

**Minutes of the
COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
July 18, 2025
12:30 PM
All-Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

Members Present

Robert Lauterberg, Chair
Terry Payne, Vice Chair
Edwin Rosado

Members Absent

Heather Cordasco
Ceasor Johnson

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) staff present for all or part of the meeting:

Maggie Beal, Interim Director
Trisha Lindsey, Policy and Legislative Services Director
Chase Sawyer, Policy Manager

Call to Order

Commissioner Lauterberg, Chair of the Commission on Local Government, called the regular meeting to order at 12:39 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer reported that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Payne to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2025, regular meeting of the Commission. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Public Comment

Commissioner Lauterberg opened the floor for public comment. After seeing no speakers, Commissioner Lauterberg closed public comment.

Staff's Report

Mr. Sawyer welcomed Ms. Maggie Beal, the new Interim Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Ms. Beal introduced herself and provided a brief background on her previous roles and experiences.

Cases Before the Commission

Mr. Sawyer provided an update, stating that no new cases had been received since the last meeting.

Fiscally Distressed Localities
Regulations (1VAC50-30)

Mr. Sawyer provided an update on the fiscally distressed localities regulations (1VAC50-30) that were authorized by 2024 legislation (SB645). Mr. Sawyer provided a summary of the actions taken by the Commission to date and reminded the Commission that emergency regulations are currently in effect. Mr. Sawyer noted that the text for the Proposed Stage regulations is identical to the text of the emergency regulations currently in effect. The Commission discussed the steps involved in the regulatory process, including opportunities for public comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Payne to approve the draft regulations as presented. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Alternative Meeting Locations for
Regular Meetings

Commissioner Lauterberg reminded the Commission of previous discussions regarding holding regular meetings of the Commission at different locations throughout the Commonwealth and conducting site visits at the different locations to explore topics of interest to the Commission. The Commission discussed the benefits and possible constraints of alternative meeting locations. Commissioner Rosado noted that the Commission should be conscious of costs associated with holding regular meetings at different locations, as well as the possible negative perception of a locality if the Commission is visiting to explore local fiscal distress. The Commission identified data centers, previous fiscal distress, and water/wastewater operations as possible topics to explore.

Other Business

Commissioner Rosado provided an update regarding the Longtime Owner Occupancy Program (LOOP) workgroup that was established as a result of legislation from the General Assembly (Item 102.X. of the 2025 Budget Bill).

Commissioner Lauterberg provided an update on the work of the Fiscal Stress Report workgroup.

Ms. Lindsey provided an update regarding the request for proposal (RFP) that was issued for local fiscal turnaround specialists in relation to the fiscally distressed localities regulations. Ms. Lindsey stated that eight firms had been awarded contracts with the Commonwealth to provide state intervention and/or emergency fiscal management services.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to adjourn the meeting of the Commission. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None). The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.