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**HOUSE BILL NO. 823**

Offered January 9, 2002

Prefiled January 9, 2002

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-226.1, and to repeal Article 4 (§§ 2.2-136 to 2.2-138) of Chapter 1 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the security of government databases.*

Patrons—Nixon, Christian, Cosgrove, Devolites, May and Plum; Senator: Ticer

Referred to Committee on Science and Technology

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-226.1 as follows:****§ 2.2-226.1. Security of government databases.**

*A. To ensure the security of state government databases and data communications from unauthorized uses, intrusions or other security threats, the Secretary of Technology shall direct the development of policies, procedures and standards for assessing security risks, determining the appropriate security measures and performing security audits of government databases and data communications. At a minimum, these policies, procedures and standards shall address the scope of security audits and which public bodies are authorized to conduct security audits. In developing and updating such policies, procedures and standards, the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the advice and recommendations of the Council on Technology Services created pursuant to § 2.2-2651.*

*B. The Secretary shall designate a government entity to oversee, plan and coordinate the conduct of periodic security audits of all executive branch agencies and institutions of higher education regarding the protection of government databases and data communications.*

*1. Security audits may include, but are not limited to, on-site audits as well as reviews of all written security procedures.*

*2. The designated entity may contract with a private firm or firms that specialize in conducting such audits subject to approval of the Secretary.*

*C. All public bodies subject to such audits as required by this section shall fully cooperate with the entity designated to perform such audits.*

*D. The provisions of this section shall not infringe upon responsibilities assigned to the Comptroller, the Auditor of Public Accounts, or the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission by other provisions of the Code of Virginia.*

**2. That Article 4 (§§ 2.2-136 to 2.2-138) of Chapter 1 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**

INTRODUCED

HB823