

# Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee (HITSAC) Committee Charter

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## Committee Responsibilities

The HITSAC will advise the Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB) on the approval of nationally recognized technical and data standards for health information technology systems or software pursuant to subdivision 6 of § [2.2-2458](#) in the Code of Virginia.

## Guiding Principles

1. Define a utility and identify steps to create a Health Information Exchange.
2. Focus on data requirements for both patient health purposes and public health purposes (research).
3. Ensure patient centric data are available within the Commonwealth.
4. Recognize standards, like Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and Electronic Health Records (EHR) are a utility of health IT; not a competitive advantage.
5. Focus on interoperability as a critical success factor.
6. Be congruent with the guidance of the Federal Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) and achieve semantic interoperability with HITSP's work.
7. Adopt national standards where they exist. In the absence of a national standard, adopt other standards to meet the Commonwealth's needs.
8. Ensure standards have been validated prior to adoption.

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## Background Information

The enabling statute from the Code of Virginia is as follows:

### **§ 2.2-2458.1. Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee.**

The Board may appoint an advisory committee of persons with expertise in health care and information technology to advise the Board on the approval of nationally recognized technical and data standards for health information technology systems or software pursuant to subdivision 6 of § [2.2-2458](#). The chairman of the Board, in consultation with the Secretary of Technology and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, 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 chairman of the Board, the Secretary of Technology, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or their designees, may also serve on the advisory committee, in addition to those persons appointed by the chairman of the Board.

(2009, c. 134.)

**§ 2.2-2458. Powers and duties of the Board.**

The Board shall have the power and duty to:

1. Appoint the Chief Information Officer as the chief administrative officer of the Board to oversee the operation of VITA pursuant to § [2.2-2005](#);
2. Adopt rules and procedures for the conduct of its business;
3. Approve or disapprove the development of all major information technology projects as defined in § [2.2-2006](#). The Board may terminate any major information technology project recommended for termination by the Chief Information Officer pursuant to § [2.2-2015](#);
4. Approve strategies, standards, and priorities recommended by the Chief Information Officer for the use of information technology for state agencies in the executive branch of state government;
5. Approve the four-year plan for information technology projects;
6. Approve statewide technical and data standards for information technology and related systems, including the approval of nationally recognized technical and data standards for health information technology systems or software purchased by a state agency of the Commonwealth;
7. Approve statewide information technology architecture and related set of system standards;
8. Approve criteria for the review and approval of the planning, scheduling and tracking of major information technology projects as defined in § [2.2-2006](#);
9. Adopt resolutions or regulations conferring upon the Chief Information Officer all such powers, authorities and duties as the Board deems necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of Chapter 20.1 of Title 2.2;
10. Approve and oversee the prioritization, development, and implementation of enterprise-wide technology applications; annually oversee all agency technology applications budgets; and review and approve infrastructure expenditures. For purposes of this section, technology applications include, but are not limited to, hardware, software, maintenance, facilities, contractor services, goods, and services that promote business functionality and facilitate the storage, flow, use, or processing of information by agencies of the Commonwealth in the execution of their business activities; and
11. Submit by September 1 of each year a list of recommended technology investment projects and priorities for funding such projects to the Governor and the General Assembly.

(2003, cc. 981, 1021; 2009, cc. 134, 826.)