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**HOUSE BILL NO. 500**

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 10, 2012

*A BILL to require the Department of Social Services to develop and implement policies and procedures to protect personal identifying information of children in foster care.*

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Patrons—Dance and Herring

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Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

*1. § 1. That the Department of Social Services shall develop and implement policies and procedures designed to protect personal identifying information of children entering foster care in order to prevent identity theft by foster care providers and others who may have access to personal identifying information of children in foster care. In doing so, the Department shall include policies and procedures for (i) assigning unique identifying numbers other than social security numbers to children entering foster care; (ii) limiting, to the greatest extent possible, disclosure of foster children's social security numbers and other unique identifying information to foster parents or other persons who may have access to personal information about a child in foster care; and (iii) responding to valid requests for information regarding a foster child's social security number or other personal identifying information from individuals and entities having a legitimate need for such information.*

*The Department shall also develop policies and procedures for (a) conducting routine credit checks on foster children to identify cases of identity theft or misuse of personal identifying information of children in foster care and (b) resolving cases of identity theft or misuse of a foster child's social security number or other personal identifying information, to the greatest extent possible.*

*The Department shall report to the General Assembly on its activities to implement the provisions of this act, including any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action necessary to enable the Department to implement the provisions of this act, no later than December 1, 2012.*

INTRODUCED

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