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SENATE BILL NO. 429

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 37.2-312.3 and by adding in Chapter 11 of Title 52 a section numbered 52-49.1, relating to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of State Police; mobile applications; mental health and public safety.*

Patrons—Dunnavant and Mason

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 37.2-312.3 and by adding in Chapter 11 of Title 52 a section numbered 52-49.1 as follows:

§ 37.2-312.3. Mental health mobile application.

A. *The Department shall develop or obtain a mental health mobile application for suicide prevention and the provision of educational materials related to suicide prevention. The mobile application shall provide a means to directly connect to the 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline.*

B. *The Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Secretary of Education shall determine and direct the appropriate agencies to promote, market, and advertise the use of the mental health mobile application throughout the Commonwealth through such agencies' existing staff and digital programs.*

§ 52-49.1. Public safety mobile application.

A. *The Department of State Police, in coordination with the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center (the Center), shall develop or obtain a public safety mobile application to provide to individuals in the Commonwealth a platform that is capable of receiving text, audio, images, and video to submit confidential tips concerning (i) a suspected, anticipated, or completed criminal violation or (ii) bullying, threats of school violence, or other school-related safety concerns. The public safety mobile application may include a panic button and an active shooter button. The Department of State Police, in coordination with the Center, shall develop a referral system to ensure that confidential tips received through the mobile application are referred to the appropriate law-enforcement agency, school board, threat assessment team, or other relevant entity.*

B. *The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall determine and direct the appropriate agencies to promote, market, and advertise the use of the public safety mobile application throughout the Commonwealth through such agencies' existing staff and digital programs.*

2. That the provisions of § 37.2-312.3 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

INTRODUCED

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