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**HOUSE BILL NO. 227****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services  
on February 2, 2018)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Stolle)

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-392.02 and 63.2-1242 of the Code of Virginia, relating to adoption by stepparent; background check.***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §§ 19.2-392.02 and 63.2-1242 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 19.2-392.02. National criminal background checks by businesses and organizations regarding employees or volunteers providing care to children or the elderly or disabled.**

A. For purposes of this section:

"Barrier crime" means (i) a felony violation of § 16.1-253.2; any violation of § 18.2-31, 18.2-32, 18.2-32.1, 18.2-32.2, 18.2-33, 18.2-35, 18.2-36, 18.2-36.1, 18.2-36.2, 18.2-41, or 18.2-42; any felony violation of § 18.2-46.2, 18.2-46.3, 18.2-46.3:1, or 18.2-46.3:3; any violation of § 18.2-46.5, 18.2-46.6, or 18.2-46.7; any violation of subsection A or B of § 18.2-47; any violation of § 18.2-48, 18.2-49, or 18.2-50.3; any violation of § 18.2-51, 18.2-51.1, 18.2-51.2, 18.2-51.3, 18.2-51.4, 18.2-51.5, 18.2-51.6, 18.2-52, 18.2-52.1, 18.2-53, 18.2-53.1, 18.2-54.1, 18.2-54.2, 18.2-55, 18.2-55.1, 18.2-56, 18.2-56.1, 18.2-56.2, 18.2-57, 18.2-57.01, 18.2-57.02, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-58, 18.2-58.1, 18.2-59, 18.2-60, or 18.2-60.1; any felony violation of § 18.2-60.3 or 18.2-60.4; any violation of § 18.2-61, 18.2-63, 18.2-64.1, 18.2-64.2, 18.2-67.1, 18.2-67.2, 18.2-67.3, 18.2-67.4, 18.2-67.4:1, 18.2-67.4:2, 18.2-67.5, 18.2-67.5:1, 18.2-67.5:2, 18.2-67.5:3, 18.2-77, 18.2-79, 18.2-80, 18.2-81, 18.2-82, 18.2-83, 18.2-84, 18.2-85, 18.2-86, 18.2-87, 18.2-87.1, or 18.2-88; any felony violation of § 18.2-279, 18.2-280, 18.2-281, 18.2-282, 18.2-282.1, 18.2-286.1, or 18.2-287.2; any violation of § 18.2-289, 18.2-290, 18.2-300, 18.2-308.4, or 18.2-314; any felony violation of § 18.2-346; any violation of § 18.2-355, 18.2-356, 18.2-357, or 18.2-357.1; any violation of subsection B of § 18.2-361; any violation of § 18.2-366, 18.2-369, 18.2-370, 18.2-370.1, 18.2-370.2, 18.2-370.3, 18.2-370.4, 18.2-370.5, 18.2-370.6, 18.2-371.1, 18.2-374.1, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-374.3, 18.2-374.4, 18.2-379, 18.2-386.1, or 18.2-386.2; any felony violation of § 18.2-405 or 18.2-406; any violation of § 18.2-408, 18.2-413, 18.2-414, 18.2-423, 18.2-423.01, 18.2-423.1, 18.2-423.2, 18.2-433.2, 18.2-472.1, 18.2-474.1, 18.2-477, 18.2-477.1, 18.2-477.2, 18.2-478, 18.2-479, 18.2-480, 18.2-481, 18.2-484, 18.2-485, 37.2-917, or 53.1-203; or any substantially similar offense under the laws of another jurisdiction; (ii) any violation of § 18.2-89, 18.2-90, 18.2-91, 18.2-92, 18.2-93, or 18.2-94 or any substantially similar offense under the laws of another jurisdiction; (iii) any felony violation of § 18.2-248, 18.2-248.01, 18.2-248.02, 18.2-248.03, 18.2-248.1, 18.2-248.5, 18.2-251.2, 18.2-251.3, 18.2-255, 18.2-255.2, 18.2-258, 18.2-258.02, 18.2-258.1, or 18.2-258.2 or any substantially similar offense under the laws of another jurisdiction; (iv) any felony violation of § 18.2-250 or any substantially similar offense under the laws of another jurisdiction; (v) any offense set forth in § 9.1-902 that results in the person's requirement to register with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry pursuant to § 9.1-901, including any finding that a person is not guilty by reason of insanity in accordance with Chapter 11.1 (§ 19.2-182.2 et seq.) of Title 19.2 of an offense set forth in § 9.1-902 that results in the person's requirement to register with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry pursuant to § 9.1-901; any substantially similar offense under the laws of another jurisdiction; or any offense for which registration in a sex offender and crimes against minors registry is required under the laws of the jurisdiction where the offender was convicted; or (vi) any other felony not included in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v) unless five years have elapsed from the date of the conviction.

"Barrier crime information" means the following facts concerning a person who has been arrested for, or has been convicted of, a barrier crime, regardless of whether the person was a juvenile or adult at the time of the arrest or conviction: full name, race, sex, date of birth, height, weight, fingerprints, a brief description of the barrier crime or offenses for which the person has been arrested or has been convicted, the disposition of the charge, and any other information that may be useful in identifying persons arrested for or convicted of a barrier crime.

"Care" means the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, supervision, or recreation to children or the elderly or disabled.

"Department" means the Department of State Police.

"Employed by" means any person who is employed by, volunteers for, seeks to be employed by, or seeks to volunteer for a qualified entity.

"Identification document" means a document made or issued by or under the authority of the United

60 States government, a state, a political subdivision of a state, a foreign government, political subdivision  
61 of a foreign government, an international governmental or an international quasi-governmental  
62 organization that, when completed with information concerning a particular individual, is of a type  
63 intended or commonly accepted for the purpose of identification of individuals.

64 "Provider" means a person who (i) is employed by a qualified entity and has, seeks to have, or may  
65 have unsupervised access to a child or to an elderly or disabled person to whom the qualified entity  
66 provides care; (ii) is a volunteer of a qualified entity and has, seeks to have, or may have unsupervised  
67 access to a child to whom the qualified entity provides care; or (iii) owns, operates, or seeks to own or  
68 operate a qualified entity.

69 "Qualified entity" means a business or organization that provides care to children or the elderly or  
70 disabled, whether governmental, private, for profit, nonprofit or voluntary, except organizations exempt  
71 pursuant to subdivision A 10 of § 63.2-1715.

72 B. A qualified entity may request the Department of State Police to conduct a national criminal  
73 background check on any provider who is employed by such entity. No qualified entity may request a  
74 national criminal background check on a provider until such provider has:

75 1. Been fingerprinted; and

76 2. Completed and signed a statement, furnished by the entity, that includes (i) his name, address, and  
77 date of birth as it appears on a valid identification document; (ii) a disclosure of whether or not the  
78 provider has ever been convicted of or is the subject of pending charges for a criminal offense within or  
79 outside the Commonwealth, and if the provider has been convicted of a crime, a description of the crime  
80 and the particulars of the conviction; (iii) a notice to the provider that the entity may request a  
81 background check; (iv) a notice to the provider that he is entitled to obtain a copy of any background  
82 check report, to challenge the accuracy and completeness of any information contained in any such  
83 report, and to obtain a prompt determination as to the validity of such challenge before a final  
84 determination is made by the Department; and (v) a notice to the provider that prior to the completion  
85 of the background check the qualified entity may choose to deny the provider unsupervised access to  
86 children or the elderly or disabled for whom the qualified entity provides care.

87 C. Upon receipt of (i) a qualified entity's written request to conduct a background check on a  
88 provider, (ii) the provider's fingerprints, and (iii) a completed, signed statement as described in  
89 subsection B, the Department shall make a determination whether the provider has been convicted of or  
90 is the subject of charges of a barrier crime. To conduct its determination regarding the provider's barrier  
91 crime information, the Department shall access the national criminal history background check system,  
92 which is maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is based on fingerprints and other  
93 methods of identification, and shall access the Central Criminal Records Exchange maintained by the  
94 Department. If the Department receives a background report lacking disposition data, the Department  
95 shall conduct research in whatever state and local recordkeeping systems are available in order to obtain  
96 complete data. The Department shall make reasonable efforts to respond to a qualified entity's inquiry  
97 within 15 business days.

98 D. Any background check conducted pursuant to this section for a provider employed by a private  
99 entity shall be screened by the Department of State Police. If the provider has been convicted of or is  
100 under indictment for a barrier crime, the qualified entity shall be notified that the provider is not  
101 qualified to work or volunteer in a position that involves unsupervised access to children or the elderly  
102 or disabled.

103 E. Any background check conducted pursuant to this section for a provider employed by a  
104 governmental entity shall be provided to that entity.

105 F. In the case of a provider who desires to volunteer at a qualified entity and who is subject to a  
106 national criminal background check, the Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may each  
107 charge the provider the lesser of \$18 or the actual cost to the entity of the background check conducted  
108 with the fingerprints.

109 G. The failure to request a criminal background check pursuant to subsection B shall not be  
110 considered negligence per se in any civil action.

111 *H. Notwithstanding any provisions in this section to the contrary, a spouse of a birth parent or*  
112 *parent by adoption who is not the birth parent of a child and has filed a petition for adoption of such*  
113 *child in circuit court may request the Department of State Police to conduct a national criminal*  
114 *background check on such prospective adoptive parent at his cost for purposes of § 63.2-1242. Such*  
115 *background checks shall otherwise be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section.*

116 **§ 63.2-1242. Investigation and report at discretion of circuit court.**

117 For adoptions under this article, an investigation and report shall be undertaken only if the circuit  
118 court in its discretion determines that there should be an investigation before a final order of adoption is  
119 entered. *In determining whether an investigation and report should be required, the circuit court shall*  
120 *consider the results of a national criminal history background check conducted on the prospective*  
121 *adoptive parent in accordance with the provisions of § 19.2-392.02, which shall be provided to the court*

122 *by such prospective adoptive parent. If the circuit court makes such a determination determines that an*  
123 *investigation and report should be required,* it shall refer the matter to the local director for an  
124 investigation and report to be completed within such time as the circuit court designates. If an  
125 investigation is ordered, the circuit court shall forward a copy of the petition and all exhibits thereto to  
126 the local director and the provisions of § 63.2-1208 shall apply.  
127 **2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2020.**