

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-296.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to out-of-state child abuse*  
3 *and neglect data for school board applicants.*

4 [H 1679]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 22.1-296.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 22.1-296.4. Child abuse and neglect data required.

9 A. On and after July 1, 1997, every school board shall require, as a condition of employment, that  
10 any applicant who is offered or accepts employment requiring direct contact with students, whether  
11 full-time or part-time, permanent or temporary, provide written consent and the necessary personal  
12 information for the school board to obtain a search of the registry of founded complaints of child abuse  
13 and neglect maintained by the Department of Social Services pursuant to § 63.2-1515. The school board  
14 shall ensure that all such searches are requested in conformance with the regulations of the Board of  
15 Social Services. In addition, where the applicant has resided in another state within the last five years,  
16 the school board shall require as a condition of employment that such applicant provide written consent  
17 and the necessary personal information for the school board to obtain information from each relevant  
18 state as to whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in  
19 such state. The school board shall take reasonable steps to determine whether the applicant was the  
20 subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in the relevant state. ~~Such reasonable steps~~  
21 ~~shall include, but not be limited to, contacting any central child abuse and neglect registry maintained by~~  
22 ~~the relevant state.~~ The Department of Social Services shall maintain a database of central child abuse  
23 and neglect registries in other states *that provide access to out-of-state school boards*, for use by local  
24 school boards. The applicant may be required to pay the cost of any search conducted pursuant to this  
25 subsection at the discretion of the school board. From such funds as may be available for this purpose,  
26 however, the school board may pay for the search.

27 The Department of Social Services shall respond to such request by the school board in cases where  
28 there is no match within the central registry regarding applicants for employment within ten business  
29 days of receipt of such request. In cases where there is a match within the central registry regarding  
30 applicants for employment, the Department of Social Services shall respond to such request by the  
31 school board within thirty business days of receipt of such request. The response may be by first-class  
32 mail or facsimile transmission.

33 B. If the response obtained pursuant to subsection A indicates that the applicant is the subject of a  
34 founded case of child abuse and neglect, such applicant shall be denied employment, or the employment  
35 shall be rescinded.

36 C. If an applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on his record in the  
37 registry, the school board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the registry to the  
38 applicant. The information provided to the school board by the Department of Social Services shall be  
39 confidential and shall not be disseminated by the school board.

40 **2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.**

ENROLLED

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