

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

MINUTES

The Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation met on Monday, April 13, 2026, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

The following members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Sathish Anabathula
Jackson Dyer
Grace Flores-Hughes
Jemmalyn Hewlett
Tim Taylor
Charles Vaughters

Board members Ron Bledsoe, Gaby Rengifo, and Carrie Sheffield were not present at the meeting. The following agency staff was present for all or part of the meeting:

Laura McClintock, Director
Steve Kirschner, Director LRPD
Tom Payne, Director CID
Joe Haughwout, Regulatory Affairs Manager
Eric Beidel, Communications & Digital Media Manager
Jennifer Sayegh, Policy & Legislative Affairs Manager
Connor Davis, Budget Manager
Amy Goobic, Executive Assistant

There was no representative present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Anabathula called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Call to Order

Mr. Haughwout reviewed the emergency evacuation procedures.

**Emergency
Evacuation
Procedures**

Mr. Haughwout requested an amendment to the agenda regarding New Business Item #12.a.- 'Procedure for Review and Comment on DPOR Budget' stating that the procedure was still under review, and that the item be removed. The Board would still receive the presentation on state agency budget process under the New Business part of the agenda. Mr. Taylor moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Flores-Hughes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Anabathula, Dyer, Flores-Hughes, Hewlett, and Taylor.

**Approval of
Agenda**

Mr. Vaughters arrived at 10:08 a.m.

**Arrival of Board
Member**

Ms. Flores-Hughes moved to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2026, Board meeting. Mr. Dyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Anabathula, Dyer, Flores-Hughes, Hewlett, Taylor, and Vaughters.

**Approval of
Minutes**

Board members were provided with correspondence from MICRO, a national mold remediation training and certification organization requesting they be recognized by the Board as a qualifying national certification body for purposes of compliance with the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA). Board members were also provided the response from Mr. Haughwout informing MICRO that the Board does not have the statutory authority to act under the VCPA or enforce its provisions, and, therefore, cannot grant MICRO's request. Section 54.1-310 of the Code of Virginia outlines the statutory powers and duties of the Board. Under this statute, the Board essentially functions as an advisory and oversight entity for DPOR. The Board does not have the authority to recognize any credentialing body. Mr. Payne informed the Board that the Office of the Attorney General has oversight of the VCPA.

Communications

Board members were provided with two emails from Paige Pruett regarding her continued concerns with complaints filed with the Agency. Ms. Pruett addressed issues she had with the investigation of the complaint, the process for resolving complaints, the FOIA process, and various agency practices. Ms. Pruett stated that she has filed three additional complaints against various licensees.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

Mr. Haughwout welcomed new DPOR Director, Laura McClintock and new Communications and Digital Media Manager, Eric Beidel. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome & Introductions

Jen Sayegh, Policy and Legislative Affairs Manager, provided a report on the 2026 General Assembly. Ms. Sayegh reviewed the five agency bills which all passed, three have been signed by the Governor, the others are awaiting signature. She also reported on all bills that passed pertaining to DPOR regulants.

2026 General Assembly Report

Ms. McClintock weighed in on the importance of the legislation addressing fee changes for DPOR and DHP, HB 796 and SB 680. She commented that the legislation, which allows a less burdensome timeline to fee changes, lets these agencies increase/decrease licensing fees to help stabilize finances.

**Presentation attached*

Mr. Haughwout provided an update on DPOR operations. Mr. Haughwout reported that with regards to Governor Spanberger's Executive Order #1 addressing affordability in Virginia, DPOR conducted an internal review of its regulations, guidance, procedures, and other actions to identify actions that would readily reduce costs for Virginians without hindering access to or delivery of services. DPOR also worked to identify any new regulations, guidance, policies, procedures and other actions that would readily reduce costs for Virginians. Executive branch agencies were required to submit a report that identifies the agency's recommendations for changes that it may readily

Update on DPOR Operations

implement that will reduce costs for Virginians. Mr. Kirschner stated that the DPOR report had been submitted to the Secretary's office.

**Presentation attached*

Board members were provided reports from the regulatory board Executive Directors for informational purposes.

Mr. Haughwout provided information on license processing times and regulatory operations including: (i) a veterans licensing initiative DPOR and Department of Veterans Services (DVS) are collaborating on to develop consistent and accessible standards for service veterans to obtain credentialing; (ii) international licensing recognition for which DPOR is developing standard regulatory language and process for regulatory board consideration of potential regulations; and (iii) a summary of current regulatory actions. Compliance and investigation statistics were also provided.

Mr. Haughwout informed the Board that DPOR worked with the Office of Attorney General to include a quote from Fair Housing Office Director Liz Hayes in the Attorney General's April 3, 2026 press release commemorating April as National Fair Housing Month. Additionally, WTVR Channel 6 (Richmond) covered an informal fact-finding conference (IFF) concerning a septic system operator accused of dumping raw sewage on a neighbor's property. WTVR has been following the case of the operator, who is subject to criminal charges and a Virginia Department of Health action. The full Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals will consider DPOR violations April 23, 2026.

Connor Davis, Budget Manager, provided a brief budget review with regards to the licensing fee increases.

Financial Update

**Presentation attached*

Mr. Payne informed the Board that staff members of the Compliance and Investigations Division (CID) have been working with Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to develop a case management platform, as the current system is outdated. The DPOR team created a viable option using Sharepoint, which was shared with VITA for input. VITA has approved the Sharepoint option and could possibly replicate it for other agencies.

**CID/VITA Case
Management
Platform**

Ms. Clintock commented on the need for IT modernization, but that it comes with a cost. She explained that the biennial budget FY'26-FY'28 authorizes DPOR to collect a technology fee of \$7.25 with every application for licensure until June 30, 2030. This fee will cover the cost of replacing the agency's outdated software system with an anticipated cost of \$9 million.

The Board recessed from 12:05 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Recess

Mr. Dyer reported he attended a Real Estate Appraiser Board meeting, stating that the Board did not have a quorum for the meeting therefore disciplinary case decisions had to be postponed. He also commented on technology issues within the board room setting. Mr. Dyer also attended a Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists meeting reporting they reviewed bills affecting the represented professions.

**Board Member
Liaison Reporting**

Mr. Taylor reported he attended a Board for Waste Management Facility Operators meeting. He stated they discussed a third-party vendor for their exams, and online proctoring of exams. Mr. Taylor also attended a Boxing, Martial Arts, and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Taylor reported there was discussion regarding transgender athletes.

Ms. Flores-Hughes reported she attended a Board for Barbers and Cosmetology meeting. She stated discussions included licensing for eyelash extensions, issues with razor shaving for certain licenses, and application processing backlog.

Mr. Haughwout asked Board members if they had any recommendations for staff or had any items for the Director or the Administration to consider. No additional comments were provided by Board members.

Mr. Haughwout provided an update on the status of Board regulatory actions. The Board adopted a proposed Public Participation Guidelines (PPGs) regulation at the January 12 meeting. Mr. Haughwout stated he is working on preparing the filing.

**Status of
Regulatory
Actions**

Mr. Haughwout stated that a regulation for DPOR administrative fees is in development.

Mr. Haughwout provided an update on the petition for regulation of radon professionals. He reported that he is reviewing literature regarding radon measurement and radon mitigation, and has conducted a limited number of interviews with additional interviews to be conducted. Mr. Haughwout also stated a public comment period for the petition would most likely be in late spring or early summer, with an analysis of the petition ready for the Board's review in August.

**Petition for
Regulation Update
– Licensure of
Radon
Professionals**

Mr. Haughwout provided a presentation on the state agency budget process for informational purposes. He discussed an overview of the state budget system, phases of the budget process, and the DPOR budget with regards to sources of revenue and expenses.

**State Agency
Budget Process**

**Presentation attached*

Mr. Haughwout informed Board members that appointment terms may expire, but they are not considered 'off the board' until such time an appointment for their replacement is announced.

Other Business

Mr. Haughwout also reminded the Board that if they receive correspondence from outside the agency regarding board business, to please forward to staff for response.

Board members signed Conflict of Interest forms and travel vouchers.

**Conflict of
Interest Forms
& Travel
Vouchers**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Adjourn

 08/11/2026
Sathish Anabathula, Chair


Laura V. McClintock, Director

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Tim Taylor
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting April 13, 2026

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

☐ I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

☐ I did not participate in the transaction.

6. ☒ I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.


Signature

04/13/2026
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Charles Vaughters
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting April 13, 2026

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

N/A

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

N/A

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

N/A



I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or



I did not participate in the transaction.

6. ☒ I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.


Signature

4/13/2026
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Grace Flores-Hughes
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting April 13, 2026

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

☐ I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

☐ I did not participate in the transaction.

6. ☒ I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Grace Flores-Hughes
Signature

April 13, 2026
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Jackson Dyer
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting April 13, 2026

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

N/A

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

N/A

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

N/A

☐ I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

☐ I did not participate in the transaction.

6. ☒ I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Signature



Date

APRIL 13, 2026

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Jemmalyn Hewlett
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting April 13, 2026

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

☐ I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

☐ I did not participate in the transaction.

6. ☐ I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.


Signature

4-13-26
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Sathish Anabathula
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional & Occupational Regulation
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting April 13, 2026

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

☒ I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

☐ I did not participate in the transaction.

6. ☒ I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Sathish Anabathula
Signature

4/13/2026
Date