

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-3 and 58.1-3.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to disclosure of*  
 3 *tax information; Attorney General.*

4 [H 52]  
 5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That §§ 58.1-3 and 58.1-3.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 58.1-3. Secrecy of information; penalties.

9 A. Except in accordance with a proper judicial order or as otherwise provided by law, the Tax  
 10 Commissioner or agent, clerk, commissioner of the revenue, treasurer, or any other state or local tax or  
 11 revenue officer or employee, or any person to whom tax information is divulged pursuant to § 58.1-512  
 12 or 58.1-2712.2, or any former officer or employee of any of the aforementioned offices shall not divulge  
 13 any information acquired by him in the performance of his duties with respect to the transactions,  
 14 property, including personal property, income or business of any person, firm or corporation. Such  
 15 prohibition specifically includes any copy of a federal return or federal return information required by  
 16 Virginia law to be attached to or included in the Virginia return. This prohibition shall apply to any  
 17 reports, returns, financial documents or other information filed with the Attorney General pursuant to the  
 18 provisions of Article 3 (§ 3.2-4204 et seq.) of Chapter 42 of Title 3.2. Any person violating the  
 19 provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. The provisions of this subsection  
 20 shall not be applicable, however, to:

21 1. Matters required by law to be entered on any public assessment roll or book;

22 2. Acts performed or words spoken or published in the line of duty under the law;

23 3. Inquiries and investigations to obtain information as to the process of real estate assessments by a  
 24 duly constituted committee of the General Assembly, or when such inquiry or investigation is relevant to  
 25 its study, provided that any such information obtained shall be privileged;26 4. The sales price, date of construction, physical dimensions or characteristics of real property, or any  
 27 information required for building permits;28 5. Copies of or information contained in an estate's probate tax return, filed with the clerk of court  
 29 pursuant to § 58.1-1714, when requested by a beneficiary of the estate or an heir at law of the decedent;30 6. Information regarding nonprofit entities exempt from sales and use tax under § 58.1-609.11, when  
 31 requested by the General Assembly or any duly constituted committee of the General Assembly;;

32 7. *Reports or information filed with the Attorney General by a Stamping Agent pursuant to the*  
 33 *provisions of Article 3 (§ 3.2-4204 et seq.), when such reports or information are provided by the*  
 34 *Attorney General to a tobacco products manufacturer who is required to establish a qualified escrow*  
 35 *fund pursuant to § 3.2-4201 and are limited to the brand families of that manufacturer as listed in the*  
 36 *Tobacco Directory established pursuant to § 3.2-4206 and are limited to the current or previous two*  
 37 *calendar years or in any year in which the Attorney General receives Stamping Agent information that*  
 38 *potentially alters the required escrow deposit of the manufacturer. The information shall only be*  
 39 *provided in the following manner: the manufacturer may make a written request, on a quarterly or*  
 40 *yearly basis or when the manufacturer is notified by the Attorney General of a potential change in the*  
 41 *amount of a required escrow deposit, to the Attorney General for a list of the Stamping Agents who*  
 42 *reported stamping or selling its products and the amount reported. The Attorney General shall provide*  
 43 *the list within 15 days of receipt of the request. If the manufacturer wishes to obtain actual copies of*  
 44 *the reports the Stamping Agents filed with the Attorney General, it must first request them from the*  
 45 *Stamping Agents pursuant to subsection C of § 3.2-4209. If the manufacturer does not receive the*  
 46 *reports pursuant to subsection C of § 3.2-4209, the manufacturer may make a written request to the*  
 47 *Attorney General, including a copy of the prior written request to the Stamping Agent and any response*  
 48 *received, for copies of any reports not received. The Attorney General shall provide copies of the*  
 49 *reports within 45 days of receipt of the request.*

50 B. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit the publication of statistics so  
 51 classified as to prevent the identification of particular reports or returns and the items thereof or the  
 52 publication of delinquent lists showing the names of taxpayers who are currently delinquent, together  
 53 with any relevant information which in the opinion of the Department may assist in the collection of  
 54 such delinquent taxes. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a local tax official from disclosing  
 55 whether a person, firm or corporation is licensed to do business in that locality and divulging, upon  
 56 written request, the name and address of any person, firm or corporation transacting business under a

57 fictitious name. Additionally, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner of revenue  
58 is authorized to provide, upon written request stating the reason for such request, the Tax Commissioner  
59 with information obtained from local tax returns and other information pertaining to the income, sales  
60 and property of any person, firm or corporation licensed to do business in that locality.

61 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A or B or any other provision of this title, the Tax  
62 Commissioner is authorized to: (i) divulge tax information to any commissioner of the revenue, director  
63 of finance or other similar collector of county, city or town taxes who, for the performance of his  
64 official duties, requests the same in writing setting forth the reasons for such request; (ii) provide to the  
65 Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, upon written request, information on the amount of  
66 income, filing status, number and type of dependents, and whether a federal earned income tax credit  
67 has been claimed as reported by persons on their state income tax returns who have applied for public  
68 assistance or social services benefits as defined in § 63.2-100; (iii) provide to the chief executive officer  
69 of the designated student loan guarantor for the Commonwealth of Virginia, upon written request, the  
70 names and home addresses of those persons identified by the designated guarantor as having delinquent  
71 loans guaranteed by the designated guarantor; (iv) provide current address information upon request to  
72 state agencies and institutions for their confidential use in facilitating the collection of accounts  
73 receivable, and to the clerk of a circuit or district court for their confidential use in facilitating the  
74 collection of fines, penalties and costs imposed in a proceeding in that court; (v) provide to the  
75 Commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission, after entering into a written agreement, such  
76 tax information as may be necessary to facilitate the collection of unemployment taxes and overpaid  
77 benefits; (vi) provide to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, upon entering into a written agreement,  
78 such tax information as may be necessary to facilitate the collection of state and local taxes and the  
79 administration of the alcoholic beverage control laws; (vii) provide to the Director of the State Lottery  
80 Department such tax information as may be necessary to identify those lottery ticket retailers who owe  
81 delinquent taxes; (viii) provide to the Department of the Treasury for its confidential use such tax  
82 information as may be necessary to facilitate the location of owners and holders of unclaimed property,  
83 as defined in § 55-210.2; (ix) provide to the State Corporation Commission, upon entering into a written  
84 agreement, such tax information as may be necessary to facilitate the collection of taxes and fees  
85 administered by the Commission; (x) provide to the Executive Director of the Potomac and  
86 Rappahannock Transportation Commission for his confidential use such tax information as may be  
87 necessary to facilitate the collection of the motor vehicle fuel sales tax; (xi) provide to the  
88 Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services such tax information as may be  
89 necessary to identify those applicants for registration as a supplier of charitable gaming supplies who  
90 have not filed required returns or who owe delinquent taxes; (xii) provide to the Department of Housing  
91 and Community Development for its confidential use such tax information as may be necessary to  
92 facilitate the administration of the remaining effective provisions of the Enterprise Zone Act (§ 59.1-270  
93 et seq.), and the Enterprise Zone Grant Program (§ 59.1-538 et seq.); (xiii) provide current name and  
94 address information to private collectors entering into a written agreement with the Tax Commissioner,  
95 for their confidential use when acting on behalf of the Commonwealth or any of its political  
96 subdivisions; however, the Tax Commissioner is not authorized to provide such information to a private  
97 collector who has used or disseminated in an unauthorized or prohibited manner any such information  
98 previously provided to such collector; (xiv) provide current name and address information as to the  
99 identity of the wholesale or retail dealer that affixed a tax stamp to a package of cigarettes to any  
100 person who manufactures or sells at retail or wholesale cigarettes and who may bring an action for  
101 injunction or other equitable relief for violation of Chapter 10.1, Enforcement of Illegal Sale or  
102 Distribution of Cigarettes Act; (xv) provide to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, upon entering  
103 into a written agreement, such tax information as may be necessary to facilitate the collection of unpaid  
104 wages under § 40.1-29; (xvi) provide to the Director of the Department of Human Resource  
105 Management, upon entering into a written agreement, such tax information as may be necessary to  
106 identify persons receiving workers' compensation indemnity benefits who have failed to report earnings  
107 as required by § 65.2-712; (xvii) provide to any commissioner of the revenue, director of finance, or any  
108 other officer of any county, city, or town performing any or all of the duties of a commissioner of the  
109 revenue and to any dealer registered for the collection of the Communications Sales and Use Tax, a list  
110 of the names, business addresses, and dates of registration of all dealers registered for such tax; and  
111 (xviii) provide to the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for his  
112 confidential use such tax information as may be necessary to facilitate the collection of the motor  
113 vehicle fuel sales tax. The Tax Commissioner is further authorized to enter into written agreements with  
114 duly constituted tax officials of other states and of the United States for the inspection of tax returns, the  
115 making of audits, and the exchange of information relating to any tax administered by the Department  
116 of Taxation. Any person to whom tax information is divulged pursuant to this section shall be subject to  
117 the prohibitions and penalties prescribed herein as though he were a tax official.

118 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A or B or any other provision of this title, the  
 119 commissioner of revenue or other assessing official is authorized to (i) provide, upon written request  
 120 stating the reason for such request, the chief executive officer of any county or city with information  
 121 furnished to the commissioner of revenue by the Tax Commissioner relating to the name and address of  
 122 any dealer located within the county or city who paid sales and use tax, for the purpose of verifying the  
 123 local sales and use tax revenues payable to the county or city; (ii) provide to the Department of  
 124 Professional and Occupational Regulation for its confidential use the name, address, and amount of gross  
 125 receipts of any person, firm or entity subject to a criminal investigation of an unlawful practice of a  
 126 profession or occupation administered by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation,  
 127 only after the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation exhausts all other means of  
 128 obtaining such information; and (iii) provide to any representative of a condominium unit owners'  
 129 association, property owners' association or real estate cooperative association, or to the owner of  
 130 property governed by any such association, the names and addresses of parties having a security interest  
 131 in real property governed by any such association; however, such information shall be released only  
 132 upon written request stating the reason for such request, which reason shall be limited to proposing or  
 133 opposing changes to the governing documents of the association, and any information received by any  
 134 person under this subsection shall be used only for the reason stated in the written request. The treasurer  
 135 or other local assessing official may require any person requesting information pursuant to clause (iii) of  
 136 this subsection to pay the reasonable cost of providing such information. Any person to whom tax  
 137 information is divulged pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the prohibitions and penalties  
 138 prescribed herein as though he were a tax official.

139 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A or B or any other provisions of this title, the  
 140 treasurer or other collector of taxes for a county, city or town is authorized to provide information  
 141 relating to any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer obtained by such treasurer or collector in the course  
 142 of performing his duties to the commissioner of the revenue or other assessing official for such  
 143 jurisdiction for use by such commissioner or other official in performing assessments.

144 This section shall not be construed to prohibit a local tax official from imprinting or displaying on a  
 145 motor vehicle local license decal the year, make, and model and any other legal identification  
 146 information about the particular motor vehicle for which that local license decal is assigned.

147 E. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, state agencies and any other administrative or  
 148 regulatory unit of state government shall divulge to the Tax Commissioner or his authorized agent, upon  
 149 written request, the name, address, and social security number of a taxpayer, necessary for the  
 150 performance of the Commissioner's official duties regarding the administration and enforcement of laws  
 151 within the jurisdiction of the Department of Taxation. The receipt of information by the Tax  
 152 Commissioner or his agent which may be deemed taxpayer information shall not relieve the  
 153 Commissioner of the obligations under this section.

154 F. Additionally, it shall be unlawful for any person to disseminate, publish, or cause to be published  
 155 any confidential tax document which he knows or has reason to know is a confidential tax document. A  
 156 confidential tax document is any correspondence, document, or tax return that is prohibited from being  
 157 divulged by subsection A, B, C, or D of this section and includes any document containing information  
 158 on the transactions, property, income, or business of any person, firm, or corporation that is required to  
 159 be filed with any state official by § 58.1-512. This prohibition shall not apply if such confidential tax  
 160 document has been divulged or disseminated pursuant to a provision of law authorizing disclosure. Any  
 161 person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

162 § 58.1-3.2. Attorney General's and Tax Commissioner's authority to request and share information.

163 Notwithstanding the provisions of § 58.1-3, the *Attorney General and the Tax Commissioner* ~~is~~ *are*  
 164 authorized to disclose any information collected by him, or reported or provided to him, on the sales or  
 165 purchases of cigarettes or other tobacco products, and tax information relating to such sales or  
 166 purchases, to any federal, state, or local agency, including any agency of another state or local agency  
 167 thereof, or any national or regional association of federal, state, or local agencies. Such tax information  
 168 shall include any information acquired by him in the performance of his duties with respect to the  
 169 transactions, property, including personal property, income, business or tax returns of any person, firm,  
 170 or corporation.

171 Further, the *Attorney General and the Tax Commissioner* ~~is~~ *are* authorized to disclose information  
 172 collected by him, or reported or provided to him, on the sales or purchases of cigarettes or other tobacco  
 173 products to any tobacco product manufacturer required to establish a qualified escrow fund under  
 174 § 3.2-4201. Such information provided to any tobacco product manufacturer shall be limited to brands or  
 175 products of that manufacturer only.