

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 63.2-1709.3, relating to
3 child-placing agencies; conscience clause.

4 [H 189]
5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 63.2-1709.3 as follows:**

8 § 63.2-1709.3. *Child-placing agencies; conscience clause.*

9 A. *To the extent allowed by federal law, no private child-placing agency shall be required to*
10 *perform, assist, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer, or participate in any placement of a child for*
11 *foster care or adoption when the proposed placement would violate the agency's written religious or*
12 *moral convictions or policies.*

13 B. *The Commissioner shall not deny an application for an initial license or renewal of a license or*
14 *revoke the license of a private child-placing agency because of the agency's objection to performing,*
15 *assisting, counseling, recommending, consenting to, referring, or participating in a placement that*
16 *violates the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies.*

17 C. *A state or local government entity may not deny a private child-placing agency any grant,*
18 *contract, or participation in a government program because of the agency's objection to performing,*
19 *assisting, counseling, recommending, consenting to, referring, or participating in a placement that*
20 *violates the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies.*

21 D. *Refusal of a private child-placing agency to perform, assist, counsel, recommend, consent to,*
22 *refer, or participate in a placement that violates the agency's written religious or moral convictions or*
23 *policies shall not form the basis of any claim for damages.*

ENROLLED

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