

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2506.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to contact information in the event of a health emergency.

[H 1607]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2506.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2506.1. Submission of required information.

A. The Department is authorized to require individuals applying for initial licensure and individuals who are licensed to practice medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or to practice as a physician assistant, nurse practitioner or dental hygienist, to provide information in addition to that which is required to determine the individual's qualifications to be licensed. Such additional information shall identify the individual's specialty and subspecialty; credentials and certifications issued by professional associations, institutions and boards; and locations of practice and number of hours spent practicing at each practice location. Such information shall be collected and maintained by the Department for manpower planning purposes in cooperation with agencies and institutions of the Commonwealth and shall be released by the Department only in the aggregate without reference to any licensee's name or other individual identifying particulars. Prior to collecting any information described in this section from individual licensees, the Department shall first attempt to obtain from other sources information sufficient for manpower planning purposes.

B. For the purpose of expediting the dissemination of information about a public health emergency, the Department is authorized to require certain licensed, certified or registered persons to report any email address, telephone number and facsimile number that may be used to contact such person in the event of a public health emergency. *In the event of an animal health emergency, the Department shall provide to the State Veterinarian the email addresses, telephone numbers and facsimile numbers that may be used to contact licensed veterinarians.*

Such email addresses, telephone numbers and facsimile numbers shall not be published, released or made available for any other purpose *by the Department or the State Veterinarian.*

The Director, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Management, shall adopt regulations that identify those licensed, certified or registered persons to which the requirement to report shall apply and the procedures for reporting.