

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 20-124.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to mediation.*

3 [S 127]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**6 **1. That § 20-124.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

7 § 20-124.4. Mediation.

8 In any appropriate case the court shall refer the parents or persons with a legitimate interest to a
9 dispute resolution evaluation session to be conducted *by a mediator certified pursuant to guidelines*
10 *promulgated by the Judicial Council* at no cost ~~to the parties~~ and in accordance with the procedures set
11 out in Chapter 20.2 (§ 8.01-576.4 et seq.) of Title 8.01. In assessing the appropriateness of a referral, the
12 court shall ascertain upon motion of a party whether there is a history of family abuse. If an agreement
13 is not reached on any issue through further mediation as agreed to by the parties, prior to the return date
14 set by the court pursuant to § 8.01-576.5, the court shall proceed with a hearing on any unresolved
15 issue, unless a continuance has been granted by the court. *The fee of a mediator appointed in any*
16 *custody, support or visitation case shall be \$100 per appointment and shall be paid by the*
17 *Commonwealth from the funds appropriated for payment of appointments made pursuant to subsection B*
18 *of § 16.1-267.*

ENROLLED

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