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HOUSE BILL NO. 946

House Amendments in [] - January 21, 2008

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 63.2-1231 of the Code of Virginia, relating to adoption; period of validity of home study.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Iaquinto

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 63.2-1231 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 63.2-1231. Home study; meeting required; exception.

A. Prior to the consent hearing in the juvenile and domestic relations district court, a home study of the adoptive parent(s) shall be completed by a licensed or duly authorized child-placing agency in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. The home study shall make inquiry as to (i) whether the prospective adoptive parents are financially able, morally suitable, and in satisfactory physical and mental health to enable them to care for the child; (ii) the physical and mental condition of the child, if known; (iii) the circumstances under which the child came to live, or will be living, in the home of the prospective adoptive family, as applicable; (iv) what fees have been paid by the prospective adoptive family or in their behalf in the placement and adoption of the child; (v) whether the requirements of subdivisions A 1, A 2, A 3 and A 5 of § 63.2-1232 have been met; and (vi) any other matters specified by the circuit court. In the course of the home study, the agency social worker shall meet at least once with the birth parent(s) and at least once with the prospective adoptive parents. Upon agreement of both parties, such meetings may occur simultaneously or separately.

B. Any home study conducted pursuant to this section for the purpose of parental placement [or agency placement] shall be [~~approved~~ valid] for a period of [~~18~~ 24] months from the date of completion of the study.

ENGROSSED

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