

State Executive Council (SEC) for Children's Services

Notice of Intent to Develop/Revise Policy

Approved for Public Comment by the SEC: September 14, 2023

Public Comment Period Ends: 5:00 PM, October 30, 2023

Number and Name of Proposed/Revised Policy:

Policy 2.4 - Public Participation in Policy-Making Actions

Basis and Purpose of the Proposed/Revised Policy:

The authority for the SEC to develop a policy for public participation falls is provided for in §2.2-2648.D.4. of the *Code of Virginia* which states that the State Executive Council for Children's Services shall: *"Provide for a public participation process for programmatic and fiscal guidelines and dispute resolution procedures developed for administrative actions that support the purposes of the Children's Services Act (§2.2-5200 et seq.). The public participation process shall include, at a minimum, 60 days of public comment and the distribution of these guidelines and procedures to all interested parties."*

The proposed changes to the existing policy 2.4 remove the requirement for policy-making actions to be initiated at the Executive Committee of the State Executive Council, allowing for direct presentations of petitions to the full State Executive Council. The Executive Committee exists nowhere in the *Code* or bylaws of the SEC and this requirement adds an unnecessary step to the policy-making process.

Changes are also proposed to align policy 2.4 with the standard policy format adopted by the State Executive Council in September 2022. Particular to this policy, section 2.8.6 was added to indicate a periodic review schedule.

Summary of the Proposed/Revised Policy:

Policy 2.4 outlines a process and requirements for public participation in all policy development by the SEC. This process includes clear definitions of activities, a multi-phase process providing for public input at several points in time, and

specific time frames for each phase and activity in the proposed process. It also outlines the technical mechanism by which public input will be solicited, collected, and made available.

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Analysis:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact of the revisions to this policy on either the Commonwealth or local governments.