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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2150**

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled January 9, 2007

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228 and 63.2-905 of the Code of Virginia, relating to foster care services.*

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 Patron—Fralin
 

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 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
 

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**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §§ 16.1-228 and 63.2-905 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 16.1-228. Definitions.

When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Abused or neglected child" means any child:

1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement or impairment of bodily or mental functions, including, but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled substance, or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person responsible for his care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would constitute a felony violation of § 18.2-248;

2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for his health; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child;

3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;

4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits or allows to be committed any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law;

5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental or physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis; or

6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as defined in § 55-79.2, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor for which registration is required as a violent sexual offender pursuant to § 9.1-902.

If a civil proceeding under this chapter is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital or rescue squad, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely delivered the child to a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or to an attended rescue squad that employs emergency medical technicians, within 14 days of the child's birth. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and placement for adoption, the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of abandonment.

"Adoptive home" means the place of residence of any natural person in which a child resides as a member of the household and in which he has been placed for the purposes of adoption or in which he has been legally adopted by another member of the household.

"Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.

"Ancillary crime" or "ancillary charge" means any delinquent act committed by a juvenile as a part of the same act or transaction as, or which constitutes a part of a common scheme or plan with, a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult.

"Boot camp" means a short term secure or nonsecure juvenile residential facility with highly structured components including, but not limited to, military style drill and ceremony, physical labor, education and rigid discipline, and no less than six months of intensive aftercare.

"Child," "juvenile" or "minor" means a person less than 18 years of age.

"Child welfare agency" means a child-placing agency, child-caring institution or independent foster home as defined in § 63.2-100.

"Child in need of services" means (i) a child whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results in a serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of the child or (ii) a child under the age of 14

INTRODUCED

HB2150

59 whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results in a serious threat to the well-being and  
60 physical safety of another person; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by  
61 spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or  
62 religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be a child in need of services, nor  
63 shall any child who habitually remains away from or habitually deserts or abandons his family as a  
64 result of what the court or the local child protective services unit determines to be incidents of physical,  
65 emotional or sexual abuse in the home be considered a child in need of services for that reason alone.

66 However, to find that a child falls within these provisions, (i) the conduct complained of must  
67 present a clear and substantial danger to the child's life or health or to the life or health of another  
68 person, (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not presently being  
69 received, and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment, rehabilitation or  
70 services needed by the child or his family.

71 "Child in need of supervision" means:

72 1. A child who, while subject to compulsory school attendance, is habitually and without justification  
73 absent from school, and (i) the child has been offered an adequate opportunity to receive the benefit of  
74 any and all educational services and programs that are required to be provided by law and which meet  
75 the child's particular educational needs, (ii) the school system from which the child is absent or other  
76 appropriate agency has made a reasonable effort to effect the child's regular attendance without success,  
77 and (iii) the school system has provided documentation that it has complied with the provisions of  
78 § 22.1-258; or

79 2. A child who, without reasonable cause and without the consent of his parent, lawful custodian or  
80 placement authority, remains away from or deserts or abandons his family or lawful custodian on more  
81 than one occasion or escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility in  
82 which he has been placed by the court, and (i) such conduct presents a clear and substantial danger to  
83 the child's life or health, (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not  
84 presently being received, and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment,  
85 rehabilitation or services needed by the child or his family.

86 "The court" or the "juvenile court" or the "juvenile and domestic relations court" means the juvenile  
87 and domestic relations district court of each county or city.

88 "Delinquent act" means (i) an act designated a crime under the law of this Commonwealth, or an  
89 ordinance of any city, county, town or service district, or under federal law, (ii) a violation of  
90 § 18.2-308.7, or (iii) a violation of a court order as provided for in § 16.1-292, but shall not include an  
91 act other than a violation of § 18.2-308.7, which is otherwise lawful, but is designated a crime only if  
92 committed by a child. For purposes of §§ 16.1-241 and 16.1-278.9, the term shall include a refusal to  
93 take a blood or breath test in violation of § 18.2-268.2 or a similar ordinance of any county, city or  
94 town.

95 "Delinquent child" means a child who has committed a delinquent act or an adult who has committed  
96 a delinquent act prior to his eighteenth birthday, except where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court has  
97 been terminated under the provisions of § 16.1-269.6.

98 "Department" means the Department of Juvenile Justice and "Director" means the administrative head  
99 in charge thereof or such of his assistants and subordinates as are designated by him to discharge the  
100 duties imposed upon him under this law.

101 "Family abuse" means any act involving violence, force, or threat including, but not limited to, any  
102 forceful detention, which results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of bodily  
103 injury and which is committed by a person against such person's family or household member.

104 "Family or household member" means (i) the person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the  
105 same home with the person, (ii) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same  
106 home with the person, (iii) the person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters,  
107 half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents and grandchildren, regardless of whether such persons reside in  
108 the same home with the person, (iv) the person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law,  
109 daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person, (v)  
110 any individual who has a child in common with the person, whether or not the person and that  
111 individual have been married or have resided together at any time, or (vi) any individual who cohabits  
112 or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabited with the person, and any children of either of them  
113 then residing in the same home with the person.

114 "Foster care services" means the provision of a full range of casework, treatment and community  
115 services for a planned period of time to a child who is abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or  
116 in need of services as defined in this section and his family when the child (i) has been identified as  
117 needing services to prevent or eliminate the need for foster care placement or *custody relinquishment*,  
118 (ii) has been placed through an agreement between the local board of social services or a public agency  
119 designated by the community policy and management team and the parents or guardians where legal  
120 custody remains with the parents or guardians, (iii) has been committed or entrusted to a local board of

social services or child welfare agency, or (iv) has been placed under the supervisory responsibility of the local board pursuant to § 16.1-293.

"Intake officer" means a juvenile probation officer appointed as such pursuant to the authority of this chapter.

"Jail" or "other facility designed for the detention of adults" means a local or regional correctional facility as defined in § 53.1-1, except those facilities utilized on a temporary basis as a court holding cell for a child incident to a court hearing or as a temporary lock-up room or ward incident to the transfer of a child to a juvenile facility.

"The judge" means the judge or the substitute judge of the juvenile and domestic relations district court of each county or city.

"This law" or "the law" means the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Law embraced in this chapter.

"Legal custody" means (i) a legal status created by court order which vests in a custodian the right to have physical custody of the child, to determine and redetermine where and with whom he shall live, the right and duty to protect, train and discipline him and to provide him with food, shelter, education and ordinary medical care, all subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities or (ii) the legal status created by court order of joint custody as defined in § 20-107.2.

"Permanent foster care placement" means the place of residence in which a child resides and in which he has been placed pursuant to the provisions of §§ 63.2-900 and 63.2-908 with the expectation and agreement between the placing agency and the place of permanent foster care that the child shall remain in the placement until he reaches the age of majority unless modified by court order or unless removed pursuant to § 16.1-251 or § 63.2-1517. A permanent foster care placement may be a place of residence of any natural person or persons deemed appropriate to meet a child's needs on a long-term basis.

"Residual parental rights and responsibilities" means all rights and responsibilities remaining with the parent after the transfer of legal custody or guardianship of the person, including but not limited to the right of visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation and the responsibility for support.

"Secure facility" or "detention home" means a local, regional or state public or private locked residential facility that has construction fixtures designed to prevent escape and to restrict the movement and activities of children held in lawful custody.

"Shelter care" means the temporary care of children in physically unrestricting facilities.

"State Board" means the State Board of Juvenile Justice.

"Status offender" means a child who commits an act prohibited by law which would not be criminal if committed by an adult.

"Status offense" means an act prohibited by law which would not be an offense if committed by an adult.

"Violent juvenile felony" means any of the delinquent acts enumerated in subsection B or C of § 16.1-269.1 when committed by a juvenile 14 years of age or older.

§ 63.2-905. Foster care services.

Foster care services are the provision of a full range of casework, treatment and community services for a planned period of time to a child who is abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or in need of services as defined in § 16.1-228 and his family when the child (i) has been identified as needing services to prevent or eliminate the need for foster care placement *or custody relinquishment*, (ii) has been placed through an agreement between the local board or the public agency designated by the community policy and management team and the parents or guardians where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians, or (iii) has been committed or entrusted to a local board or licensed child placing agency.