

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2000 SESSION

CHAPTER 519

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 27 of Title 9 an article numbered 1.7, consisting of a section numbered 9-173.21, relating to the Virginia Center for School Safety.

[H 391]

Approved April 6, 2000

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 27 of Title 9 an article numbered 1.7, consisting of a section numbered 9-173.21, as follows:

Article 1.7.

Virginia Center for School Safety.

§ 9-173.21. Virginia Center for School Safety created; duties.

A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School Safety is hereby established within the Department of Criminal Justice Services and shall be referred to in this section as the Center. The Center shall:

1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety and the effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance;

2. Serve as a resource and referral center for Virginia school divisions by conducting research, sponsoring workshops, and providing information regarding current school safety concerns, such as conflict management and peer mediation, school facility design and technology, current state and federal statutory and regulatory school safety requirements, and legal and constitutional issues regarding school safety and individual rights;

3. Maintain and disseminate information to local school divisions on effective school safety initiatives in Virginia and across the nation;

4. Collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, including school safety audit information, collected by the Department;

5. Encourage the development of partnerships between the public and private sectors to promote school safety in Virginia;

6. Provide technical assistance to Virginia school divisions in the implementation of initiatives promoting school safety; and

7. Develop a memorandum of understanding between the Commissioner of the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure collaboration and coordination of roles and responsibilities in areas of mutual concern, such as school safety audits and crime prevention.

B. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Center and, upon request, assist the Center in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of this act is included in the 2000 Appropriation Act, passed during the 2000 Session of the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor.