
VIRGINIA BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Commonwealth of Virginia

Board Policy 2.0: Membership and Selection

As stipulated by the Code of Virginia, Section 51.5-31, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) shall be composed of forty (40) members. Membership to the Board shall be in compliance with the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act and the Code of Virginia and shall include persons with developmental disabilities, representatives of persons with developmental disabilities and representatives of the principal state agencies, local agencies, and non governmental agencies, as well as groups providing services to persons with developmental disabilities. Membership on the Board shall include not less than 60 percent representation of individuals with developmental disabilities, parents or guardians of such individuals; or immediate relatives of guardians of such individuals.

I. Membership Categories

Board membership shall consist of the following:

- A. Twenty-four (24) persons with developmental disabilities or the parents or guardians of such persons, who shall be appointed by the Governor. Of the twenty (24),
 - 1. at least 8 shall be persons with developmental disabilities;
 - 2. at least 8 shall be immediate relatives or guardians of persons with mentally impairing developmental disabilities;
 - 3. at least one person shall be an immediate relative or guardian of an institutionalized person with a developmental disability.

- B. The head or a person designated by the heads of the:
 - 1. Department for the Aging
 - 2. Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - 3. Department of Education
 - 4. Department of Medical Assistance Services
 - 5. Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services

6. Department of Rehabilitative Services
7. Department of the Blind and Vision Impaired
- C. A representative from the protection and advocacy agency
- D. A representative of a university affiliated facility
- E. A representative appointed by the Governor, of:
 1. a local government agency
 2. a manufacturing or retail industry
 3. a high technology industry
 4. a public transit interest
 5. a non-governmental agency or group of agencies that provide services for persons with developmental disabilities
 6. a banking agency
 7. A person with a disability other than developmental disabilities

II. Membership Terms

- A. Each member appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for a four (4) year term.
- B. Any vacancy other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term.
- C. No person appointed by the Governor shall serve for more than two successive terms.
- D. Members are subject to removal at the pleasure of the Governor.
- E. Members shall remain on the Board until the Governor appoints a replacement; even if the individual's official term has expired.

III. Membership Selection

Thirty one (31) of the 40 Board members are appointed by the Governor. The process for appointment is stipulated by procedures implemented by each Governor through the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. However, the Board generally takes an active role in forwarding candidates for appointment to the Governor through the Board's Executive Director through the following mechanisms:

- A. The Board shall seek to ensure that the Board's membership is geographically representative of the state and reflects the diversity of the state with respect to race and ethnicity;
- B. When membership vacancies occur, the Executive Director shall notify the Secretary of the Commonwealth and shall seek to provide recommendations for individuals qualified to fill current or upcoming vacancies;
- C. The Board, through the Executive Director, shall provide notice of upcoming Board vacancies on its website and through other avenues such as list-serves and newsletters;
- D. The Board, through the Executive Director or other mechanism that it may choose to establish, shall review board member applications and forward them to the Secretary of the Commonwealth with corresponding information on the slots for which individual candidates are qualified, and recommendations for each slot;
- E. Board members are notified of their appointment by the Governor's office.

Adopted by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Date: May 5, 2004