorry I missed your call! It's been pretty busy here with bill review. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the 10am or 12pm meeting tomorrow. But please let me know if there's anything our office can do to ensure a smooth transition of the VIAB to the legislative branch.

Thanks,  
Lauren

-----Original Message-----

From: Matthew Benka [mailto:[Matt@mdbstrategies.com](mailto:Matt@mdbstrategies.com)]

Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 8:19 PM

To: Lauren Schmitt <[Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov)>

Cc: Mel Chaskin <[mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com)>; Charles Lessin <[chucklessin@gmail.com](mailto:chucklessin@gmail.com)>

Subject: VIAB meeting.

Th VIAB board meets this Tuesday at 10:00 am in the cap. If you could show am sure the board would like to show their appreciation to you and the gov. If the gov is around that would be even better!! He could be in and out in ten minutes. Please let us know if you can attend. Best, Matt

Matthew D. Benka  
MDB Strategies  
804.240.7984





Schmitt, Lauren <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

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## VIAB meeting.

Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>

Mon, Mar 26, 2018 at 2:28 PM

To: Lauren Schmitt <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Cc: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>, Charles Lessin <chucklessin@gmail.com>

Will fully update you after our meeting with Legislative Services. Thank you for being so darn awesome!!!

On 3/26/18, 2:26 PM, "Lauren Schmitt"

<lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov> wrote:

>Hi Matt,

>

>Just heard your voicemail- sorry I missed your call! It's been pretty busy here with bill review. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the 10am or 12pm meeting tomorrow. But please let me know if there's anything our office can do to ensure a smooth transition of the VIAB to the legislative branch.

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>Matthew D. Benka

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Schmitt, Lauren &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

## Update

**Lauren Schmitt** <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Fri, May 25, 2018 at 1:34 PM

To: "Schmitt, Lauren (GOV)" <Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Bcc: "Siebert, Aimee (VDH)" <aimee@commonwealthstrategy.net>, Cal Whitehead <cal@commonwealthstrategy.net>, James Pickral <james@commonwealthstrategy.net>, mark@commonwealthstrategy.net, Sarah Stanton <sstanton@dls.virginia.gov>, sarah@tscottgarrett.com, Kristina Hagen <kristina@vasenatedems.com>, Tarina Keene <tkeene@naralva.org>, Andrew Lamar <andrew@lamar-consulting.com>, "Anderson, Brittany A." <BAnderson@oag.state.va.us>, Tram Nguyen <tnguyen@newvirginiamajority.org>, Anna Scholl <anna@progressva.org>, "Pugar, Nicole" <npugar@williamsmullen.com>, "Jones, Reginald N." <rjones@williamsmullen.com>, Jonathan Williams <Jonathan.Williams@easterassociates.com>, Angela Bezik <abezik@principle-advantage.com>, Julia Hammond <jhammond@eckertseamans.com>, Jennifer Aulgur <jennifer@markobenshain.com>, Ralston King <rking@msv.org>, Scott Johnson <sjohnson@hancockdaniel.com>, Tyler Cox <tcox@hancockdaniel.com>, jdime@vhha.com, "Addison, Karin" <Karin.Addison@troutmansanders.com>, Matthew Benka <Matt@mdbstrategies.com>, Matt Moran <matt@kirkcox.com>, Kelly Gee <kelly@kirkcox.com>, Alex Thorup <alex@kirkcox.com>, eric@senators4va.com, david@2capconsulting.com, brawlings@vhha.com, jwicker@vhha.com, aljones@vhha.com, mradcliff@kemperconsult.com, jandrus@kemperconsult.com, medwards@kemperconsult.com, rgrogg@kemperconsult.com, fhelm@kemperconsult.com, lindsay.berry@anthem.com, Kyle Shreve <kshreve@vahp.org>, Stephanie Lynch <stephanie@vahp.org>, Douglas Gray <dgray@vahp.org>, doug.easter@easterassociates.com, "Cobb, Matthew" <mcobb@williamsmullen.com>, rotoole@eckertseamans.com, chris@lamar-consulting.com, Becky Lanier <becky@b2lconsulting.com>, ken@olddominionpublicaffairs.com, bea@capresults.net, jpalmore@reedsmith.com, cnolen@mwcllc.com, jroth@virginiaretailfederation.com, kbaker@virginiaretailfederation.com, cmorton@yesvirginia.org, nicole.riley@nfib.org, Tom Stevens <tstevens@dls.virginia.gov>, Richard Grossman <rgrossman@vectreCorp.com>, Emily Griffey <Emily@vakids.org>, Edward Reed <ed.reed@ltgov.virginia.gov>, katie@hellebushconsulting.com, klgunther@vcu.edu, kcannon@vhha.com, brian.cannon@onevirginia2021.org, "Frank, Will (DBHDS)" <Will.Frank@dbhds.virginia.gov>, mira.signer@dbhds.virginia.gov

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As many of you already know, I will be leaving my position as Deputy Legislative Director in Governor Northam's administration. These past five months have been incredible- I have learned so much and had the chance to work with some of the best people I've ever met. With that said, it's been hard to spend so much time away from my daughter. After a lot of thought and consideration, I decided that it would be best for me to return to Commonwealth Strategy Group, in a position that provides me with the schedule and flexibility my family needs at this point in my life.

Working for Governor Northam has been a true privilege and an experience I will never forget. In the last five months, I have witnessed the administration and legislature work together to pass bipartisan policies that truly help Virginians. I am extremely proud to have worked for this administration and proud to live in a Commonwealth where our representatives put differences aside to do what is best for Virginia citizens.

My last day with the administration will be Friday, June 1, after which I will return to Commonwealth Strategy Group. I am grateful that I will still have the opportunity to work with the legislature, just in a different capacity. My contact information is below- please don't hesitate to reach out. I will greatly miss the incredible team here in the administration and sincerely thank them for understanding my decision and supporting me. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in my future role at Commonwealth Strategy Group.

Sincerely,

Lauren Schmitt

804-484-4751

7/12/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - Update

lauren@commonwealthstrategy.net (as of June 4)



Schmitt, Lauren &lt;lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

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**VIAB Travel Expenses**

4 messages

**Mel Chaskin** <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Sun, May 27, 2018 at 1:02 PM

To: "Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov" &lt;Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

Cc: Mel Chaskin &lt;mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com&gt;

Lauren,

I know you are leaving, but I would like to ask you to try and get someone from the Sec. Commerce and Trade to send the approval for Dov's trip in middle of May.

You told me that it was approved but Dennis Johnson has not been told.

Good luck in your new job.

Best,

Mel

---

**Lauren Schmitt** <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>

Tue, May 29, 2018 at 10:32 AM

To: Jennie O'holleran &lt;jennie.oholleran@governor.virginia.gov&gt;, Suzette Denslow &lt;suzette.denslow@governor.virginia.gov&gt;, Lesley Shinbaum &lt;lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov&gt;

FYI.. He also left me a voicemail on Friday about this. 😊

---

**From:** Mel Chaskin [mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com]**Sent:** Sunday, May 27, 2018 1:03 PM**To:** Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov**Cc:** Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>**Subject:** VIAB Travel Expenses

Lauren,

I know you are leaving, but I would like to ask you to try and get someone from the Sec. Commerce and Trade to send the approval for Dov's trip in middle of May.

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Good luck in your new job.

7/12/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - VIAB Travel Expenses

Best,

Mel

---

**Lauren Schmitt** <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>  
To: Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>

Tue, May 29, 2018 at 10:33 AM

Hi Mel,

Thanks for your e-mail and voicemail. Dennis is correct, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade needs to approve it first. I will check in with Leslie about it.

Thanks,

Lauren

---

**From:** Mel Chaskin [mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 27, 2018 1:03 PM  
**To:** Lauren.Schmitt@governor.virginia.gov  
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Good luck in your new job.

Best,

Mel

---

**Shinbaum, Lesley** <lesley.shinbaum@governor.virginia.gov>  
To: Lauren Schmitt <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov>  
Cc: Jennie O'holleran <jennie.oholleran@governor.virginia.gov>, Suzette Denslow <suzette.denslow@governor.virginia.gov>

Tue, May 29, 2018 at 10:59 AM

We'll take care of it.

Thanks,  
Lesley

7/12/2018

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - VIAB Travel Expenses

On Tue, May 29, 2018 at 10:32 AM, Lauren Schmitt <lauren.schmitt@governor.virginia.gov> wrote:

FYI.. He also left me a voicemail on Friday about this. ☺

---

**From:** Mel Chaskin [mailto:mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com]  
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**Cc:** Mel Chaskin <mchaskin@vanguardresearch.com>  
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Good luck in your new job.

Best,

Mel

--  
Lesley Shinbaum  
Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam  
w) 804-225-4517  
c) 804-380-8922

## **Cary, David (GOV)**

---

**From:** Aviva Frye <aviva@viab.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 8:24 AM  
**To:** Cary, David (GOV)  
**Subject:** Appointment with First Lady

Dear David:

I hope this email finds you doing well .

I would like to set an appointment to meet with the First Lady, if possible some time next week, to discuss some projects through the Governor's Virginia Israel Advisory Board as well as the investments in Virginia by Energix, the Israeli renewable energy company, I run in the United States.

I can be reached at 276-451-4428.

Thank you for your attention,

Aviva S. Frye  
Virginia Israel Advisory Bd  
SouthWest Coordinator

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Kim Clark <[kclark@vanguardresearch.com](mailto:kclark@vanguardresearch.com)>  
**Date:** March 20, 2018 at 11:14:25 AM EDT  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients;;  
**Subject:** VIAB Meeting - March 27th @ 10 am

Good morning,

Attached is the agenda for the VIAB meeting next week as well as the minutes from the November meeting. Also attached is another copy of the House Bill that was sent out earlier this month.

Mel would greatly appreciate in person attendance.

Regards,

*Kim Clark* (for Mel Chaskin – Chairman, VIAB)

Director of Human Resources

Vanguard Research, Inc.

8001 Forbes Place, #310

Springfield, VA 22151

703-416-0400

**6 attachments**

 **Agenda March 2018.pdf**  
209K

 **ATT00001.htm**



**REDACTED**



**VIRGINIA-ISRAEL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
27 March 2018**

**Location: State Capitol, House Room 1  
Richmond, VA**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

1. Review Minutes from November 28, 2017 Meeting
2. Legislative Actions
3. Board Membership
4. Hiring Executive Director Effective July 1, 2018
5. Projects/Programs Updates
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting – July 24, 2018



## **Virginia Israel Advisory Board**

*Office of the Governor*

**Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting**

**November 28, 2017 House Room 1, Richmond, Virginia**

**Attended in Person:** Irv Blank, Bob Budoff, Jerome Chapman, Mel Chaskin, Donald Ferguson (OAG), Daniel Fogel (Director of Communications Richmond Federation), Will Frank, Joel Kanter, Julie Krachman, Chuck Lessin, Abby Moore, Jay Myerson, Nathan Shor, Steven Skaist, Julie Strauss

**Attended Via Conference Call:** Jeff Brooke, Mark Dreyfus, Darcy Hirsch, Dov Hoch, Robin Mancoll, Leigh Nusbaum (for Eileen Filler-Corn), Aaron Roberts

1. Mel Chaskin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
2. The Board Minutes of July 18, 2017 were presented. They were accepted as presented. Some of the Board members asked Mel to make sure that they were on the distribution list. They also asked that all meeting "pre-reads" be distributed sufficiently ahead of time so all had time to review them before the meetings.
3. Mel introduced the two new Board members. Steven Skaist is an attorney in Richmond. Julie Strauss is an attorney in the Northern Virginia area. Mel reminded all Board members that they need to get sworn in before they take any Board actions. If any Board members have questions on the process they can contact Mel.
4. New Hire in Israel – Mel reported that while waiting for the Governor's Office to approve VIAB's new Executive Director we are bringing on a temporary part/time hire as our Israel Representative. Dov Hoch was one of the candidates that the Hiring Committee met. He will be helping VIAB with branding, conferences in Israel, and other tasks that forward VIAB's goals. He has a 3 month contract through February, 2018, and will be paid \$4,300 per month. His proposal with his goals and plans was handed out to all attendees for discussion. Mel said that all Virginia state governmental procedures have been followed for this hire. Ralph Robbins will continue to help VIAB on a volunteer basis and has met several times with Dov. Julie Krachman and Aliza Asher are continuing as part-time Program Coordinators. Mel Chaskin will continue serving as Chairman, Chuck Lessin will continue serving as Vice Chairman.

5. Program Updates:

- a. Aviva Frye is continuing to work with Energix but has nothing new to report.
  - b. Mel reported that Julie Krachman and he had a meeting with ISM, a safe manufacturer. Asher Kotz of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority also attended the meeting. The team will be working with ISM to help them establish a presence in Virginia. They are looking to move some manufacturing and marketing to the U.S. Joel Kanter mentioned that he had some possible contacts for ISM. Julie Krachman will follow up on this and make the introductions.
  - c. Chuck Lessin and Julie Krachman reported on EPC's progress. The company, which has unique technology to treat wastewater without sewer or septic, continues to have success in Tazewell, Virginia. VIAB introduced the company to their U.S. CEO – Charles Botwick. Board members can read more about the company in VIAB's newsletter.
  - d. Chuck met with the CEO, Dr. Tamir Gedo, of BOL Pharma which has done some very promising research into medical uses of the cannabis plant to treat the symptoms of Parkinson's and autism. They are looking at expanding into the U.S. through Virginia. One possibility could be their move to the soon to be vacant TEVA plant in Forest, Virginia. Chuck will continue to follow up with them.
  - e. Several Israel Embassy representatives met with Chuck Lessin and offered their availability to assist with any future projects where they could be helpful.
  - f. Chuck also met with representatives from Insightec which uses targeted ultrasound to treat many different diseases. They are very interested in growing in Virginia.
6. Annual Report – Mel told the Board that the Annual Report has been published and has gone to Cabinet Secretaries and most of the members of the Senate and the House of Delegates. It is also up on the Virginia legislative site and Julie Krachman will be getting it up on the VIAB website. In summary VIAB continues to offer Virginia excellent return on our funding through job retention, job growth, and economic development. Our Federation members asked that the Annual Report be directly emailed to their representatives.
7. Update on Minds in Motion 2017 – Ellie Shaharabany reported on the MIM fundraiser. 62 Israeli artists will be coming here to show their work. Ellie is preparing their schedule and will be grateful for any assistance that the VIAB Board can offer. Julie Krachman offered to post any PR on the VIAB website. There are several events but the main events will be March 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>. The next MIM program in Israel will be January 14-26 and all Board members are invited to attend.

8. Update on Executive Director – Mel and Chuck reported on the status of the hiring of VIAB's new Executive Director. The three candidates that were chosen by the Board are waiting at the Governor's office for approval. Governor McAuliffe has offered the decision for appointment to the incoming Governor. Mel and Chuck also reported on some proposed changes to the VIAB charter and the possibility of a bill introduction to the Virginia legislature to execute these changes. A draft bill has been submitted by Senator Chap Peterson and Mel will share the link to the bill with all of the Board members. Whatever bill is proposed will have bipartisan support of the Virginia legislature and we will make sure we have support of the JCRCs. Nathan Shor requested that detailed information about any bill submitted be sent to all of the Board with enough time for review. Mel will send out the VIAB charter, any proposed changes, and a link to the bill. Don Ferguson, our representative from the Virginia Attorney General's Office, will also assist. The VIAB budget will not be affected by any changes to the charter.

The next Board Meetings are scheduled for 3/27/18 and 7/24/18.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05.