

Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee (HITSAC) Committee Charter

Committee Responsibilities

HITSAC is an advisory committee appointed by the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC). HITSAC is tasked with assisting the ITAC in providing advice to the Commonwealth Chief Information Officer on the utilization of nationally recognized technical and data standards for health information technology (IT) systems or software, pursuant to subdivision A 5 of § 2.2-2699.6 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Guiding Principles

1. Provide guidance and expertise to ITAC on health IT standards, including technology, vocabulary, messaging, data, data exchange and related standards.
2. Support ITAC's role in data governance and related activities toward a Commonwealth-wide strategy for enterprise information architecture.
3. Provide guidance and expertise to ITAC regarding the integration of data governance and standardization activities between health IT and the other domains of state government.
4. Advise ITAC on the development of a statewide Health Information Exchange.
5. Focus on data requirements and standards for both patient health and public health purposes (research) as they relate to purchases of health IT systems or software purchased by a state agency of the Commonwealth.
6. Provide advice which ensures the availability of patient centric data across the Commonwealth's systems.
7. Recognize healthcare delivery information systems, like Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and Electronic Health Records (EHR), as a utility of health IT.
8. Focus on semantic interoperability and shared vocabulary as critical success factors.
9. Provide advice on congruency with the guidance of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and achieving semantic interoperability with ONC's work.
10. Advise on national or international standards where they exist. In the absence of a national or international standard, recommend other standards aligned with national or international standards to meet the Commonwealth's needs.
11. Ensure recommendations for standards have been developed based on business drivers and validated prior to adoption.

Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for HITSAC and ITAC has been established in the *Code of Virginia*, as follows:

§ 2.2-2699.7. Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee.

The ITAC may appoint an advisory committee of persons with expertise in health care and information technology to advise the ITAC on the utilization of nationally recognized technical and data standards for health information technology systems or software pursuant to subdivision A 5 of § 2.2-2699.6. The ITAC, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, may appoint up to five persons to serve on the advisory committee. Members appointed to the advisory committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in § 2.2-2825. The CIO, the Secretary of Technology, and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, or their designees, may also serve on the advisory committee.

(2010, cc. 136, 145; 2011, cc. 266, 313.)

§ 2.2-2699.5. Information Technology Advisory Council; membership; terms; quorum; compensation; staff.

A. The Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) is established as an advisory council, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government. The ITAC shall be responsible for advising the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the Secretary of Technology on the planning, budgeting, acquiring, using, disposing, managing, and administering of information technology in the Commonwealth.

B. The ITAC shall consist of not more than 16 members as follows: (i) one representative from an agency under each of the Governor's Secretaries, as set out in Chapter 2 (§ 2.2-200 et seq.), to be appointed by the Governor and serve with voting privileges; (ii) the Secretary of Technology and the CIO, who shall serve ex officio with voting privileges; (iii) the Secretary of the Commonwealth or his designee; (iv) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security or his designee; and (v) at the Governor's discretion, not more than two nonlegislative citizen members to be appointed by the Governor and serve with voting privileges.

Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for terms of four years. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. All members may be reappointed. However, no nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not

constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

C. The ITAC shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman annually from among the members, except that neither the Secretary of Technology nor the CIO may serve as chairman. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the ITAC shall be held at the call of the chairman, the Secretary of Technology, or the CIO, or whenever the majority of the members so request.

D. Nonlegislative citizen members shall receive compensation and shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of compensation and expenses of the members shall be provided by the Virginia Information Technologies Agency.

E. The disclosure requirements of subsection B of § 2.2-3114 of the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act shall apply to citizen members of the ITAC.

F. The Virginia Information Technologies Agency shall serve as staff to the ITAC.

(2010, cc. 136, 145; 2011, cc. 691, 714; 2013, cc. 161, 227.)