



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

NUMBER THIRTEEN (2018)

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION

Importance of the Issue

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am committed to ensuring the prosperity of Virginia. The Commonwealth employs approximately 100,000 employees. Many of these employees play a critically-important role outside of their working hours – that of a parent. These employees work hard to secure a future that is bright and full of opportunity for their children. The Commonwealth should ensure a supportive work environment where employees can work toward the success of their families and the Commonwealth.

Currently, state employees across the Commonwealth struggle with the access to and affordability of quality early care and learning environments for their children. Childhood is a time of development and discovery for parent and child alike. Having a reliable, safe, and nurturing environment where young children can grow and explore individual potential is key to a parent's ability to be a productive member of the workforce. In order to compete to recruit and retain talented young employees, the Commonwealth must support state employees' ability to access and afford early care and learning for their children.

Establishment and Composition of the Commission

Thus, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor, under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and §§ 2.2-134, 2.2-135 and 2.2-2100 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby establish the Virginia Advisory Commission on Quality Child Care and Education (Commission). Focusing on an area that reflects the highest concentration of the state government's labor force, the Commission will explore the feasibility of providing an evidence-based early care and learning program for young children of state employees working on and around Capitol Square in Richmond.

The Commission's membership shall be appointed by the Governor and co-chaired by the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources or their designees (Co-Chairs). Membership shall also consist of the following:

- A representative from the Office of the First Lady;
- The Secretary of Administration or her designee;
- Two members from the House of Delegates, as recommended by the Speaker of the House;
- One member from the Senate, as recommended by the President pro tempore of the Senate; and
- Experts in early childhood education and development, as appointed by the Governor.

The Governor may appoint other members deemed necessary to carry out the assigned functions of the Commission. The Commission will meet upon the call of the Co-Chairs and will issue a report regarding their findings and recommendations no later than November 1, 2019, and any additional reports and recommendations as necessary or as requested by the Governor.

Staff support for the Commission will be provided by the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Office of the Governor, and any other agencies or offices as may be designated by the Governor. An estimated 100 hours of staff time will be required to support the work of the Commission.

Our workforce is only as strong, resilient, and adaptive as we enable it to be. It is my hope that the Commission's findings and recommendations will be shared to promote best practices across the Commonwealth. More particularly, by seeking to nurture the growth of our children, while assisting their parents in managing a work-life balance, I hope the Commonwealth sets an example – an example other government and private sector employers will follow by exploring such opportunities for their employees.

Effective Date

This Executive Order shall be effective upon signing and shall remain in full force and effect for a year from its signing, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 26th day of June, 2018.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ralph S. Northam".

Ralph S. Northam, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kelly Thomasson".

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of Commonwealth