2016 SESSION

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VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3705.6, 2.2-3711, and 23-9.6:1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 23 a chapter numbered 28, consisting of sections numbered 23-304 through 23-307, and by adding in Article 3.1 of Chapter 1 of Title 51.1 a section numbered 51.1-124.38, relating to research and development in the Commonwealth.

[H 1343]

8 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

9 1. That §§ 2.2-3705.6, 2.2-3711, and 23-9.6:1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted 10 and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 23 a chapter numbered 28, consisting 11 of sections numbered 23-304 through 23-307, and by adding in Article 3.1 of Chapter 1 of Title 12 51.1 a section numbered 51.1-124.38 as follows:

Approved

§ 2.2-3705.6. Exclusions to application of chapter; proprietary records and trade secrets.

14 The following records are excluded from the provisions of this chapter but may be disclosed by the custodian in his discretion, except where such disclosure is prohibited by law:

16 1. Proprietary information gathered by or for the Virginia Port Authority as provided in § 62.1-132.417 or 62.1-134.1.

18 2. Financial statements not publicly available filed with applications for industrial development19 financings in accordance with Chapter 49 (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.) of Title 15.2.

3. Confidential proprietary records, voluntarily provided by private business pursuant to a promise of
confidentiality from a public body, used by the public body for business, trade and tourism development
or retention; and memoranda, working papers or other records related to businesses that are considering
locating or expanding in Virginia, prepared by a public body, where competition or bargaining is
involved and where, if such records are made public, the financial interest of the public body would be
adversely affected.

4. Information that was filed as confidential under the Toxic Substances Information Act (§ 32.1-239 et seq.), as such Act existed prior to July 1, 1992.

5. Fisheries data that would permit identification of any person or vessel, except when required by court order as specified in § 28.2-204.

6. Confidential financial statements, balance sheets, trade secrets, and revenue and cost projections
provided to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, provided such information is exempt
under the federal Freedom of Information Act or the federal Interstate Commerce Act or other laws
administered by the Surface Transportation Board or the Federal Railroad Administration with respect to
data provided in confidence to the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Railroad
Administration.

36 7. Confidential proprietary records related to inventory and sales, voluntarily provided by private
 37 energy suppliers to the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, used by that Department for energy
 38 contingency planning purposes or for developing consolidated statistical information on energy supplies.

8. Confidential proprietary information furnished to the Board of Medical Assistance Services or the
Medicaid Prior Authorization Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 4 (§ 32.1-331.12 et seq.) of
Chapter 10 of Title 32.1.

42 9. Proprietary, commercial or financial information, balance sheets, trade secrets, and revenue and 43 cost projections provided by a private transportation business to the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the purpose of conducting 44 45 transportation studies needed to obtain grants or other financial assistance under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (P.L. 105-178) for transportation projects, provided such information is 46 exempt under the federal Freedom of Information Act or the federal Interstate Commerce Act or other 47 48 laws administered by the Surface Transportation Board or the Federal Railroad Administration with 49 respect to data provided in confidence to the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Railroad 50 Administration. However, the exemption provided by this subdivision shall not apply to any wholly owned subsidiary of a public body. 51

52 10. Confidential information designated as provided in subsection F of § 2.2-4342 as trade secrets or
53 proprietary information by any person who has submitted to a public body an application for
54 prequalification to bid on public construction projects in accordance with subsection B of § 2.2-4317.

55 11. a. Memoranda, staff evaluations, or other records prepared by the responsible public entity, its staff, outside advisors, or consultants exclusively for the evaluation and negotiation of proposals filed

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under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (§ 33.2-1800 et seq.) or the Public Private 57 58 Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (§ 56-575.1 et seq.), where (i) if such records were 59 made public prior to or after the execution of an interim or a comprehensive agreement, § 33.2-1820 or 60 56-575.17 notwithstanding, the financial interest or bargaining position of the public entity would be 61 adversely affected, and (ii) the basis for the determination required in clause (i) is documented in writing 62 by the responsible public entity; and

63 b. Records provided by a private entity to a responsible public entity, affected jurisdiction, or 64 affected local jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 or the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002, to the extent that such records 65 contain (i) trade secrets of the private entity as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et 66 seq.); (ii) financial records of the private entity, including balance sheets and financial statements, that 67 are not generally available to the public through regulatory disclosure or otherwise; or (iii) other 68 information submitted by the private entity, where, if the records were made public prior to the 69 70 execution of an interim agreement or a comprehensive agreement, the financial interest or bargaining position of the public or private entity would be adversely affected. In order for the records specified in 71 72 clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter, the private entity shall make 73 a written request to the responsible public entity:

74 1. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from 75 disclosure is sought; 76

2. Identifying with specificity the data or other materials for which protection is sought; and

3. Stating the reasons why protection is necessary.

77 78 The responsible public entity shall determine whether the requested exclusion from disclosure is 79 necessary to protect the trade secrets or financial records of the private entity. To protect other records 80 submitted by the private entity from disclosure, the responsible public entity shall determine whether 81 public disclosure prior to the execution of an interim agreement or a comprehensive agreement would adversely affect the financial interest or bargaining position of the public or private entity. The 82 responsible public entity shall make a written determination of the nature and scope of the protection to 83 84 be afforded by the responsible public entity under this subdivision. Once a written determination is made by the responsible public entity, the records afforded protection under this subdivision shall continue to 85 be protected from disclosure when in the possession of any affected jurisdiction or affected local 86 87 jurisdiction.

88 Except as specifically provided in subdivision 11 a, nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to 89 authorize the withholding of (a) procurement records as required by § 33.2-1820 or 56-575.17; (b) 90 information concerning the terms and conditions of any interim or comprehensive agreement, service 91 contract, lease, partnership, or any agreement of any kind entered into by the responsible public entity 92 and the private entity; (c) information concerning the terms and conditions of any financing arrangement 93 that involves the use of any public funds; or (d) information concerning the performance of any private 94 entity developing or operating a qualifying transportation facility or a qualifying project.

For the purposes of this subdivision, the terms "affected jurisdiction," "affected local jurisdiction," "comprehensive agreement," "interim agreement," "qualifying project," "qualifying transportation facility," "responsible public entity," and "private entity" shall mean the same as those terms are defined 95 96 97 98 in the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 or in the Public-Private Education Facilities and 99 Infrastructure Act of 2002.

100 12. Confidential proprietary information or trade secrets, not publicly available, provided by a private 101 person or entity to the Virginia Resources Authority or to a fund administered in connection with 102 financial assistance rendered or to be rendered by the Virginia Resources Authority where, if such information were made public, the financial interest of the private person or entity would be adversely 103 104 affected, and, after June 30, 1997, where such information was provided pursuant to a promise of 105 confidentiality.

106 13. Trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.), or confidential 107 proprietary records that are not generally available to the public through regulatory disclosure or 108 otherwise, provided by a (a) bidder or applicant for a franchise or (b) franchisee under Chapter 21 109 (§ 15.2-2100 et seq.) of Title 15.2 to the applicable franchising authority pursuant to a promise of 110 confidentiality from the franchising authority, to the extent the records relate to the bidder's, applicant's, or franchisee's financial capacity or provision of new services, adoption of new technologies or 111 implementation of improvements, where such new services, technologies or improvements have not been 112 113 implemented by the franchise on a nonexperimental scale in the franchise area, and where, if such 114 records were made public, the competitive advantage or financial interests of the franchisee would be 115 adversely affected.

116 In order for trade secrets or confidential proprietary information to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter, the bidder, applicant, or franchisee shall (i) invoke such exclusion upon submission of 117

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118 the data or other materials for which protection from disclosure is sought, (ii) identify the data or other 119 materials for which protection is sought, and (iii) state the reason why protection is necessary.

No bidder, applicant, or franchisee may invoke the exclusion provided by this subdivision if the
bidder, applicant, or franchisee is owned or controlled by a public body or if any representative of the
applicable franchising authority serves on the management board or as an officer of the bidder,
applicant, or franchisee.

124 14. Documents and other information of a proprietary nature furnished by a supplier of charitable
 125 gaming supplies to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to subsection E of
 126 § 18.2-340.34.

127 15. Records and reports related to Virginia apple producer sales provided to the Virginia State Apple128 Board pursuant to § 3.2-1215.

129 16. Trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.) of Title 59.1,
130 submitted by CMRS providers as defined in § 56-484.12 to the Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery
131 Subcommittee created pursuant to § 56-484.15, relating to the provision of wireless E-911 service.

132 17. Records submitted as a grant or loan application, or accompanying a grant or loan application, to 133 the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority pursuant to Article 3 (§ 2.2-2233.1 et seq.) of 134 Chapter 22 of Title 2.2 or to the Commonwealth Health Research Board pursuant to Chapter 22 135 (§ 23-277 et seq.) of Title 23 to the extent such records contain proprietary business or research-related 136 information produced or collected by the applicant in the conduct of or as a result of study or research 137 on medical, rehabilitative, scientific, technical, technological, or scholarly issues, when such information 138 has not been publicly released, published, copyrighted, or patented, if the disclosure of such information 139 would be harmful to the competitive position of the applicant.

140 18. Confidential proprietary records and trade secrets developed and held by a local public body (i) providing telecommunication services pursuant to § 56-265.4:4 and (ii) providing cable television 141 services pursuant to Article 1.1 (§ 15.2-2108.2 et seq.) of Chapter 21 of Title 15.2, to the extent that 142 disclosure of such records would be harmful to the competitive position of the locality. In order for 143 144 confidential proprietary information or trade secrets to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter, 145 the locality in writing shall (a) invoke the protections of this subdivision, (b) identify with specificity the 146 records or portions thereof for which protection is sought, and (c) state the reasons why protection is 147 necessary.

148 19. Confidential proprietary records and trade secrets developed by or for a local authority created in 149 accordance with the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5431.1 et seq.) to provide 150 qualifying communications services as authorized by Article 5.1 (§ 56-484.7:1 et seq.) of Chapter 15 of 151 Title 56, where disclosure of such information would be harmful to the competitive position of the 152 authority, except that records required to be maintained in accordance with § 15.2-2160 shall be 153 released.

154 20. Trade secrets as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.) or financial 155 records of a business, including balance sheets and financial statements, that are not generally available 156 to the public through regulatory disclosure or otherwise, provided to the Department of Small Business 157 and Supplier Diversity as part of an application for certification as a small, women-owned, or 158 minority-owned business in accordance with Chapter 16.1 (§ 2.2-1603 et seq.). In order for such trade 159 secrets or financial records to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter, the business shall (i) 160 invoke such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from 161 disclosure is sought, (ii) identify the data or other materials for which protection is sought, and (iii) state 162 the reasons why protection is necessary.

163 21. Documents and other information of a proprietary or confidential nature disclosed by a carrier to 164 the State Health Commissioner pursuant to §§ 32.1-276.5:1 and 32.1-276.7:1.

165 22. Trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.), including, but not limited to, financial records, including balance sheets and financial statements, that are not generally available to the public through regulatory disclosure or otherwise, and revenue and cost projections supplied by a private or nongovernmental entity to the State Inspector General for the purpose of an audit, special investigation, or any study requested by the Office of the State Inspector General in accordance with law.

171 In order for the records specified in this subdivision to be excluded from the provisions of this172 chapter, the private or nongovernmental entity shall make a written request to the State Inspector173 General:

174 1. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from175 disclosure is sought;

- 176 2. Identifying with specificity the data or other materials for which protection is sought; and
- 177 3. Stating the reasons why protection is necessary.
- 178 The State Inspector General shall determine whether the requested exclusion from disclosure is

179 necessary to protect the trade secrets or financial records of the private entity. The State Inspector180 General shall make a written determination of the nature and scope of the protection to be afforded by it181 under this subdivision.

182 23. Records submitted as a grant application, or accompanying a grant application, to the Tobacco 183 Region Revitalization Commission to the extent such records contain (i) trade secrets as defined in the 184 Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.), (ii) financial records of a grant applicant that is not a 185 public body, including balance sheets and financial statements, that are not generally available to the 186 public through regulatory disclosure or otherwise, or (iii) research-related information produced or 187 collected by the applicant in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on medical, rehabilitative, 188 scientific, technical, technological, or scholarly issues, when such information has not been publicly 189 released, published, copyrighted, or patented, if the disclosure of such information would be harmful to 190 the competitive position of the applicant; and memoranda, staff evaluations, or other records prepared by 191 the Commission or its staff exclusively for the evaluation of grant applications. The exclusion provided 192 by this subdivision shall apply to grants that are consistent with the powers of and in furtherance of the performance of the duties of the Commission pursuant to § 3.2-3103. 193

194 In order for the records specified in this subdivision to be excluded from the provisions of this 195 chapter, the applicant shall make a written request to the Commission:

196 1. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from197 disclosure is sought;

198 2. Identifying with specificity the data, records or other materials for which protection is sought; and3. Stating the reasons why protection is necessary.

The Commission shall determine whether the requested exclusion from disclosure is necessary to
 protect the trade secrets, financial records or research-related information of the applicant. The
 Commission shall make a written determination of the nature and scope of the protection to be afforded
 by it under this subdivision.

204 24. a. Records of the Commercial Space Flight Authority relating to rate structures or charges for the
205 use of projects of, the sale of products of, or services rendered by the Authority if public disclosure
206 would adversely affect the financial interest or bargaining position of the Authority or a private entity
207 providing records to the Authority; or

b. Records provided by a private entity to the Commercial Space Flight Authority, to the extent that
such records contain (i) trade secrets of the private entity as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act
(§ 59.1-336 et seq.); (ii) financial records of the private entity, including balance sheets and financial
statements, that are not generally available to the public through regulatory disclosure or otherwise; or
(iii) other information submitted by the private entity, where, if the records were made public, the
financial interest or bargaining position of the Authority or private entity would be adversely affected.

In order for the records specified in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subdivision 24 b to be excluded from
the provisions of this chapter, the private entity shall make a written request to the Authority:
I. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from

1. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from disclosure is sought;

2. Identifying with specificity the data or other materials for which protection is sought; and

3. Stating the reasons why protection is necessary.

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The Authority shall determine whether the requested exclusion from disclosure is necessary to protect the trade secrets or financial records of the private entity. To protect other records submitted by the private entity from disclosure, the Authority shall determine whether public disclosure would adversely affect the financial interest or bargaining position of the Authority or private entity. The Authority shall make a written determination of the nature and scope of the protection to be afforded by it under this subdivision.

226 25. Documents and other information of a proprietary nature furnished by an agricultural landowner
227 or operator to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Environmental
228 Quality, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or any political subdivision, agency, or
229 board of the Commonwealth pursuant to §§ 10.1-104.7, 10.1-104.8, and 10.1-104.9, other than when
230 required as part of a state or federal regulatory enforcement action.

231 26. Trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.), provided to the
232 Department of Environmental Quality pursuant to the provisions of § 10.1-1458. In order for such trade
233 secrets to be excluded from the provisions of this chapter, the submitting party shall (i) invoke this
234 exclusion upon submission of the data or materials for which protection from disclosure is sought, (ii)
235 identify the data or materials for which protection is sought, and (iii) state the reasons why protection is
236 necessary.

237 27. Documents and other information of a proprietary nature furnished by a licensed public-use
238 airport to the Department of Aviation for funding from programs administered by the Department of
239 Aviation or the Virginia Aviation Board, where if the records were made public, the financial interest of

240 the public-use airport would be adversely affected.

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In order for the records specified in this subdivision to be excluded from the provisions of this 241 242 chapter, the public-use airport shall make a written request to the Department of Aviation:

243 1. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from 244 disclosure is sought;

2. Identifying with specificity the data or other materials for which protection is sought; and

246 3. Stating the reasons why protection is necessary.

247 28. Records submitted as a grant or loan application, or accompanying a grant or loan application, 248 for an award from the Virginia Research Investment Fund pursuant to Chapter 28 (§ 23-304 et seq.) of 249 Title 23, to the extent that such records contain proprietary business or research-related information 250 produced or collected by the applicant in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on medical, 251 rehabilitative, scientific, technical, technological, or scholarly issues, when such information has not 252 been publicly released, published, copyrighted, or patented, if the disclosure of such information would 253 be harmful to the competitive position of the applicant.

§ 2.2-3711. Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.

A. Public bodies may hold closed meetings only for the following purposes:

255 256 1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, 257 appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public 258 officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or 259 schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve 260 discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present 261 during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that 262 involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the 263 teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.

264 2. Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would 265 involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student of any 266 Virginia public institution of higher education or any state school system. However, any such student, legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians shall be permitted to 267 268 be present during the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence at a closed meeting, if such 269 student, parents, or guardians so request in writing and such request is submitted to the presiding officer 270 of the appropriate board.

271 3. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the 272 disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect 273 the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. 274

4. The protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business.

275 5. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business 276 or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in 277 locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

278 6. Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is 279 involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be 280 adversely affected.

281 7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual 282 or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the 283 negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or 284 retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such 285 counsel. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe 286 287 will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to 288 permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance 289 or is consulted on a matter.

290 8. In the case of boards of visitors of public institutions of higher education, discussion or 291 consideration of matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities, and grants and contracts 292 for services or work to be performed by such institution. However, the terms and conditions of any such 293 gifts, bequests, grants, and contracts made by a foreign government, a foreign legal entity, or a foreign 294 person and accepted by a public institution of higher education in Virginia shall be subject to public 295 disclosure upon written request to the appropriate board of visitors. For the purpose of this subdivision, 296 (i) "foreign government" means any government other than the United States government or the 297 government of a state or a political subdivision thereof; (ii) "foreign legal entity" means any legal entity 298 created under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof if a majority of the ownership of the 299 stock of such legal entity is owned by foreign governments or foreign persons or if a majority of the membership of any such entity is composed of foreign persons or foreign legal entities, or any legal 300

301 entity created under the laws of a foreign government; and (iii) "foreign person" means any individual 302 who is not a citizen or national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof.

303 9. In the case of the boards of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Virginia Museum 304 of Natural History, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and The Science Museum of Virginia, 305 discussion or consideration of matters relating to specific gifts, bequests, and grants. 306

10. Discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards.

307 11. Discussion or consideration of tests, examinations, or other records excluded from this chapter 308 pursuant to subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.1.

309 12. Discussion, consideration, or review by the appropriate House or Senate committees of possible 310 disciplinary action against a member arising out of the possible inadequacy of the disclosure statement 311 filed by the member, provided the member may request in writing that the committee meeting not be 312 conducted in a closed meeting.

313 13. Discussion of strategy with respect to the negotiation of a hazardous waste siting agreement or to 314 consider the terms, conditions, and provisions of a hazardous waste siting agreement if the governing 315 body in open meeting finds that an open meeting will have an adverse effect upon the negotiating 316 position of the governing body or the establishment of the terms, conditions and provisions of the siting 317 agreement, or both. All discussions with the applicant or its representatives may be conducted in a 318 closed meeting.

319 14. Discussion by the Governor and any economic advisory board reviewing forecasts of economic 320 activity and estimating general and nongeneral fund revenues.

321 15. Discussion or consideration of medical and mental health records excluded from this chapter 322 pursuant to subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.5.

323 16. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board in a licensing appeal action conducted pursuant to 324 subsection D of § 58.1-4007 regarding the denial or revocation of a license of a lottery sales agent; and 325 discussion, consideration or review of Virginia Lottery matters related to proprietary lottery game 326 information and studies or investigations exempted from disclosure under subdivision 6 of § 2.2-3705.3 327 and subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.7.

17. Those portions of meetings by local government crime commissions where the identity of, or 328 329 information tending to identify, individuals providing information about crimes or criminal activities 330 under a promise of anonymity is discussed or disclosed.

331 18. Those portions of meetings in which the Board of Corrections discusses or discloses the identity 332 of, or information tending to identify, any prisoner who (i) provides information about crimes or 333 criminal activities, (ii) renders assistance in preventing the escape of another prisoner or in the 334 apprehension of an escaped prisoner, or (iii) voluntarily or at the instance of a prison official renders 335 other extraordinary services, the disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize the prisoner's life or safety.

19. Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement 336 337 338 or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to public safety; discussion of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 3 or 4 of 339 340 § 2.2-3705.2, where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the 341 security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program; or 342 discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, 343 or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure.

344 20. Discussion by the Board of the Virginia Retirement System, acting pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, or 345 of any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, or of the Rector and Visitors of the 346 University of Virginia, acting pursuant to § 23-76.1, or by the Board of the Virginia College Savings 347 Plan, acting pursuant to § 23-38.80, regarding the acquisition, holding or disposition of a security or 348 other ownership interest in an entity, where such security or ownership interest is not traded on a 349 governmentally regulated securities exchange, to the extent that such discussion (i) concerns confidential 350 analyses prepared for the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia, prepared by the retirement system or by the Virginia College Savings Plan or provided to the retirement system or the Virginia 351 College Savings Plan under a promise of confidentiality, of the future value of such ownership interest 352 or the future financial performance of the entity, and (ii) would have an adverse effect on the value of 353 354 the investment to be acquired, held or disposed of by the retirement system, the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia, or the Virginia College Savings Plan. Nothing in this subdivision shall be 355 356 construed to prevent the disclosure of information relating to the identity of any investment held, the 357 amount invested or the present value of such investment.

358 21. Those portions of meetings in which individual child death cases are discussed by the State Child 359 Fatality Review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.1, those portions of meetings in which 360 individual child death cases are discussed by a regional or local child fatality review team established 361 pursuant to § 32.1-283.2, those portions of meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by

family violence fatality review teams established pursuant to § 32.1-283.3, those portions of meetings in
which individual adult death cases are discussed by the state Adult Fatality Review Team established
pursuant to § 32.1-283.5, and those portions of meetings in which individual adult death cases are
discussed by a local or regional adult fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.6.

366 22. Those portions of meetings of the University of Virginia Board of Visitors or the Eastern 367 Virginia Medical School Board of Visitors, as the case may be, and those portions of meetings of any 368 persons to whom management responsibilities for the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern 369 Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, have been delegated, in which there is discussed 370 proprietary, business-related information pertaining to the operations of the University of Virginia 371 Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, including business development 372 or marketing strategies and activities with existing or future joint venturers, partners, or other parties 373 with whom the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case 374 may be, has formed, or forms, any arrangement for the delivery of health care, if disclosure of such 375 information would adversely affect the competitive position of the Medical Center or Eastern Virginia 376 Medical School, as the case may be.

377 23. In the case of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority, discussion or 378 consideration of any of the following: the acquisition or disposition of real or personal property where 379 disclosure would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Authority; 380 operational plans that could affect the value of such property, real or personal, owned or desirable for 381 ownership by the Authority; matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities; grants and 382 contracts for services or work to be performed by the Authority; marketing or operational strategies 383 where disclosure of such strategies would adversely affect the competitive position of the Authority; 384 members of its medical and teaching staffs and qualifications for appointments thereto; and qualifications 385 or evaluations of other employees. This exemption shall also apply when the foregoing discussions occur 386 at a meeting of the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors.

387 24. Those portions of the meetings of the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program Committee within
388 the Department of Health Professions to the extent such discussions identify any practitioner who may
389 be, or who actually is, impaired pursuant to Chapter 25.1 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1.

390 25. Meetings or portions of meetings of the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan wherein
391 personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, which has been provided to the Board or its employees
392 by or on behalf of individuals who have requested information about, applied for, or entered into
393 prepaid tuition contracts or savings trust account agreements pursuant to Chapter 4.9 (§ 23-38.75 et seq.)
394 of Title 23 is discussed.

26. Discussion or consideration, by the Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee created pursuant to § 56-484.15, of trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.), submitted by CMRS providers as defined in § 56-484.12, related to the provision of wireless E-911 service.

399 27. Those portions of disciplinary proceedings by any regulatory board within the Department of
400 Professional and Occupational Regulation, Department of Health Professions, or the Board of
401 Accountancy conducted pursuant to § 2.2-4019 or 2.2-4020 during which the board deliberates to reach
402 a decision or meetings of health regulatory boards or conference committees of such boards to consider
403 settlement proposals in pending disciplinary actions or modifications to previously issued board orders as
404 requested by either of the parties.

28. Discussion or consideration of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 11 of
§ 2.2-3705.6 by a responsible public entity or an affected locality or public entity, as those terms are
defined in § 33.2-1800, or any independent review panel appointed to review information and advise the
responsible public entity concerning such records.

29. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including
interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where
discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of
the public body.

30. Discussion or consideration of grant or loan application records excluded from this chapter
pursuant to subdivision 17 of § 2.2-3705.6 by (i) the Commonwealth Health Research Board or (ii) the
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority or the Research and Technology Investment
Advisory Committee appointed to advise the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority.

417 31. Discussion or consideration by the Commitment Review Committee of records excluded from
418 this chapter pursuant to subdivision 9 of § 2.2-3705.2 relating to individuals subject to commitment as
419 sexually violent predators under Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of Title 37.2.

420 32. [Expired.]

421 33. Discussion or consideration of confidential proprietary records and trade secrets excluded from
422 this chapter pursuant to subdivision 18 of § 2.2-3705.6.

423 34. Discussion or consideration by a local authority created in accordance with the Virginia Wireless
424 Service Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5431.1 et seq.) of confidential proprietary records and trade secrets
425 excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 19 of § 2.2-3705.6.

426 35. Discussion or consideration by the State Board of Elections or local electoral boards of voting427 security matters made confidential pursuant to § 24.2-625.1.

428 36. Discussion or consideration by the Forensic Science Board or the Scientific Advisory Committee
429 created pursuant to Article 2 (§ 9.1-1109 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 9.1 of records excluded from
430 this chapter pursuant to subdivision A 2 a of § 2.2-3706.

431 37. Discussion or consideration by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program Awards
432 Committee of records or confidential matters excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 3 of
433 § 2.2-3705.4, and meetings of the Committee to deliberate concerning the annual maximum scholarship
434 award, review and consider scholarship applications and requests for scholarship award renewal, and
435 cancel, rescind, or recover scholarship awards.

436 38. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Port Authority of records excluded from this chapter437 pursuant to subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.6.

438 39. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System acting
439 pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, by the Investment Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 51.1-124.26,
440 by any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, by the Board of the Virginia College
441 Savings Plan acting pursuant to § 23-38.80, or by the Virginia College Savings Plan's Investment
442 Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 23-38.79:1 of records excluded from this chapter pursuant
443 to subdivision 25 of § 2.2-3705.7.

444 40. Discussion or consideration of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 3 of 445 § 2.2-3705.6.

446 41. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of records relating to the denial,
447 suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 12 of
448 § 2.2-3705.3.

449 42. Those portions of meetings of the Virginia Military Advisory Council or any commission created
450 by executive order for the purpose of studying and making recommendations regarding preventing
451 closure or realignment of federal military and national security installations and facilities located in
452 Virginia and relocation of such facilities to Virginia, or a local or regional military affairs organization
453 appointed by a local governing body, during which there is discussion of records excluded from this
454 chapter pursuant to subdivision 12 of § 2.2-3705.2.

455 43. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation of 456 records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 29 of § 2.2-3705.7.

457 44. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission of 458 records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 23 of § 2.2-3705.6.

459 45. Discussion or consideration by the board of directors of the Commercial Space Flight Authority460 of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.6.

461 46. Discussion or consideration of personal and proprietary information that are excluded from the 462 provisions of this chapter pursuant to (i) subdivision 25 of § 2.2-3705.6 or (ii) subsection E of 463 § 10.1-104.7. This exemption shall not apply to the discussion or consideration of records that contain 464 information that has been certified for release by the person who is the subject of the information or 465 transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow identification of the person who 466 supplied, or is the subject of, the information.

467 47. (Effective July 1, 2018) Discussion or consideration by the Board of Directors of the Virginia
468 Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 1 of
469 § 2.2-3705.3 or subdivision 34 of § 2.2-3705.7.

470 48. Discussion or consideration of grant or loan application records excluded from this chapter
471 pursuant to subdivision 28 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to the submission of an application for an award
472 from the Virginia Research Investment Fund pursuant to Chapter 28 (§ 23-304 et seq.) of Title 23.

B. No resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation or motion adopted, passed or agreed to in a
closed meeting shall become effective unless the public body, following the meeting, reconvenes in open
meeting and takes a vote of the membership on such resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation, or
motion that shall have its substance reasonably identified in the open meeting.

477 C. Public officers improperly selected due to the failure of the public body to comply with the other
478 provisions of this section shall be de facto officers and, as such, their official actions are valid until they
479 obtain notice of the legal defect in their election.

480 D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the holding of conferences between two or
481 more public bodies, or their representatives, but these conferences shall be subject to the same
482 procedures for holding closed meetings as are applicable to any other public body.

483 E. This section shall not be construed to (i) require the disclosure of any contract between the

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484 Department of Health Professions and an impaired practitioner entered into pursuant to Chapter 25.1
485 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1 or (ii) require the board of directors of any authority created pursuant
486 to the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.), or any public body
487 empowered to issue industrial revenue bonds by general or special law, to identify a business or industry
488 to which subdivision A 5 applies. However, such business or industry shall be identified as a matter of
489 public record at least 30 days prior to the actual date of the board's authorization of the sale or issuance
490 of such bonds.

491 § 23-9.6:1. Duties of Council generally.

492 In addition to such other duties as may be prescribed elsewhere, the State Council of Higher493 Education shall:

494 1. Develop a statewide strategic plan that (i) reflects the goals set forth in subsection B of § 23-38.88 495 or (ii) once adopted, reflects the goals and objectives developed pursuant to subdivision B 5 of 496 § 23-38.87:20 for higher education in the Commonwealth, identifies a coordinated approach to such state 497 and regional goals, and emphasizes the future needs for higher education in Virginia at both the 498 undergraduate and the graduate levels, as well as the mission, programs, facilities and location of each 499 of the existing institutions of higher education, each public institution's six-year plan, and such other 500 matters as the Council deems appropriate. The Council shall revise such plans at least once every six 501 years and shall submit such recommendations as are necessary for the implementation of the plan to the 502 Governor and the General Assembly.

503 2. Review and approve or disapprove any proposed change in the statement of mission of any 504 presently existing public institution of higher education and to define the mission of all public institutions of higher education created after the effective date of this provision. The Council shall, 505 506 within the time prescribed in subdivision 1, make a report to the Governor and the General Assembly 507 with respect to its actions hereunder. No such actions shall become effective until 30 days after 508 adjournment of the session of the General Assembly next following the filing of such a report. Nothing 509 contained in this provision shall be construed to authorize the Council to modify any mission statement 510 adopted by the General Assembly, nor to empower the Council to affect, either directly or indirectly, the selection of faculty or the standards and criteria for admission of any public institution, whether related 511 512 to academic standards, residence or other criteria; it being the intention of this section that faculty 513 selection and student admission policies shall remain a function of the individual institutions.

514 3. Study any proposed escalation of any public institution to a degree-granting level higher than that 515 level to which it is presently restricted and to submit a report and recommendation to the Governor and 516 the General Assembly relating to the proposal. The study shall include the need for and benefits or 517 detriments to be derived from the escalation. No such institution shall implement any such proposed 518 escalation until the Council's report and recommendation have been submitted to the General Assembly 519 and the General Assembly approves the institution's proposal.

520 4. Review and approve or disapprove all enrollment projections proposed by each public institution 521 of higher education. The Council's projections shall be in numerical terms by level of enrollment and 522 shall be used for budgetary and fiscal planning purposes only. The Council shall develop estimates of 523 the number of degrees to be awarded by each institution and include those estimates in its reports of 524 enrollment projections. The student admissions policies for the institutions and their specific programs 525 shall remain the sole responsibility of the individual boards of visitors; however, all four-year 526 institutions shall adopt dual admissions policies with the community colleges, as required by 527 § 23-9.2:3.02.

528 5. Review and approve or disapprove all new academic programs which any public institution of
higher education proposes. As used herein, "academic programs" include both undergraduate and
graduate programs.

531 6. Review and require the discontinuance of any undergraduate or graduate academic program that is 532 presently offered by any public institution of higher education when the Council determines that such 533 academic program is (i) nonproductive in terms of the number of degrees granted, the number of 534 students served by the program, the program's effectiveness, and budgetary considerations, or (ii) 535 supported by state funds and is unnecessarily duplicative of academic programs offered at other public 536 institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth. The Council shall make a report to the Governor 537 and the General Assembly with respect to the discontinuance of any such academic program. No such 538 discontinuance shall become effective until 30 days after the adjournment of the session of the General 539 Assembly next following the filing of such report.

7. Review and approve or disapprove the creation and establishment of any department, school,
college, branch, division or extension of any public institution of higher education that such institution
proposes to create and establish. This duty and responsibility shall be applicable to the proposed creation
and establishment of departments, schools, colleges, branches, divisions and extensions, whether located
on or off the main campus of the institution in question. If any organizational change is determined by

the Council to be proposed solely for the purpose of internal management and the institution's curricular
offerings remain constant, the Council shall approve the proposed change. Nothing in this provision shall
be construed to authorize the Council to disapprove the creation and establishment of any department,
school, college, branch, division or extension of any institution that has been created and established by
the General Assembly.

8. Review the proposed closure of any academic program in a high demand or critical shortage area,
as defined by the Council, by any public institution of higher education and assist in the development of
an orderly closure plan, when needed.

553 9. Develop a uniform, comprehensive data information system designed to gather all information 554 necessary to the performance of the Council's duties. The system shall include information on 555 admissions, enrollments, self-identified students with documented disabilities, personnel, programs, 556 financing, space inventory, facilities and such other areas as the Council deems appropriate. When 557 consistent with the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act, the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act, and applicable federal law, the Council, acting solely or in 558 559 partnership with the Virginia Department of Education or the Virginia Employment Commission, may 560 contract with private entities to create de-identified student records for the purpose of assessing the performance of institutions and specific programs relative to the workforce needs of the Commonwealth. 561 562 For the purposes of this section, "de-identified student records" means records in which all personally 563 identifiable information has been removed.

10. Develop in cooperation with institutions of higher education guidelines for the assessment of student achievement. An institution shall use an approved program that complies with the guidelines of the Council and is consistent with the institution's mission and educational objectives in the development of such assessment. The Council shall report the institutions' assessments of student achievement in the biennial revisions to the state's master plan for higher education.

569 11. Develop in cooperation with the appropriate state financial and accounting officials and to
570 establish uniform standards and systems of accounting, record keeping and statistical reporting for the
571 public institutions of higher education.

572 12. Review biennially and approve or disapprove all changes in the inventory of educational and
573 general space that any public institution of higher education may propose, and to make a report to the
574 Governor and the General Assembly with respect thereto. No such change shall be made until 30 days
575 after the adjournment of the session of the General Assembly next following the filing of such report.

576 13. Visit and study the operations of each of the public institutions of higher education at such times
577 as the Council shall deem appropriate and to conduct such other studies in the field of higher education
578 as the Council deems appropriate or as may be requested by the Governor or the General Assembly.

14. Provide advisory services to private, accredited and nonprofit institutions of higher education,
whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate or graduate education and not to provide religious
training or theological education, on academic, administrative, financial and space utilization matters.
The Council may also review and advise on joint activities, including contracts for services between
such public and private institutions of higher education or between such private institutions and any
agency of the Commonwealth or political subdivision thereof.

585 15. Adopt such rules and regulations as the Council believes necessary to implement all of the
586 Council's duties and responsibilities as set forth in this Code. The various public institutions of higher
587 education shall comply with such rules and regulations.

588 16. Issue guidelines consistent with the provisions of the federal Family Education Rights and
589 Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g requiring public institutions of higher education to release a
590 student's academic and disciplinary record to a student's parent.

591 17. Require that each institution of higher education formed, chartered, or established in the 592 Commonwealth after July 1, 1980, shall ensure the preservation of student transcripts in the event of 593 institutional closure or revocation of approval to operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia. An 594 institution may provide for the preservation of student transcripts by binding agreement with another 595 institution of higher education with which it is not corporately connected or in such other way as the 596 Council may authorize by regulation. In the event an institution closes, or has its approval to operate in 597 the Commonwealth revoked, the Council, through its Director, may take such action as is necessary to 598 secure and preserve the student transcripts until such time as an appropriate institution accepts all or 599 some of the transcripts. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to interfere with the right of a student 600 to his own transcripts; nor shall this section authorize disclosure of student records except as may 601 otherwise be authorized by law.

602 18. Require the development and submission of articulation, dual admissions, and guaranteed
 603 admissions agreements between two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education in
 604 Virginia.

605 19. Provide periodic updates of base adequacy funding guidelines adopted by the Joint Subcommittee

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606 Studying Higher Education Funding Policies for the various public institutions.

607 20. Develop a uniform certificate of general studies program, in consultation with the Virginia 608 Community College System and Virginia public institutions of higher education, to be offered at each 609 community college in Virginia. Such program shall ensure that a community college student who 610 completes the one-year certificate program shall be able to transfer all credits earned in academic subject 611 coursework to a four-year public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth upon acceptance 612 to the institution.

613 21. Assist the Virginia Research Investment Committee with the administration of the Virginia 614 Research Investment Fund consistent with the provisions of Chapter 28 (§ 23-304 et seq.).

615 In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the Council, insofar as practicable, shall preserve the 616 individuality, traditions and sense of responsibility of the respective institutions. The Council, insofar as practicable, shall seek the assistance and advice of the respective institutions in fulfilling all of its duties 617 618 and responsibilities.

CHAPTER 28.

VIRGINIA RESEARCH INVESTMENT FUND.

§ 23-304. Definitions.

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As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

623 "Board" means a policy board in the executive branch of government that (i) was created by the 624 2016 Session of the General Assembly, (ii) has a legislatively stated purpose of promoting collaborative 625 regional economic and workforce development opportunities and activities, and (iii) has membership 626 consisting of members of the House of Delegates, members of the Senate, members of the Governor's Cabinet, and nonlegislative citizen appointees. 627

628 "Committee" means the Virginia Research Investment Committee established pursuant to \S 23-306.

629 "Council" means the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

"Fund" means the Virginia Research Investment Fund established in § 23-305. 630

631 § 23-305. Virginia Research Investment Fund.

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting revolving fund to be known as 632 633 the Virginia Research Investment Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. 634 All moneys appropriated by the General Assembly for the Fund, and from any other sources public or 635 private, shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest and other income earned 636 on the Fund shall be credited to the Fund. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest and 637 other income thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall 638 remain in the Fund.

639 B. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Assembly may specifically designate 640 that certain moneys appropriated to the Fund be invested, reinvested, and managed by the Board of the 641 Virginia Retirement System as provided in § 51.1-124.38. The State Treasurer shall not be held liable 642 for losses suffered by the Virginia Retirement System on investments made under the authority of this 643 subsection.

644 2. No more than \$4 million of moneys so invested, net of any administrative fee assessed pursuant to 645 subsection E of § 51.1-124.38, may be awarded through grants or loans in a fiscal year for any purpose 646 permitted by this chapter. At the direction of the Committee, the State Comptroller may annually request 647 a disbursement of \$4 million from the moneys invested by the Board of the Virginia Retirement System, 648 to be held with other moneys in the Fund not subject to such investment. At the end of each fiscal year, 649 if less than \$4 million of such annual allocation is awarded as grants or loans in a calendar year, the 650 Comptroller shall return the remainder of the annual \$4 million allocation to the Board of the Virginia 651 Retirement System for reinvestment pursuant to § 51.1-124.38.

652 3. Any loans awarded pursuant to this chapter shall be paid by the Comptroller from the \$4 million 653 annual allocation set forth in subdivision 2. The recipient of a loan shall repay the loan pursuant to the 654 terms set forth by the Committee. At the end of each fiscal year, the Comptroller shall return any 655 repayments received from loan recipients to the Board of the Virginia Retirement System for 656 reinvestment pursuant to § 51.1-124.38.

657 C. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for grants and loans to (i) promote research and development excellence in the Commonwealth; (ii) foster innovative and collaborative research, 658 development, and commercialization efforts in the Commonwealth in projects and programs with a high 659 660 potential for economic development and job creation opportunities; (iii) position the Commonwealth as a national leader in science-based and technology-based research, development, and commercialization; 661 662 (iv) attract and effectively recruit and retain eminent researchers to enhance research superiority at 663 public institutions of higher education; and (v) encourage cooperation and collaboration among higher 664 education research institutions, and with the private sector, in areas and with activities that foster economic development and job creation in the Commonwealth. Areas of focus for awards shall be those 665 areas identified in the Commonwealth Research and Technology Strategic Roadmap, and shall include 666

but not be limited to the biosciences, personalized medicine, cybersecurity, data analytics, and other 667 668 areas designated in the general appropriation act.

669 D. The disbursement of grants and loans from the Fund shall be made by the State Comptroller at 670 the written request of the Committee.

671 § 23-306. Virginia Research Investment Committee established; report.

672 A. There is hereby established the Virginia Research Investment Committee to evaluate and award 673 grants and loans from the Fund pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

B. The Committee shall consist of seven members as follows: the Director of the Council, the 674 Secretary of Finance, the staff directors of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate 675 676 Committee on Finance, one nonlegislative citizen member appointed by the Speaker of the House, one 677 nonlegislative citizen member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one nonlegislative 678 citizen member appointed by the Governor. If the Board exists, the nonlegislative citizen members 679 appointed by the Speaker of the House, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Governor shall be nonlegislative citizen members of the Board. 680

C. Ex officio members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. If the Board does not 681 682 exist, nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed to a term of four years, and no nonlegislative 683 citizen member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. If the Board exists, nonlegislative 684 citizen members shall serve terms coincident with their terms on the Board.

685 D. The Director of the Council shall serve as the chairman of the Committee.

686 E. The Committee shall report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on **687** Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than November 1 of each year. The 688 report shall include details about awards made from the Fund in the immediately preceding fiscal year 689 and updates on the research, development, and commercialization efforts resulting from such awards. 690

§ 23-307. Award from Virginia Research Investment Fund.

691 A. The Council, in consultation with the Committee, shall establish guidelines, procedures, and 692 objective criteria for the application for and award of grants and loans from the Fund. Such guidelines, procedures, and criteria, and any updates thereto, shall be submitted to the House Committee on 693 Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance. The criteria for the award of grants shall 694 695 consider other grants, awards, or funds awarded to the proposed program or project by the 696 Commonwealth and shall require a grant applicant to indicate other applications for state grants, 697 awards, or funds currently pending at the time of the application for an award from the Fund. The 698 criteria shall consider the potential of the program or project for which a grant is sought to (i) 699 culminate in the commercialization of research; (ii) culminate in the formation or spin-off of viable 700 bioscience, biotechnology, cybersecurity, genomics, or similar companies; (iii) promote the build-out of 701 scientific areas of expertise in science and technology; (iv) promote applied research and development; (v) provide modern facilities or infrastructure for research and development; (vi) result in significant 702 703 capital investment and job creation; or (vii) promote collaboration among the public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth. Such criteria shall also require that the program or project for 704 705 which a grant is sought be related to an area identified in the Commonwealth Research Technology 706 Strategic Roadmap.

707 B. Grants and loans may be awarded to public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth 708 or collaborations between public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and private 709 entities. Any award from the Fund shall require a match of funds at least equal to the amount of the 710 award.

711 C. Applications for grants and loans from the Fund shall be received by the Council in accordance 712 with the procedures developed pursuant to subsection A. Upon confirmation that an application is 713 complete, the Council shall forward the application to an entity with recognized science and technology 714 expertise for a review and certification of the scientific merits of the proposal, including a scoring or 715 prioritization of applicant programs and projects deemed viable by the reviewing entity. Such entities 716 include, but are not limited to, the Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation, the Innovation 717 and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority, the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine, 718 or any other entity deemed appropriate by the Council, including a scientific advisory committee created 719 by the Council for the sole purpose of reviewing one or more applications received pursuant to this 720 article.

721 D. Any proposal receiving a favorable evaluation pursuant to subsection C shall be forwarded, along 722 with the scoring or prioritization, to the Committee for further review and a decision whether to award 723 the proposal a grant or loan from the Fund. The award of a grant or loan from the Fund shall be 724 subject to any terms and conditions set forth by the Committee for the award. All decisions by the 725 Committee shall be final and not subject to further review or appeal. The Governor may announce any 726 award approved by the Committee.

727 § 51.1-124.38. Investment of assets of the Virginia Research Investment Fund.

A. In addition to such other powers as shall be vested in the Board, the Board shall have the full power to invest, reinvest, and manage those portions of the Virginia Research Investment Fund (the Fund), established pursuant to Chapter 28 (§ 23-304 et seq.) of Title 23, designated by the General Assembly for investment by the Board pursuant to subsection B of § 23-305. The Board shall maintain a separate accounting for the assets of the Fund invested with it. The Board shall make an annual distribution of such invested moneys to the Comptroller pursuant to subdivision B of § 23-305.

B. The Board shall invest the assets of the Fund with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under
the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such
matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims. The Board
shall also diversify such investments so as to minimize the risk of large losses unless under the
circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so.

739 C. No officer, director, or member of the Board or of any advisory committee of the Retirement
740 System or any of its tax-exempt subsidiary corporations whose actions are within the standard of care
741 set forth in subsection B shall be held personally liable for losses suffered by the Retirement System on
742 investments made under the authority of this section.

743 D. The provisions of \$ 51.1-124.32, 51.1-124.33, 51.1-124.34, and 51.1-124.35 shall apply to the **744** Board's activities with respect to moneys in the Fund.

745 *E.* The Board may assess the Virginia Research Investment Committee a reasonable administrative **746** fee for its services.