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HOUSE BILL NO. 2426

Offered January 18, 2023

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-287 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public school pupils and parents; access to certain postsecondary information.

Patrons—Freitas and LaRock

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 22.1-287 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 22.1-287. Limitations on access to records.**

A. No teacher, principal or employee of any public school nor any school board member shall permit access to any records concerning any particular pupil enrolled in the school in any class to any person except under judicial process unless the person is one of the following:

1. Either parent of such pupil or such pupil; provided that a school board may require that such pupil, if he be less than 18 years of age, as a condition precedent to access to such records, furnish written consent of his or her parent for such access;

2. A person designated in writing by such pupil if the pupil is 18 years of age or older or by either parent of such pupil if the pupil is less than 18 years of age;

3. The principal, or someone designated by him, of a school where the pupil attends, has attended, or intends to enroll;

4. The current teachers of such pupil;

5. State or local law-enforcement or correctional personnel, including a law-enforcement officer, probation officer, parole officer or administrator, or a member of a parole board, seeking information in the course of his duties;

6. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, a member of his staff, the division superintendent of schools where the pupil attends, has attended, or intends to enroll or a member of his staff;

7. An officer or employee of a county or city agency responsible for protective services to children, as to a pupil referred to that agency as a minor requiring investigation or supervision by that agency.

B. A parent or pupil entitled to see the records pursuant to subdivision A 1 shall have access to all records relating to such pupil maintained by the school except as otherwise provided by law and need only appear in person during regular hours of the school day and request to see such records. No material concerning such pupil shall be edited or withheld except as otherwise provided by law, and the parent or pupil shall be entitled to read such material personally.

C. The giving of information by school personnel concerning participation in athletics and other school activities, the winning of scholastic or other honors and awards, and other like information shall be governed by the provisions of § 22.1-287.1.

D. Notwithstanding the restrictions imposed by this section:

1. A division superintendent of schools may, in his discretion, provide information to the staff of an institution of higher education or educational research and development organization or laboratory if such information is necessary to a research project or study conducted, sponsored, or approved by the institution of higher education or educational research and development organization or laboratory and if no pupil will be identified by name in the information provided for research;

2. The name and address of a pupil, the record of a pupil's daily attendance, a pupil's scholastic record in the form of grades received in school subjects, the names of a pupil's parents, a pupil's date and place of birth, and the names and addresses of other schools a pupil has attended may be released to an officer or employee of the United States government seeking this information in the course of his duties when the pupil is a veteran of military service with the United States, an orphan or dependent of such veteran, or an alien;

3. The record of a pupil's daily attendance shall be open for inspection and reproduction to an employee of a local department of social services who needs the record to determine the eligibility of the pupil's family for public assistance and social services; *and*

4. The principal or his designee may disclose identifying information from a pupil's scholastic record for the purpose of furthering the ability of the juvenile justice system to effectively serve the pupil prior to adjudication. In addition to those agencies or personnel identified in subdivisions A 5 and 7, the principal or his designee may disclose identifying information from a pupil's scholastic record to attorneys for the Commonwealth, court services units, juvenile detention centers or group homes, mental and medical health agencies, state and local children and family service agencies, and the Department of

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59 Juvenile Justice and to the staff of such agencies. Prior to disclosure of any such scholastic records, the
60 persons to whom the records are to be disclosed shall certify in writing to the principal or his designee
61 that the information will not be disclosed to any other party, except as provided under state law, without
62 the prior written consent of the parent of the pupil or by such pupil if the pupil is 18 years of age or
63 older.

64 *E. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no school board, public elementary or*
65 *secondary school, including any joint or regional school, or employee or agent of such school board or*
66 *school, including any division superintendent or school principal, shall withhold from any pupil or the*
67 *pupil's parent any information that is transmitted solely to such school board, school, employee, or*
68 *agent and that (i) relates to any recognition, award, or postsecondary scholarship eligibility earned by*
69 *the student, including any such recognition, award, or eligibility earned as the result of the student's*
70 *achievement on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)*
71 *examination, or (ii) may affect the student's admission to an institution of higher education. All such*
72 *information shall be transmitted to the pupil and the pupil's parent as soon as practicable after receipt*
73 *of the information.*