

027844996

HOUSE BILL NO. 729

Offered January 9, 2002

Prefiled January 9, 2002

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3700, 2.2-3701, 2.2-3702, 2.2-3705, 2.2-3706, and 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Freedom of Information Act; definition of public body; application to constitutional officers.

 Patron—Woodrum

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-3700, 2.2-3701, 2.2-3702, 2.2-3705, 2.2-3706, and 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-3700. Short title; policy.

A. This chapter may be cited as "The Virginia Freedom of Information Act."

B. By enacting this chapter, the General Assembly ensures the people of the Commonwealth ready access to *public* records in the custody of a public ~~officials~~ *body or its officers and employees*, and free entry to meetings of public bodies wherein the business of the people is being conducted. The affairs of government are not intended to be conducted in an atmosphere of secrecy since at all times the public is to be the beneficiary of any action taken at any level of government. Unless a public body or ~~public official~~ *its officers or employees* specifically ~~elects~~ *elect* to exercise an exemption provided by this chapter or any other statute, every meeting shall be open to the public and all public records shall be available for inspection and copying upon request. All public records and meetings shall be presumed open, unless an exemption is properly invoked.

The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to promote an increased awareness by all persons of governmental activities and afford every opportunity to citizens to witness the operations of government. Any exemption from public access to records or meetings shall be narrowly construed and no record shall be withheld or meeting closed to the public unless specifically made exempt pursuant to this chapter or other specific provision of law. This chapter shall not be construed to discourage the free discussion by government officials or employees of public matters with the citizens of the Commonwealth.

All public bodies and ~~public officials~~ *their officers and employees* shall make reasonable efforts to reach an agreement with a requester concerning the production of the records requested.

Any ordinance adopted by a local governing body that conflicts with the provisions of this chapter shall be void.

§ 2.2-3701. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Closed meeting" means a meeting from which the public is excluded.

"Emergency" means an unforeseen circumstance rendering the notice required by this chapter impossible or impracticable and which circumstance requires immediate action.

"Meeting" or "meetings" means the meetings including work sessions, when sitting physically, or through telephonic or video equipment pursuant to § 2.2-3708, as a body or entity, or as an informal assemblage of (i) as many as three members or (ii) a quorum, if less than three, of the constituent membership, wherever held, with or without minutes being taken, whether or not votes are cast, of any public body. The gathering of employees of a public body shall not be deemed a "meeting" subject to the provisions of this chapter.

"Open meeting" or "public meeting" means a meeting at which the public may be present.

"Public body" means any legislative body; ~~any~~ authority, board, bureau, commission, district or agency of the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, including cities, towns and counties; municipal councils, governing bodies of counties, school boards and planning commissions; boards of visitors of public institutions of higher education; and other organizations, corporations or agencies in the Commonwealth supported wholly or principally by public funds. It shall include any committee, subcommittee, or other entity however designated, of the public body created to perform delegated functions of the public body or to advise the public body. It shall not exclude any such committee, subcommittee or entity because it has private sector or citizen members. Corporations organized by the Virginia Retirement System are "public bodies" for purposes of this chapter.

For the purposes of the provisions of this chapter applicable to access to public records, constitutional officers shall be considered public bodies and, except as otherwise expressly provided by

INTRODUCED

HB729

59 law, shall have the same obligations to disclose public records as other custodians of public records.

60 "Public records" means all writings and recordings that consist of letters, words or numbers, or their
61 equivalent, set down by handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photography, magnetic impulse,
62 optical or magneto-optical form, mechanical or electronic recording or other form of data compilation,
63 however stored, and regardless of physical form or characteristics, prepared or owned by, or in the
64 possession of a public body or its officers, employees or agents in the transaction of public business.

65 "Scholastic records" means those records containing information directly related to a student and
66 maintained by a public body that is an educational agency or institution or by a person acting for such
67 agency or institution.

68 § 2.2-3702. Notice of chapter.

69 A. Any person elected, reelected, appointed or reappointed to any body not excepted from this
70 chapter shall (i) be furnished by the public body's administrator or legal counsel with a copy of this
71 chapter within two weeks following election, reelection, appointment or reappointment.

72 B. ~~Public officials shall~~ and (ii) read and ~~familiarize themselves~~ become familiar with the provisions
73 of this chapter.

74 § 2.2-3705. Exclusions to application of chapter.

75 A. The following records are excluded from the provisions of this chapter but may be disclosed by
76 the custodian in his discretion, except where such disclosure is prohibited by law:

77 1. Confidential records of all investigations of applications for licenses and permits, and all licensees
78 and permittees made by or submitted to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the State Lottery
79 Department, the Virginia Racing Commission, or the Charitable Gaming Commission.

80 2. State income, business, and estate tax returns, personal property tax returns, scholastic and
81 confidential records held pursuant to § 58.1-3.

82 3. Scholastic records containing information concerning identifiable individuals, except that such
83 access shall not be denied to the person who is the subject thereof, or the parent or legal guardian of the
84 student. However, no student shall have access to (i) financial records of a parent or guardian or (ii)
85 records of instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel and educational personnel ancillary
86 thereto, which are in the sole possession of the maker thereof and that are not accessible or revealed to
87 any other person except a substitute.

88 The parent or legal guardian of a student may prohibit, by written request, the release of any
89 individual information regarding that student until the student reaches the age of eighteen years. For
90 scholastic records of students under the age of eighteen years, the right of access may be asserted only
91 by his legal guardian or parent, including a noncustodial parent, unless such parent's parental rights have
92 been terminated or a court of competent jurisdiction has restricted or denied such access. For scholastic
93 records of students who are emancipated or attending a state-supported institution of higher education,
94 the right of access may be asserted by the student.

95 Any person who is the subject of any scholastic record and who is eighteen years of age or older
96 may waive, in writing, the protections afforded by this subdivision. If the protections are so waived, the
97 public body shall open such records for inspection and copying.

98 4. Personnel records containing information concerning identifiable individuals, except that access
99 shall not be denied to the person who is the subject thereof. Any person who is the subject of any
100 personnel record and who is eighteen years of age or older may waive, in writing, the protections
101 afforded by this subdivision. If the protections are so waived, the public body shall open such records
102 for inspection and copying.

103 5. Medical and mental records, except that such records may be personally reviewed by the subject
104 person or a physician of the subject person's choice. However, the subject person's mental records may
105 not be personally reviewed by such person when the subject person's treating physician has made a part
106 of such person's records a written statement that in his opinion a review of such records by the subject
107 person would be injurious to the subject person's physical or mental health or well-being.

108 Where the person who is the subject of medical records is confined in a state or local correctional
109 facility, the administrator or chief medical officer of such facility may assert such confined person's right
110 of access to the medical records if the administrator or chief medical officer has reasonable cause to
111 believe that such confined person has an infectious disease or other medical condition from which other
112 persons so confined need to be protected. Medical records shall only be reviewed and shall not be
113 copied by such administrator or chief medical officer. The information in the medical records of a
114 person so confined shall continue to be confidential and shall not be disclosed by the administrator or
115 chief medical officer of the facility to any person except the subject or except as provided by law.

116 For the purposes of this chapter, statistical summaries of incidents and statistical data concerning
117 patient abuse as may be compiled by the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Mental
118 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall be open to inspection and copying as provided in
119 § 2.2-3704. No such summaries or data shall include any patient-identifying information. Where the
120 person who is the subject of medical and mental records is under the age of eighteen, his right of access

may be asserted only by his guardian or his parent, including a noncustodial parent, unless such parent's parental rights have been terminated or a court of competent jurisdiction has restricted or denied such access. In instances where the person who is the subject thereof is an emancipated minor or a student in a public institution of higher education, the right of access may be asserted by the subject person.

6. Working papers and correspondence of the Office of the Governor; Lieutenant Governor; the Attorney General; the members of the General Assembly or the Division of Legislative Services; the mayor or chief executive officer of any political subdivision of the Commonwealth; or the president or other chief executive officer of any public institution of higher education in Virginia. However, no record which is otherwise open to inspection under this chapter shall be deemed exempt by virtue of the fact that it has been attached to or incorporated within any working paper or correspondence.

As used in this subdivision:

"Working papers" means those records prepared by or for an above-named public official for his personal or deliberative use.

"Office of the Governor" means the Governor; his chief of staff, counsel, director of policy, Cabinet Secretaries, and the Director of the Virginia Liaison Office; and those individuals to whom the Governor has delegated his authority pursuant to § 2.2-104.

7. Written advice of legal counsel to state, regional or local public bodies ~~or public officials or the officers or employees of such public bodies~~, and any other records protected by the attorney-client privilege.

8. Legal memoranda and other work product compiled specifically for use in litigation or for use in an active administrative investigation concerning a matter that is properly the subject of a closed meeting under § 2.2-3711.

9. Confidential letters and statements of recommendation placed in the records of educational agencies or institutions respecting (i) admission to any educational agency or institution, (ii) an application for employment, or (iii) receipt of an honor or honorary recognition.

10. Library records that can be used to identify both (i) any library patron who has borrowed material from a library and (ii) the material such patron borrowed.

11. Any test or examination used, administered or prepared by any public body for purposes of evaluation of (i) any student or any student's performance, (ii) any employee or employment seeker's qualifications or aptitude for employment, retention, or promotion, or (iii) qualifications for any license or certificate issued by a public body.

As used in this subdivision, "test or examination" shall include (i) any scoring key for any such test or examination and (ii) any other document that would jeopardize the security of the test or examination. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall prohibit the release of test scores or results as provided by law, or limit access to individual records as provided by law. However, the subject of such employment tests shall be entitled to review and inspect all records relative to his performance on such employment tests.

When, in the reasonable opinion of such public body, any such test or examination no longer has any potential for future use, and the security of future tests or examinations will not be jeopardized, the test or examination shall be made available to the public. However, minimum competency tests administered to public school children shall be made available to the public contemporaneously with statewide release of the scores of those taking such tests, but in no event shall such tests be made available to the public later than six months after the administration of such tests.

12. Applications for admission to examinations or for licensure and scoring records maintained by the Department of Health Professions or any board in that department on individual licensees or applicants. However, such material may be made available during normal working hours for copying, at the requester's expense, by the individual who is the subject thereof, in the offices of the Department of Health Professions or in the offices of any health regulatory board, whichever may possess the material.

13. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Health Professions or by any health regulatory board in the Commonwealth.

14. Records recorded in or compiled exclusively for use in closed meetings lawfully held pursuant to § 2.2-3711. However, no record that is otherwise open to inspection under this chapter shall be deemed exempt by virtue of the fact that it has been reviewed or discussed in a closed meeting.

15. Reports, documentary evidence and other information as specified in §§ 2.2-706 and 63.1-55.4.

16. Proprietary information gathered by or for the Virginia Port Authority as provided in § 62.1-132.4 or § 62.1-134.1.

17. Contract cost estimates prepared for the confidential use of the Department of Transportation in awarding contracts for construction or the purchase of goods or services, and records and automated systems prepared for the Department's Bid Analysis and Monitoring Program.

18. Vendor proprietary information software that may be in the official records of a public body. For the purpose of this subdivision, "vendor proprietary software" means computer programs acquired from a

182 vendor for purposes of processing data for agencies or political subdivisions of the Commonwealth.

183 19. Financial statements not publicly available filed with applications for industrial development
184 financings.

185 20. Data, records or information of a proprietary nature produced or collected by or for faculty or
186 staff of public institutions of higher education, other than the institutions' financial or administrative
187 records, in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on medical, scientific, technical or scholarly
188 issues, whether sponsored by the institution alone or in conjunction with a governmental body or a
189 private concern, where such data, records or information has not been publicly released, published,
190 copyrighted or patented.

191 21. Lists of registered owners of bonds issued by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth,
192 whether the lists are maintained by the political subdivision itself or by a single fiduciary designated by
193 the political subdivision.

194 22. Confidential proprietary records, voluntarily provided by private business pursuant to a promise
195 of confidentiality from the Department of Business Assistance, the Virginia Economic Development
196 Partnership, the Virginia Tourism Authority, or local or regional industrial or economic development
197 authorities or organizations, used by the Department, the Partnership, the Authority, or such entities for
198 business, trade and tourism development; and memoranda, working papers or other records related to
199 businesses that are considering locating or expanding in Virginia, prepared by the Partnership, where
200 competition or bargaining is involved and where, if such records are made public, the financial interest
201 of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

202 23. Information that was filed as confidential under the Toxic Substances Information Act
203 (§ 32.1-239 et seq.), as such Act existed prior to July 1, 1992.

204 24. Confidential records, including victim identity, provided to or obtained by staff in a rape crisis
205 center or a program for battered spouses.

206 25. Computer software developed by or for a state agency, state-supported institution of higher
207 education or political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

208 26. Investigator notes, and other correspondence and information, furnished in confidence with
209 respect to an active investigation of individual employment discrimination complaints made to the
210 Department of Human Resource Management. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the
211 disclosure of information taken from inactive reports in a form that does not reveal the identity of
212 charging parties, persons supplying the information or other individuals involved in the investigation.

213 27. Fisheries data that would permit identification of any person or vessel, except when required by
214 court order as specified in § 28.2-204.

215 28. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Medical Assistance
216 Services pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 32.1-323 et seq.) of Title 32.1.

217 29. Records and writings furnished by a member of the General Assembly to a meeting of a standing
218 committee, special committee or subcommittee of his house established solely for the purpose of
219 reviewing members' annual disclosure statements and supporting materials filed under § 30-110 or of
220 formulating advisory opinions to members on standards of conduct, or both.

221 30. Customer account information of a public utility affiliated with a political subdivision of the
222 Commonwealth, including the customer's name and service address, but excluding the amount of utility
223 service provided and the amount of money paid for such utility service.

224 31. Investigative notes and other correspondence and information furnished in confidence with
225 respect to an investigation or conciliation process involving an alleged unlawful discriminatory practice
226 under the Virginia Human Rights Act (§ 2.2-3900 et seq.) or under any local ordinance adopted in
227 accordance with the authority specified in § 2.2-2638, or adopted pursuant to § 15.2-965, or adopted
228 prior to July 1, 1987, in accordance with applicable law, relating to local human rights or human
229 relations commissions. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the distribution of information
230 taken from inactive reports in a form that does not reveal the identity of the parties involved or other
231 persons supplying information.

232 32. Investigative notes; proprietary information not published, copyrighted or patented; information
233 obtained from employee personnel records; personally identifiable information regarding residents,
234 clients or other recipients of services; and other correspondence and information furnished in confidence
235 to the Department of Social Services in connection with an active investigation of an applicant or
236 licensee pursuant to Chapters 9 (§ 63.1-172 et seq.) and 10 (§ 63.1-195 et seq.) of Title 63.1. However,
237 nothing in this section shall prohibit disclosure of information from the records of completed
238 investigations in a form that does not reveal the identity of complainants, persons supplying information,
239 or other individuals involved in the investigation.

240 33. Personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, (i) filed with the Virginia Housing Development
241 Authority concerning individuals who have applied for or received loans or other housing assistance or
242 who have applied for occupancy of or have occupied housing financed, owned or otherwise assisted by
243 the Virginia Housing Development Authority; (ii) concerning persons participating in or persons on the

waiting list for federally funded rent-assistance programs; (iii) filed with any local redevelopment and housing authority created pursuant to § 36-4 concerning persons participating in or persons on the waiting list for housing assistance programs funded by local governments or by any such authority; or (iv) filed with any local redevelopment and housing authority created pursuant to § 36-4 or any other local government agency concerning persons who have applied for occupancy or who have occupied affordable dwelling units established pursuant to § 15.2-2304 or § 15.2-2305. However, access to one's own information shall not be denied.

34. Records regarding the siting of hazardous waste facilities, except as provided in § 10.1-1441, if disclosure of them would have a detrimental effect upon the negotiating position of a governing body or on the establishment of the terms, conditions and provisions of the siting agreement.

35. Appraisals and cost estimates of real property subject to a proposed purchase, sale or lease, prior to the completion of such purchase, sale or lease.

36. Records containing information on the site specific location of rare, threatened, endangered or otherwise imperiled plant and animal species, natural communities, caves, and significant historic and archaeological sites if, in the opinion of the public body that has the responsibility for such information, disclosure of the information would jeopardize the continued existence or the integrity of the resource. This exemption shall not apply to requests from the owner of the land upon which the resource is located.

37. Records, memoranda, working papers, graphics, video or audio tapes, production models, data and information of a proprietary nature produced by or for or collected by or for the State Lottery Department relating to matters of a specific lottery game design, development, production, operation, ticket price, prize structure, manner of selecting the winning ticket, manner of payment of prizes to holders of winning tickets, frequency of drawings or selections of winning tickets, odds of winning, advertising, or marketing, where such official records have not been publicly released, published, copyrighted or patented. Whether released, published or copyrighted, all game-related information shall be subject to public disclosure under this chapter upon the first day of sales for the specific lottery game to which it pertains.

38. Records of studies and investigations by the State Lottery Department of (i) lottery agents, (ii) lottery vendors, (iii) lottery crimes under §§ 58.1-4014 through 58.1-4018, (iv) defects in the law or regulations that cause abuses in the administration and operation of the lottery and any evasions of such provisions, or (v) the use of the lottery as a subterfuge for organized crime and illegal gambling where such official records have not been publicly released, published or copyrighted. All studies and investigations referred to under clauses (iii), (iv) and (v) shall be open to inspection and copying upon completion of the study or investigation.

39. Those portions of engineering and construction drawings and plans submitted for the sole purpose of complying with the Building Code in obtaining a building permit that would identify specific trade secrets or other information the disclosure of which would be harmful to the competitive position of the owner or lessee. However, such information shall be exempt only until the building is completed. Information relating to the safety or environmental soundness of any building shall not be exempt from disclosure.

40. Records concerning reserves established in specific claims administered by the Department of the Treasury through its Division of Risk Management as provided in Article 5 (§ 2.2-1832 et seq.) of Chapter 18 of this title, or by any county, city, or town.

41. Information and records collected for the designation and verification of trauma centers and other specialty care centers within the Statewide Emergency Medical Services System and Services pursuant to Article 2.1 (§ 32.1-111.1 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 32.1.

42. Reports and court documents required to be kept confidential pursuant to § 37.1-67.3.

43. Investigative notes, correspondence and information furnished in confidence, and records otherwise exempted by this chapter or any Virginia statute, provided to or produced by or for the (i) Auditor of Public Accounts; (ii) Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission; (iii) Department of the State Internal Auditor with respect to an investigation initiated through the State Employee Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; or (iv) committee or the auditor with respect to an investigation or audit conducted pursuant to § 15.2-825. Records of completed investigations shall be disclosed in a form that does not reveal the identity of the complainants or persons supplying information to investigators. Unless disclosure is prohibited by this section, the records disclosed shall include, but not be limited to, the agency involved, the identity of the person who is the subject of the complaint, the nature of the complaint, and the actions taken to resolve the complaint. If an investigation does not lead to corrective action, the identity of the person who is the subject of the complaint may be released only with the consent of the subject person.

44. Data formerly required to be submitted to the Commissioner of Health relating to the establishment of new or the expansion of existing clinical health services, acquisition of major medical

equipment, or certain projects requiring capital expenditures pursuant to former § 32.1-102.3:4.

45. Documentation or other information that describes the design, function, operation or access control features of any security system, whether manual or automated, which is used to control access to or use of any automated data processing or telecommunications system.

46. Confidential financial statements, balance sheets, trade secrets, and revenue and cost projections provided to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, provided such information is exempt under the federal Freedom of Information Act or the federal Interstate Commerce Act or other laws administered by the Surface Transportation Board or the Federal Railroad Administration with respect to data provided in confidence to the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Railroad Administration.

47. In the case of corporations organized by the Virginia Retirement System (i) proprietary information provided by, and financial information concerning, coventurers, partners, lessors, lessees, or investors and (ii) records concerning the condition, acquisition, disposition, use, leasing, development, coventuring, or management of real estate, the disclosure of which would have a substantial adverse impact on the value of such real estate or result in a competitive disadvantage to the corporation or subsidiary.

48. Confidential proprietary records related to inventory and sales, voluntarily provided by private energy suppliers to the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, used by that Department for energy contingency planning purposes or for developing consolidated statistical information on energy supplies.

49. Confidential proprietary information furnished to the Board of Medical Assistance Services or the Medicaid Prior Authorization Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 4 (§ 32.1-331.12 et seq.) of Chapter 10 of Title 32.1.

50. Proprietary, commercial or financial information, balance sheets, trade secrets, and revenue and cost projections provided by a private transportation business to the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the purpose of conducting transportation studies needed to obtain grants or other financial assistance under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (P.L. 105-178) for transportation projects, provided such information is exempt under the federal Freedom of Information Act or the federal Interstate Commerce Act or other laws administered by the Surface Transportation Board or the Federal Railroad Administration with respect to data provided in confidence to the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Railroad Administration. However, the exemption provided by this subdivision shall not apply to any wholly owned subsidiary of a public body.

51. Names and addresses of subscribers to Virginia Wildlife magazine, published by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, provided the individual subscriber has requested in writing that the Department not release such information.

52. Information required to be provided pursuant to § 54.1-2506.1.

53. Confidential information designated as provided in subsection D of § 2.2-4342 as trade secrets or proprietary information by any person who has submitted to a public body an application for prequalification to bid on public construction projects in accordance with subsection B of § 2.2-4317.

54. All information and records acquired during a review of any child death by the State Child Fatality Review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.1, during a review of any child death by a local or regional child fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.2, and all information and records acquired during a review of any death by a family violence fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.3.

55. Financial, medical, rehabilitative and other personal information concerning applicants for or recipients of loan funds submitted to or maintained by the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority under Chapter 11 (§ 51.5-53 et seq.) of Title 51.5.

56. Confidential proprietary records that are voluntarily provided by a private entity pursuant to a proposal filed with a public entity under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (§ 56-556 et seq.), pursuant to a promise of confidentiality from the responsible public entity, used by the responsible public entity for purposes related to the development of a qualifying transportation facility; and memoranda, working papers or other records related to proposals filed under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995, where, if such records were made public, the financial interest of the public or private entity involved with such proposal or the process of competition or bargaining would be adversely affected. In order for confidential proprietary information to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter, the private entity shall (i) invoke such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from disclosure is sought, (ii) identify the data or other materials for which protection is sought, and (iii) state the reasons why protection is necessary. For the purposes of this subdivision, the terms "public entity" and "private entity" shall be defined as they are defined in the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995.

57. Records of law-enforcement agencies, to the extent that such records contain specific tactical plans, the disclosure of which would jeopardize the safety or security of law-enforcement personnel or

the general public; or records of emergency service agencies to the extent that such records contain specific tactical plans relating to antiterrorist activity.

58. All records of the University of Virginia or the University of Virginia Medical Center that contain proprietary, business-related information pertaining to the operations of the University of Virginia Medical Center, including its business development or marketing strategies and its activities with existing or future joint venturers, partners, or other parties with whom the University of Virginia Medical Center has formed, or forms, any arrangement for the delivery of health care, if disclosure of such information would be harmful to the competitive position of the Medical Center.

59. Patient level data collected by the Board of Health and not yet processed, verified, and released, pursuant to § 32.1-276.9, to the Board by the nonprofit organization with which the Commissioner of Health has contracted pursuant to § 32.1-276.4.

60. Records of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority pertaining to any of the following: an individual's qualifications for or continued membership on its medical or teaching staffs; proprietary information gathered by or in the possession of the Authority from third parties pursuant to a promise of confidentiality; contract cost estimates prepared for confidential use in awarding contracts for construction or the purchase of goods or services; data, records or information of a proprietary nature produced or collected by or for the Authority or members of its medical or teaching staffs; financial statements not publicly available that may be filed with the Authority from third parties; the identity, accounts or account status of any customer of the Authority; consulting or other reports paid for by the Authority to assist the Authority in connection with its strategic planning and goals; and the determination of marketing and operational strategies where disclosure of such strategies would be harmful to the competitive position of the Authority; and data, records or information of a proprietary nature produced or collected by or for employees of the Authority, other than the Authority's financial or administrative records, in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on medical, scientific, technical or scholarly issues, whether sponsored by the Authority alone or in conjunction with a governmental body or a private concern, when such data, records or information have not been publicly released, published, copyrighted or patented.

61. Confidential proprietary information or trade secrets, not publicly available, provided by a private person or entity to the Virginia Resources Authority or to a fund administered in connection with financial assistance rendered or to be rendered by the Virginia Resources Authority where, if such information were made public, the financial interest of the private person or entity would be adversely affected, and, after June 30, 1997, where such information was provided pursuant to a promise of confidentiality.

62. Confidential proprietary records that are provided by a franchisee under § 15.2-2108 to its franchising authority pursuant to a promise of confidentiality from the franchising authority that relates to the franchisee's potential provision of new services, adoption of new technologies or implementation of improvements, where such new services, technologies or improvements have not been implemented by the franchisee on a nonexperimental scale in the franchise area, and where, if such records were made public, the competitive advantage or financial interests of the franchisee would be adversely affected. In order for confidential proprietary information to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter, the franchisee shall (i) invoke such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from disclosure is sought, (ii) identify the data or other materials for which protection is sought, and (iii) state the reason why protection is necessary.

63. Records of the Intervention Program Committee within the Department of Health Professions, to the extent such records may identify any practitioner who may be, or who is actually, impaired to the extent disclosure is prohibited by § 54.1-2517.

64. Records submitted as a grant application, or accompanying a grant application, to the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Advisory Board pursuant to Article 12 (§ 32.1-73.1 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 32.1, to the extent such records contain (i) medical or mental records, or other data identifying individual patients or (ii) proprietary business or research-related information produced or collected by the applicant in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on medical, rehabilitative, scientific, technical or scholarly issues, when such information has not been publicly released, published, copyrighted or patented, if the disclosure of such information would be harmful to the competitive position of the applicant.

65. Information that would disclose the security aspects of a system safety program plan adopted pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 659 by the Commonwealth's designated Rail Fixed Guideway Systems Safety Oversight agency; and information in the possession of such agency, the release of which would jeopardize the success of an ongoing investigation of a rail accident or other incident threatening railway safety.

66. Documents and other information of a proprietary nature furnished by a supplier of charitable gaming supplies to the Charitable Gaming Commission pursuant to subsection E of § 18.2-340.34.

428 67. Personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, provided to the Board of the Virginia College
429 Savings Plan or its employees by or on behalf of individuals who have requested information about,
430 applied for, or entered into prepaid tuition contracts or savings trust account agreements pursuant to
431 Chapter 4.9 (§ 23-38.75 et seq.) of Title 23. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit
432 disclosure or publication of information in a statistical or other form that does not identify individuals or
433 provide personal information. Individuals shall be provided access to their own personal information.

434 68. Any record copied, recorded or received by the Commissioner of Health in the course of an
435 examination, investigation or review of a managed care health insurance plan licensee pursuant to
436 §§ 32.1-137.4 and 32.1-137.5, including books, records, files, accounts, papers, documents, and any or
437 all computer or other recordings.

438 69. Engineering and architectural drawings, operational, procedural, tactical planning or training
439 manuals, or staff meeting minutes or other records, the disclosure of which would reveal surveillance
440 techniques, personnel deployments, alarm systems or technologies, or operational and transportation
441 plans or protocols, to the extent such disclosure would jeopardize the security or employee safety of (i)
442 the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts or any of its warehouses; (ii) any government store or warehouse
443 controlled by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; (iii) any courthouse, jail, detention or
444 law-enforcement facility; or (iv) any correctional or juvenile facility or institution under the supervision
445 of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice.

446 70. Records and reports related to Virginia apple producer sales provided to the Virginia State Apple
447 Board pursuant to §§ 3.1-622 and 3.1-624.

448 71. Records of the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Water Control Board, State Air
449 Pollution Control Board or the Virginia Waste Management Board relating to (i) active federal
450 environmental enforcement actions that are considered confidential under federal law and (ii)
451 enforcement strategies, including proposed sanctions for enforcement actions. Upon request, such records
452 shall be disclosed after a proposed sanction resulting from the investigation has been proposed to the
453 director of the agency. This subdivision shall not be construed to prohibit the disclosure of records
454 related to inspection reports, notices of violation, and documents detailing the nature of any
455 environmental contamination that may have occurred or similar documents.

456 72. As it pertains to any person, records related to the operation of toll facilities that identify an
457 individual, vehicle, or travel itinerary including, but not limited to, vehicle identification data, vehicle
458 enforcement system information; video or photographic images; Social Security or other identification
459 numbers appearing on driver's licenses; credit card or bank account data; home addresses; phone
460 numbers; or records of the date or time of toll facility use.

461 73. Records of the Department for Rights of Virginians with Disabilities consisting of documentary
462 evidence received or maintained by the Department or its agents in connection with specific complaints
463 or investigations, and records of communications between employees and agents of the Department and
464 its clients or prospective clients concerning specific complaints, investigations or cases. Upon the
465 conclusion of an investigation of a complaint, this exclusion shall no longer apply, but the Department
466 may not at any time release the identity of any complainant or person with mental illness, mental
467 retardation, developmental disabilities or other disability, unless (i) such complainant or person or his
468 legal representative consents in writing to such identification or (ii) such identification is required by
469 court order.

470 74. Information furnished in confidence to the Department of Employment Dispute Resolution with
471 respect to an investigation, consultation, or mediation under Chapter 10 (§ 2.2-1000 et seq.) of this title,
472 and memoranda, correspondence and other records resulting from any such investigation, consultation or
473 mediation. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the distribution of information taken from
474 inactive reports in a form that does not reveal the identity of the parties involved or other persons
475 supplying information.

476 75. Trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.) of Title 59.1,
477 submitted by CMRS providers as defined in § 56-484.12 to the Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery
478 Subcommittee created pursuant to § 56-484.15, relating to the provision of wireless E-911 service.

479 76. Records of the State Lottery Department pertaining to (i) the social security number, tax
480 identification number, state sales tax number, home address and telephone number, personal and lottery
481 banking account and transit numbers of a retailer, and financial information regarding the nonlottery
482 operations of specific retail locations, and (ii) individual lottery winners, except that a winner's name,
483 hometown, and amount won shall be disclosed.

484 77. Records, information and statistical registries required to be kept confidential pursuant to
485 §§ 63.1-53 and 63.1-209.

486 B. Neither any provision of this chapter nor any provision of Chapter 38 (§ 2.2-3800 et seq.) of this
487 title shall be construed as denying public access to (i) contracts between a ~~public official~~ and a public
488 body *and its officers or employees*, other than contracts settling public employee employment disputes
489 held confidential as personnel records under subdivision 4. of subsection A; (ii) records of the position,

job classification, official salary or rate of pay of, and records of the allowances or reimbursements for expenses paid to any officer, official or employee of a public body; or (iii) the compensation or benefits paid by any corporation organized by the Virginia Retirement System or its officers or employees. The provisions of this subsection, however, shall not require public access to records of the official salaries or rates of pay of public employees whose annual rate of pay is \$10,000 or less.

C. No provision of this chapter or Chapter 21 (§ 30-178 et seq.) of Title 30 shall be construed to afford any rights to any person incarcerated in a state, local or federal correctional facility, whether or not such facility is (i) located in the Commonwealth or (ii) operated pursuant to the Corrections Private Management Act (§ 53.1-261 et seq.). However, this subsection shall not be construed to prevent an incarcerated person from exercising his constitutionally protected rights, including, but not limited to, his rights to call for evidence in his favor in a criminal prosecution.

§ 2.2-3706. Disclosure of criminal records; limitations.

A. As used in this section:

"Criminal incident information" means a general description of the criminal activity reported, the date and general location the alleged crime was committed, the identity of the investigating officer, and a general description of any injuries suffered or property damaged or stolen.

~~"Law-enforcement official" includes the attorneys for the Commonwealth.~~

B. Law-enforcement ~~officials~~ *agencies* shall make available upon request criminal incident information relating to felony offenses. However, where the release of criminal incident information is likely to jeopardize an ongoing investigation or prosecution, or the safety of an individual; cause a suspect to flee or evade detection; or result in the destruction of evidence, such information may be withheld until the above-referenced damage is no longer likely to occur from release of the information. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the release of those portions of such information that are not likely to cause the above-referenced damage.

C. Information in the custody of law-enforcement ~~officials~~ *agencies* relative to the identity of any individual, other than a juvenile, who is arrested and charged, and the status of the charge or arrest shall be released.

D. The identity of any victim, witness or undercover officer, or investigative techniques or procedures need not but may be disclosed unless disclosure is prohibited or restricted under § 19.2-11.2.

E. The identity of any individual providing information about a crime or criminal activity under a promise of anonymity shall not be disclosed.

F. The following records are excluded from the provisions of this chapter, but may be disclosed by the custodian, in his discretion, except where such disclosure is prohibited by law:

1. Complaints, memoranda, correspondence and evidence relating to a criminal investigation or prosecution, other than criminal incident information as defined in subsection A;

2. Adult arrestee photographs when necessary to avoid jeopardizing an investigation in felony cases until such time as the release of the photograph will no longer jeopardize the investigation;

3. Reports submitted in confidence to (i) state and local law-enforcement agencies, (ii) investigators authorized pursuant to § 53.1-16 or § 66-3.1, and (iii) campus police departments of public institutions of higher education established pursuant to Chapter 17 (§ 23-232 et seq.) of Title 23;

4. Portions of records of local government crime commissions that would identify individuals providing information about crimes or criminal activities under a promise of anonymity;

5. Records of local law-enforcement agencies relating to neighborhood watch programs that include the names, addresses, and operating schedules of individual participants in the program that are provided to such agencies under a promise of anonymity; ~~and~~

6. All records of persons imprisoned in penal institutions in the Commonwealth provided such records relate to the imprisonment; *and*

7. *Except as provided by subsections B and C, and in addition to any other exemption from disclosure provided by law, records of attorneys for the Commonwealth or their staffs relating to specific pending cases or ongoing investigations or prosecutions.*

G. Records kept by law-enforcement agencies as required by § 15.2-1722 shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter except:

1. Those portions of noncriminal incident or other investigative reports or materials containing identifying information of a personal, medical or financial nature provided to a law-enforcement agency where the release of such information would jeopardize the safety or privacy of any person;

2. Those portions of any records containing information related to plans for or resources dedicated to undercover operations; or

3. Records of background investigations of applicants for law-enforcement agency employment or other confidential administrative investigations conducted pursuant to law.

H. In the event of conflict between this section as it relates to requests made under this section and other provisions of law, this section shall control.

§ 2.2-3711. Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.

A. Public bodies may hold closed meetings only for the following purposes:

1. Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.

2. Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student of any Virginia public institution of higher education or any state school system. However, any such student, legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians shall be permitted to be present during the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence at a closed meeting, if such student, parents or guardians so request in writing and such request is submitted to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.

3. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

4. The protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business.

5. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the 'business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

6. The investing of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

8. In the case of boards of visitors of public institutions of higher education, discussion or consideration of matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities, and grants and contracts for services or work to be performed by such institution. However, the terms and conditions of any such gifts, bequests, grants and contracts made by a foreign government, a foreign legal entity or a foreign person and accepted by a public institution of higher education in Virginia shall be subject to public disclosure upon written request to the appropriate board of visitors. For the purpose of this subdivision, (i) "foreign government" means any government other than the United States government or the government of a state or a political subdivision thereof; (ii) "foreign legal entity" means any legal entity created under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof if a majority of the ownership of the stock of such legal entity is owned by foreign governments or foreign persons or if a majority of the membership of any such entity is composed of foreign persons or foreign legal entities, or any legal entity created under the laws of a foreign government; and (iii) "foreign person" means any individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof.

9. In the case of the boards of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and The Science Museum of Virginia, discussion or consideration of matters relating to specific gifts, bequests, and grants.

10. Discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards.

11. Discussion or consideration of tests, examinations or other records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision A. 11. of § 2.2-3705.

12. Discussion, consideration or review by the appropriate House or Senate committees of possible disciplinary action against a member arising out of the possible inadequacy of the disclosure statement filed by the member, provided the member may request in writing that the committee meeting not be conducted in a closed meeting.

13. Discussion of strategy with respect to the negotiation of a *hazardous waste* siting agreement or to consider the terms, conditions, and provisions of a *hazardous waste* siting agreement if the governing body in open meeting finds that an open meeting will have an adverse effect upon the negotiating position of the governing body or the establishment of the terms, conditions and provisions of the siting

agreement, or both. All discussions with the applicant or its representatives may be conducted in a closed meeting.

14. Discussion by the Governor and any economic advisory board reviewing forecasts of economic activity and estimating general and nongeneral fund revenues.

15. Discussion or consideration of medical and mental records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision A. 5. of § 2.2-3705, and those portions of disciplinary proceedings by any regulatory board within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation or Department of Health Professions conducted pursuant to § 2.2-4019 or § 2.2-4020 during which the board deliberates to reach a decision.

16. Discussion, consideration or review of State Lottery Department matters related to proprietary lottery game information and studies or investigations exempted from disclosure under subdivisions A. 37. and A. 38. of § 2.2-3705.

17. Those portions of meetings by local government crime commissions where the identity of, or information tending to identify, individuals providing information about crimes or criminal activities under a promise of anonymity is discussed or disclosed.

18. Discussion, consideration, review and deliberations by local community corrections resources boards regarding the placement in community diversion programs of individuals previously sentenced to state correctional facilities.

19. Those portions of meetings in which the Board of Corrections discusses or discloses the identity of, or information tending to identify, any prisoner who (i) provides information about crimes or criminal activities, (ii) renders assistance in preventing the escape of another prisoner or in the apprehension of an escaped prisoner, or (iii) voluntarily or at the instance of a prison official renders other extraordinary services, the disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize the prisoner's life or safety.

20. Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity.

21. In the case of corporations organized by the Virginia Retirement System, discussion or consideration of (i) proprietary information provided by, and financial information concerning, coventurers, partners, lessors, lessees, or investors and (ii) the condition, acquisition, disposition, use, leasing, development, coventuring, or management of real estate the disclosure of which would have a substantial adverse impact on the value of such real estate or result in a competitive disadvantage to the corporation or subsidiary.

22. Those portions of meetings in which individual child death cases are discussed by the State Child Fatality Review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.1, and those portions of meetings in which individual child death cases are discussed by a regional or local child fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.2, and those portions of meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by family violence fatality review teams established pursuant to § 32.1-283.3.

23. Those portions of meetings of the University of Virginia Board of Visitors and those portions of meetings of any persons to whom management responsibilities for the University of Virginia Medical Center have been delegated, in which there is discussed proprietary, business-related information pertaining to the operations of the University of Virginia Medical Center, including its business development or marketing strategies and its activities with existing or future joint venturers, partners, or other parties with whom the University of Virginia Medical Center has formed, or forms, any arrangement for the delivery of health care, if disclosure of such information would adversely affect the competitive position of the Medical Center.

24. In the case of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority, discussion or consideration of any of the following: the acquisition or disposition of real or personal property where disclosure would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Authority; operational plans that could affect the value of such property, real or personal, owned or desirable for ownership by the Authority; matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities; grants and contracts for services or work to be performed by the Authority; marketing or operational strategies where disclosure of such strategies would adversely affect the competitive position of the Authority; members of its medical and teaching staffs and qualifications for appointments thereto; and qualifications or evaluations of other employees.

25. Those portions of the meetings of the Intervention Program Committee within the Department of Health Professions to the extent such discussions identify any practitioner who may be, or who actually is, impaired pursuant to Chapter 25.1 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1.

26. Meetings or portions of meetings of the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan wherein personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, which has been provided to the Board or its employees by or on behalf of individuals who have requested information about, applied for, or entered into prepaid tuition contracts or savings trust account agreements pursuant to Chapter 4.9 (§ 23-38.75 et seq.) of Title 23 is discussed.

27. Discussion or consideration, by the Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee created pursuant to § 56-484.15, of trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et

674 seq.) of Title 59.1, submitted by CMRS providers as defined in § 56-484.12, related to the provision of
675 wireless E-911 service.

676 B. No resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation or motion adopted, passed or agreed to in a
677 closed meeting shall become effective unless the public body, following the meeting, reconvenes in open
678 meeting and takes a vote of the membership on such resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation or
679 motion that shall have its substance reasonably identified in the open meeting.

680 C. Public officers improperly selected due to the failure of the public body to comply with the other
681 provisions of this section shall be de facto officers and, as such, their official actions are valid until they
682 obtain notice of the legal defect in their election.

683 D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the holding of conferences between two or
684 more public bodies, or their representatives, but these conferences shall be subject to the same
685 procedures for holding closed meetings as are applicable to any other public body.

686 E. This section shall not be construed to (i) require the disclosure of any contract between the
687 Intervention Program Committee within the Department of Health Professions and an impaired
688 practitioner entered into pursuant to Chapter 25.1(§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1 or (ii) require the
689 board of directors of any authority created pursuant to the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond
690 Act (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.), or any public body empowered to issue industrial revenue bonds by general or
691 special law, to identify a business or industry to which subdivision A. 5. applies. However, such
692 business or industry shall be identified as a matter of public record at least thirty days prior to the actual
693 date of the board's authorization of the sale or issuance of such bonds.

694 **2. That it is the intent of the General Assembly to address the recent Virginia Supreme Court**
695 **holding in the case styled Connell v. Kersey, which held that attorneys for the Commonwealth are**
696 **not "public bodies" as defined in the Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.), by**
697 **clarifying that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) applies to constitutional officers and**
698 **providing an exemption for attorneys for the Commonwealth.**