

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2004 SESSION

CHAPTER 488

An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-603 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the elimination of agency reports on the cost of federal mandates.

[S 11]

Approved April 12, 2004

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-603 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-603. Authority of agency directors.

A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the agency director of each agency in the executive branch of state government shall have the power and duty to (i) supervise and manage the department or agency and (ii) prepare, approve, and submit to the Governor all requests for appropriations and to be responsible for all expenditures pursuant to appropriations.

B. The director of each agency in the executive branch of state government, except those that by law are appointed by their respective boards, shall not proscribe any agency employee from discussing the functions and policies of the agency, without prior approval from his supervisor or superior, with any person unless the information to be discussed is protected from disclosure by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) or any other provision of state or federal law.

C. Subsection A shall not be construed to restrict any other specific or general powers and duties of executive branch boards granted by law.

D. This section shall not apply to those agency directors that are appointed by their respective boards or by the Board of Education. Directors appointed in this manner shall have the powers and duties assigned by law or by the board.

E. In addition to the requirements of subsection C of § 2.2-619, the director of each agency in any branch of state government shall, at the end of each fiscal year, report to (i) the Secretary of Finance and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance a listing and general description of any federal contract, grant, or money in excess of \$1,000,000 for which the agency was eligible, whether or not the agency applied for, accepted, and received such contract, grant, or money, and, if not, the reasons therefore, ~~and a listing and cost of any federal mandate or regulation affecting the agency,~~ and the dollar amount and corresponding percentage of the agency's total annual budget that was supplied by funds from the federal government and (ii) the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Finance, and the Senate Committee on Finance any amounts owed to the agency from any source that are more than six months delinquent, the length of such delinquencies, and the total of all such delinquent amounts in each six-month interval. Clause (i) shall not be required of public institutions of higher education.

~~F. On or before December 1, 1999, The director of every department in the executive branch of state government shall appoint an agency information officer from among the department's employees to (i) ensure the coordinated planning, practical acquisition, effective development, and efficient use of information technology resources and communications services to meet the department's needs and (ii) serve as the department's liaison to the Secretary of Technology.~~