

**Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act
Mary Ball Washington Regional Council
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

Mary Ball Washington Regional Council (hereafter referred to as “Council”) is a public body certified by the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board to receive grants pursuant to Code of Virginia section 2.2-2485 the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act (hereafter referred to as “GO VA”). The Council will be supported or affiliated with an existing or newly established organization that engages in collaborative planning or execution of economic or workforce development activities within a region to support the Council’s activities and to ensure proper administration of the Council’s funds.

ARTICLE II DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1 Duties of the Regional Council

The Council shall:

1. Work in a collaborative manner, respecting all points-of-view, while soliciting and reviewing proposed projects for recommendation to the GO VA Board (hereafter referred to as “Board”).
2. Demonstrate extensive knowledge of the region’s potential for growth that lead to high paying jobs. Identify economic/regional projects that support or encourage collaboration and yield significant new job creation deliverables.
3. Review and understand the authority, governance, and administrative role of the GO VA Board in certifying qualified regions and regional councils; including how the Board develops and implements guidelines or procedures for such certification.
4. Partner with existing or newly established economic/workforce development organizations to create a focused collaborative project or programs consistent with the Council’s economic growth and diversification plan.
5. Identify the region’s economic growth potential independently or in partnership with neighboring regions. Identify the competitive advantages for collaboration with private-sector investments to accelerate job growth/economic development.
6. Advise the Board on best practice initiatives, projects, etc. that encourage collaboration and yield measurable outcomes for job growth in the region.
7. Have the authority to enter into agreements through the support organization in order to pursue the goals and objectives of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act pursuant to

the Code of Virginia and guidelines adopted by the GO VA Board.

8. Adhere to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) except as exempted pursuant to §2.2-3711.A.48 of the Code of Virginia.
9. Provide for public participation as directed by the Code of Virginia and the Board.
10. Conform with guidelines as adopted by the Board.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

1. The Council should include representatives from (i) the education sector, including school divisions, community colleges, public institutions of higher education, and private institutions of higher education as appropriate; (ii) the public economic and workforce development sector; (iii) local government; (iv) planning district commissions; (v) nonprofit organizations; and (vi) other entities that significantly affect regional economic or workforce development. Membership may include one or more nonlegislative citizen members of the GO VA Board from the region. A majority of the members of the Council shall be from the private sector with demonstrated significant private-sector business experience. The Council shall be chaired by a citizen member from the region with significant private-sector business experience.
2. The Council will consist of 15-25 members. The GO VA Board will approve the member selection process, structure, composition, and leadership to meet the requirements of COV section 2.2-2485 of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act and the guidelines set forth by the GO VA Board. Council membership is subject to GO VA Board review and approval.
3. Council members shall have knowledge of workforce and economic development.
4. Council members shall serve staggered four-year terms as determined by the Council. Council members shall not serve more than (2) consecutive four-year terms. The time served by Chair/Vice-Chair will not count against the limit of two (2) consecutive terms. A Chair/Vice-Chair who has reached his or her term limit may serve another consecutive term.
5. A vacancy on the Council shall be filled per guidelines established by the GO VA Board as carried out by the Nominating Committee referenced in Article VIII of this document.
6. A Council member may be removed by the GO VA Board with a majority vote. The reasons for removal must be documented by the Council.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

1. The Council shall meet on a regular basis and at a minimum quarterly at a predetermined location and time. The meeting notice of time, location and purpose shall be given to all Council members at least 30 days prior to the date of meeting.
2. The Council will meet all of the Code of Virginia public meeting requirements (§2.2-

3707). Meetings will be advertised a minimum of three business days in advance of the meeting at the following locations: George Washington Regional Commission Website, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission Website and Northern Neck Planning District Commission Website.

3. Attendance of a majority of Council members shall constitute a quorum and, unless a greater proportion is required by the GO VA Board for a particular act/vote, the majority (super majority) vote of the Council present and voting at any meeting, at which there is a quorum, shall constitute the Act of the Council (Council may decide if vote is majority or super majority).

ARTICLE V PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

In all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these By-Laws, the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall be observed.

ARTICLE VI ORGANIZATION

1. During the inaugural meeting, the Council shall elect from among its members, a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be a Council member with significant private-sector experience.
2. The Chair shall preside over all meetings. The Vice-Chair shall preside over all meetings in the absence of the Chair.
3. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve four-year terms, and shall not serve more than (2) consecutive four-year terms.

ARTICLE VII SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

1. The support organization can be a new or existing organization with purposes and competencies including collaborative planning, economic development, or workforce activities within the region.
2. The support organization may provide data analysis, review of best practices, review and analysis of project proposals, and other duties as determined by the Regional Council.
3. The support organization will make project recommendations to the Regional Council for submission to the Board and will be responsible for monitoring the impacts of projects in carrying out the economic growth and diversification plan.
4. The support organization will be responsible for the receiving, use of, and auditing of funds received.
5. The support organization will have a contract with the regional council that provides for its role as outlined above.

ARTICLE VIII SUBCOUNCIL ORGANIZATION

1. The Council may appoint all committees as deemed necessary to meet the Council requirements of COV 2.2-2485; the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act and to fulfill the duties of the Council. In addition, the Council shall create a five-member Executive Committee and a Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee will include the Chair, Vice Chair, and three Regional Council members elected by the Council. The Executive Committee shall have the power to exercise the powers of the Council where action is necessary or advisable to conduct the day-to-day business of the Council between meetings of the Council, subject to any limitations on the authority of the Executive Committee established by the Council. All actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Council at its next meeting. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of Executive Committee members, potential new members and fill vacancies on the Council.
2. Each committee shall appoint a Chair and set meeting dates, times and locations.
3. The duties of each committee member shall be implied by the name and function of the committee. Each committee shall report to the full Council.
4. Committee members shall serve two-year terms.

ARTICLES IX BYLAWS

The bylaws shall not be amended, modified or replaced except by a majority action of the Regional Council in an official meeting. Action on amended bylaws may not take place at the meeting in which they are introduced. Action on amended bylaws shall take place a minimum of thirty days after their introduction. The bylaws shall be amended to conform to statutory requirements as required. The Board shall review and approve amendments to the Bylaws.

SEVERABILITY

In the event that any portions of the bylaws are deemed invalid, the remaining portion shall stand.