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SENATE BILL NO. 127

Offered January 12, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact § 20-124.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to mediation.

Patron—Norment

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 20-124.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 20-124.4. Mediation.

In any appropriate case the court shall refer the parents or persons with a legitimate interest to a dispute resolution evaluation session to be conducted at no cost to the parties and in accordance with the procedures set out in Chapter 20.2 of Title 8.01 (§ 8.01-576.4 et seq.). In assessing the appropriateness of a referral, the court shall ascertain upon motion of a party whether there is a history of family abuse. If an agreement is not reached on any issue through further mediation as agreed to by the parties, prior to the return date set by the court pursuant to § 8.01-576.5, the court shall proceed with a hearing on any unresolved issue, unless a continuance has been granted by the court. *The cost of a mediator appointed under this section shall be paid as provided in subsection B of § 16.1-267.*

INTRODUCED

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