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HOUSE BILL NO. 2142

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 8, 2019

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-101 and 9.1-113 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school protection officers; minimum training standards; exemption.*

Patrons—Thomas, Campbell, J.L., Landes and Webert

Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 9.1-101 and 9.1-113 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 9.1-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter or in Chapter 23 (§ 19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Administration of criminal justice" means performance of any activity directly involving the detection, apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders or the collection, storage, and dissemination of criminal history record information.

"Board" means the Criminal Justice Services Board.

"Conviction data" means information in the custody of any criminal justice agency relating to a judgment of conviction, and the consequences arising therefrom, in any court.

"Correctional status information" means records and data concerning each condition of a convicted person's custodial status, including probation, confinement, work release, study release, escape, or termination of custody through expiration of sentence, parole, pardon, or court decision.

"Criminal history record information" means records and data collected by criminal justice agencies on adult individuals consisting of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, informations, or other formal charges, and any disposition arising therefrom. The term shall not include juvenile record information which is controlled by Chapter 11 (§ 16.1-226 et seq.) of Title 16.1, criminal justice intelligence information, criminal justice investigative information, or correctional status information.

"Criminal justice agency" means (i) a court or any other governmental agency or subunit thereof which as its principal function performs the administration of criminal justice and any other agency or subunit thereof which performs criminal justice activities, but only to the extent that it does so; (ii) for the purposes of Chapter 23 (§ 19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2, any private corporation or agency which, within the context of its criminal justice activities, employs special conservators of the peace appointed under Chapter 2 (§ 19.2-12 et seq.) of Title 19.2, provided that (a) such private corporation or agency requires its officers or special conservators to meet compulsory training standards established by the Criminal Justice Services Board and submits reports of compliance with the training standards and (b) the private corporation or agency complies with the provisions of Article 3 (§ 9.1-126 et seq.), but only to the extent that the private corporation or agency so designated as a criminal justice agency performs criminal justice activities; and (iii) the Office of the Attorney General, for all criminal justice activities otherwise permitted under clause (i) and for the purpose of performing duties required by the Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators Act (§ 37.2-900 et seq.).

"Criminal justice agency" includes any program certified by the Commission on VASAP pursuant to § 18.2-271.2.

"Criminal justice agency" includes the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

"Criminal justice agency" includes the Virginia State Crime Commission.

"Criminal justice information system" means a system including the equipment, facilities, procedures, agreements, and organizations thereof, for the collection, processing, preservation, or dissemination of criminal history record information. The operations of the system may be performed manually or by using electronic computers or other automated data processing equipment.

"Department" means the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

"Dissemination" means any transfer of information, whether orally, in writing, or by electronic means. The term shall not include access to the information by officers or employees of a criminal justice agency maintaining the information who have both a need and right to know the information.

"Law-enforcement officer" means any full-time or part-time employee of a police department or sheriff's office which is a part of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, or any full-time or part-time employee of a private police department, and who is responsible

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59 for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the penal, traffic or highway laws of
60 the Commonwealth, and shall include any (i) special agent of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control
61 Authority; (ii) police agent appointed under the provisions of § 56-353; (iii) officer of the Virginia
62 Marine Police; (iv) conservation police officer who is a full-time sworn member of the enforcement
63 division of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; (v) investigator who is a full-time sworn
64 member of the security division of the Virginia Lottery; (vi) conservation officer of the Department of
65 Conservation and Recreation commissioned pursuant to § 10.1-115; (vii) full-time sworn member of the
66 enforcement division of the Department of Motor Vehicles appointed pursuant to § 46.2-217; (viii)
67 animal protection police officer employed under § 15.2-632 or 15.2-836.1; (ix) campus police officer
68 appointed under Article 3 (§ 23.1-809 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 23.1; (x) member of the
69 investigations unit designated by the State Inspector General pursuant to § 2.2-311 to investigate
70 allegations of criminal behavior affecting the operations of a state or nonstate agency; (xi) employee
71 with internal investigations authority designated by the Department of Corrections pursuant to
72 subdivision 11 of § 53.1-10 or by the Department of Juvenile Justice pursuant to subdivision A 7 of
73 § 66-3; or (xii) private police officer employed by a private police department. Part-time employees are
74 those compensated officers who are not full-time employees as defined by the employing police
75 department, sheriff's office, or private police department.

76 "Private police department" means any police department, other than a department that employs
77 police agents under the provisions of § 56-353, that employs private police officers operated by an entity
78 authorized by statute or an act of assembly to establish a private police department or such entity's
79 successor in interest, provided it complies with the requirements set forth herein. No entity is authorized
80 to operate a private police department or represent that it is a private police department unless such
81 entity has been authorized by statute or an act of assembly or such entity is the successor in interest of
82 an entity that has been authorized pursuant to this section, provided it complies with the requirements
83 set forth herein. The authority of a private police department shall be limited to real property owned,
84 leased, or controlled by the entity and, if approved by the local chief of police or sheriff, any contiguous
85 property; such authority shall not supersede the authority, duties, or jurisdiction vested by law with the
86 local police department or sheriff's office including as provided in §§ 15.2-1609 and 15.2-1704. The
87 chief of police or sheriff who is the chief local law-enforcement officer shall enter into a memorandum
88 of understanding with the private police department that addresses the duties and responsibilities of the
89 private police department and the chief law-enforcement officer in the conduct of criminal investigations.
90 Private police departments and private police officers shall be subject to and comply with the
91 Constitution of the United States; the Constitution of Virginia; the laws governing municipal police
92 departments, including the provisions of §§ 9.1-600, 15.2-1705 through 15.2-1708, 15.2-1719, 15.2-1721,
93 and 15.2-1722; and any regulations adopted by the Board that the Department designates as applicable
94 to private police departments. Any person employed as a private police officer pursuant to this section
95 shall meet all requirements, including the minimum compulsory training requirements, for
96 law-enforcement officers pursuant to this chapter. A private police officer is not entitled to benefits
97 under the Line of Duty Act (§ 9.1-400 et seq.) or under the Virginia Retirement System, is not a
98 "qualified law enforcement officer" or "qualified retired law enforcement officer" within the meaning of
99 the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. § 926B et seq., and shall not be deemed an
100 employee of the Commonwealth or any locality. An authorized private police department may use the
101 word "police" to describe its sworn officers and may join a regional criminal justice academy created
102 pursuant to Article 5 (§ 15.2-1747 et seq.) of Chapter 17 of Title 15.2. Any private police department in
103 existence on January 1, 2013, that was not otherwise established by statute or an act of assembly and
104 whose status as a private police department was recognized by the Department at that time is hereby
105 validated and may continue to operate as a private police department as may such entity's successor in
106 interest, provided it complies with the requirements set forth herein.

107 "*School protection officer*" means a retired law-enforcement officer hired on a part-time basis by the
108 local law-enforcement agency to provide law-enforcement and security services to Virginia public
109 elementary and secondary schools.

110 "School resource officer" means a certified law-enforcement officer hired by the local
111 law-enforcement agency to provide law-enforcement and security services to Virginia public elementary
112 and secondary schools.

113 "School security officer" means an individual who is employed by the local school board for the
114 singular purpose of maintaining order and discipline, preventing crime, investigating violations of school
115 board policies, and detaining students violating the law or school board policies on school property or at
116 school-sponsored events and who is responsible solely for ensuring the safety, security, and welfare of
117 all students, faculty, staff, and visitors in the assigned school.

118 **§ 9.1-113. Compliance with minimum training standards by certain officers; exceptions.**

119 The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to require (i) law-enforcement officers serving
120 under permanent appointment on July 1, 1971, (ii) officers serving under permanent appointment under

121 the provisions of § 56-353 appointed prior to July 1, 1982, ~~or~~ (iii) officers serving under permanent
122 appointment under the provisions of § 10.1-115 appointed prior to July 1, 2003; *or (iv) school*
123 *protection officers* to meet the compulsory minimum training standards provided for in subdivision 2 of
124 § 9.1-102. Nor shall failure of any such officer to meet such standards make him ineligible for any
125 promotional examination for which he is otherwise eligible. However, any law-enforcement officer
126 designated under the provisions of § 53.1-120 to provide courthouse and courtroom security shall be
127 required to meet the standards provided under subdivision 7 of § 9.1-102. Any full-time deputy sheriff
128 who is a law-enforcement officer and who is exempted from the compulsory minimum training
129 standards under this section shall be eligible for the minimum salary established pursuant to Article 3
130 (§ 15.2-1609 et seq.) of Chapter 16 of Title 15.2.

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