

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 60.2-500 of the Code of Virginia, relating to representation by the*  
3 *Office of the Attorney General at Virginia Employment Commission proceedings.*

4 [S 295]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 60.2-500 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 60.2-500. Determination with respect to whether employing unit is employer; whether services  
9 constitute employment; or whether business transfer is illegal.

10 A. The Commission may, upon its own motion or upon application of an employing unit, and after  
11 not less than 30 days' notice in writing mailed to the last known address of such employing unit and an  
12 opportunity for hearing, make findings of fact, and on that basis, determine whether:

13 1. An employing unit constitutes an employer;

14 2. Services performed for or in connection with the business of an employing unit constitute  
15 employment for such employing unit; or

16 3. There has been a transfer as defined in § 60.2-536.1.

17 B. All testimony at any hearing pursuant to this section shall be recorded but need not be transcribed  
18 unless a petition for judicial review from such determination is filed in the manner herein prescribed. At  
19 such hearing the interests of the Commonwealth ~~shall~~ may be represented by the Office of the Attorney  
20 General. The Commissioner shall have the power to designate a special examiner to hold such hearings,  
21 and may authorize and empower such special examiner to decide any matter so heard, in which event  
22 the decision of such special examiner shall be the final decision of the Commission under this section,  
23 subject to judicial review under subsection C. The Commissioner or his designee shall promptly inform  
24 the appropriate attorney for the Commonwealth of any final decision that an employer transferred or  
25 attempted to transfer a trade or business for the primary or sole purpose of obtaining a lower  
26 unemployment tax rate, or was advised to do so.

27 C. Judicial review of any such determination made in subsection B may be initiated within 30 days  
28 after mailing notice of such findings and determination to the employing unit or, in the absence of  
29 mailing, within 30 days after delivering such notice and determination, in the Circuit Court of the City  
30 of Richmond. Such judicial review shall be commenced by the filing of a petition, which need not be  
31 verified but which shall state the grounds upon which a review is sought. Service of two copies of such  
32 petition upon the Commissioner shall be deemed completed service and such petition shall be filed with  
33 the clerk of the court within five days after service thereof. With its answer the Commission shall  
34 certify and file with the court all documents and papers and a transcript of all testimony taken in the  
35 matter, together with its findings of fact and decision therein. In any judicial proceedings under this  
36 article, the Commission's findings of facts, if supported by the evidence and in the absence of fraud,  
37 shall be conclusive, and the jurisdiction of the court shall be confined to questions of law. Such actions  
38 shall be given preference on the docket over all other cases except cases to which the Commonwealth is  
39 a party.

40 D. An appeal may be taken from the decision of such court to the Court of Appeals, in conformity  
41 with Part Five A of the Rules of Supreme Court and other applicable laws. In any such proceedings for  
42 judicial review, the Commission shall be represented by the Office of the Attorney General. A  
43 determination by the Commission from which no judicial review has been commenced shall be  
44 conclusive in any subsequent judicial proceeding involving liability for taxes against the employing unit  
45 or its successor under the provisions of subdivision B 1 of § 60.2-210 and of subsection B of  
46 § 60.2-523.

ENROLLED

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