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SENATE BILL NO. 377

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 9, 2024

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 24.2-946, and 24.2-948.4 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 9.3 of Title 24.2 sections numbered 24.2-948.6, 24.2-948.7, and 24.2-948.8, relating to campaign finance; prohibited personal use of campaign funds; complaints, hearings, civil penalty, and advisory opinions.

Patrons—Boysko, Carroll Foy and Salim; Delegate: Shin

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-3711, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 24.2-946, and 24.2-948.4 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 9.3 of Title 24.2 sections numbered 24.2-948.6, 24.2-948.7, and 24.2-948.8 as follows:

§ 2.2-3711. (Effective until date pursuant to Acts 2023, cc. 756 and 778, cl. 5) Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.

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

1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively.

2. Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student of any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth 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 be present during the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence at a closed meeting, if such student, parents, or guardians so request in writing and such request is submitted to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.

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

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

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

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

7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. 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 will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

8. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is

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SB377

59 in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

60 9. Discussion or consideration by governing boards of public institutions of higher education of
61 matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities, and of grants and contracts for services or
62 work to be performed by such institution. However, the terms and conditions of any such gifts, bequests,
63 grants, and contracts made by a foreign government, a foreign legal entity, or a foreign person and
64 accepted by a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth shall be subject to public
65 disclosure upon written request to the appropriate board of visitors. For the purpose of this subdivision,
66 (i) "foreign government" means any government other than the United States government or the
67 government of a state or a political subdivision thereof, (ii) "foreign legal entity" means any legal entity
68 (a) created under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof if a majority of the ownership of the
69 stock of such legal entity is owned by foreign governments or foreign persons or if a majority of the
70 membership of any such entity is composed of foreign persons or foreign legal entities or (b) created
71 under the laws of a foreign government, and (iii) "foreign person" means any individual who is not a
72 citizen or national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof.

73 10. Discussion or consideration by the boards of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the
74 Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the Fort Monroe Authority,
75 and The Science Museum of Virginia of matters relating to specific gifts, bequests, and grants from
76 private sources.

77 11. Discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards.

78 12. Discussion or consideration of tests, examinations, or other information used, administered, or
79 prepared by a public body and subject to the exclusion in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.1.

80 13. Discussion, consideration, or review by the appropriate House or Senate committees of possible
81 disciplinary action against a member arising out of the possible inadequacy of the disclosure statement
82 filed by the member, provided the member may request in writing that the committee meeting not be
83 conducted in a closed meeting.

84 14. Discussion of strategy with respect to the negotiation of a hazardous waste siting agreement or to
85 consider the terms, conditions, and provisions of a hazardous waste siting agreement if the governing
86 body in open meeting finds that an open meeting will have an adverse effect upon the negotiating
87 position of the governing body or the establishment of the terms, conditions and provisions of the siting
88 agreement, or both. All discussions with the applicant or its representatives may be conducted in a
89 closed meeting.

90 15. Discussion by the Governor and any economic advisory board reviewing forecasts of economic
91 activity and estimating general and nongeneral fund revenues.

92 16. Discussion or consideration of medical and mental health records subject to the exclusion in
93 subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.5.

94 17. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board in a licensing appeal action conducted pursuant to
95 subsection D of § 58.1-4007 regarding the denial or revocation of a license of a lottery sales agent; and
96 discussion, consideration or review of Virginia Lottery matters related to proprietary lottery game
97 information and studies or investigations excluded from disclosure under subdivision 6 of § 2.2-3705.3
98 and subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.7.

99 18. Those portions of meetings in which the State Board of Local and Regional Jails discusses or
100 discloses the identity of, or information tending to identify, any prisoner who (i) provides information
101 about crimes or criminal activities, (ii) renders assistance in preventing the escape of another prisoner or
102 in the apprehension of an escaped prisoner, or (iii) voluntarily or at the instance of a prison official
103 renders other extraordinary services, the disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize the prisoner's life or
104 safety.

105 19. Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific
106 cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement
107 or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to
108 public safety; discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 2 or 14 of § 2.2-3705.2,
109 where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any
110 facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program; or discussion of reports
111 or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of
112 persons using such facility, building or structure.

113 20. Discussion by the Board of the Virginia Retirement System, acting pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, or
114 of any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, or by a local finance board or board of
115 trustees of a trust established by one or more local public bodies to invest funds for postemployment
116 benefits other than pensions, acting pursuant to Article 8 (§ 15.2-1544 et seq.) of Chapter 15 of Title
117 15.2, or by the board of visitors of the University of Virginia, acting pursuant to § 23.1-2210, or by the
118 Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan, acting pursuant to § 23.1-706, regarding the acquisition,
119 holding or disposition of a security or other ownership interest in an entity, where such security or
120 ownership interest is not traded on a governmentally regulated securities exchange, to the extent that

121 such discussion (i) concerns confidential analyses prepared for the board of visitors of the University of
 122 Virginia, prepared by the retirement system, or a local finance board or board of trustees, or the Virginia
 123 College Savings Plan or provided to the retirement system, a local finance board or board of trustees, or
 124 the Virginia College Savings Plan under a promise of confidentiality, of the future value of such
 125 ownership interest or the future financial performance of the entity, and (ii) would have an adverse
 126 effect on the value of the investment to be acquired, held, or disposed of by the retirement system, a
 127 local finance board or board of trustees, the board of visitors of the University of Virginia, or the
 128 Virginia College Savings Plan. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the disclosure
 129 of information relating to the identity of any investment held, the amount invested or the present value
 130 of such investment.

131 21. Those portions of meetings in which individual child death cases are discussed by the State Child
 132 Fatality Review Team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.1, those portions of meetings in which
 133 individual child death cases are discussed by a regional or local child fatality review team established
 134 pursuant to § 32.1-283.2, those portions of meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by
 135 family violence fatality review teams established pursuant to § 32.1-283.3, those portions of meetings in
 136 which individual adult death cases are discussed by the state Adult Fatality Review Team established
 137 pursuant to § 32.1-283.5, those portions of meetings in which individual adult death cases are discussed
 138 by a local or regional adult fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.6, those portions of
 139 meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by overdose fatality review teams established
 140 pursuant to § 32.1-283.7, those portions of meetings in which individual maternal death cases are
 141 discussed by the Maternal Mortality Review Team pursuant to § 32.1-283.8, and those portions of
 142 meetings in which individual death cases of persons with developmental disabilities are discussed by the
 143 Developmental Disabilities Mortality Review Committee established pursuant to § 37.2-314.1.

144 22. Those portions of meetings of the board of visitors of the University of Virginia or the Eastern
 145 Virginia Medical School Board of Visitors, as the case may be, and those portions of meetings of any
 146 persons to whom management responsibilities for the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern
 147 Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, have been delegated, in which there is discussed
 148 proprietary, business-related information pertaining to the operations of the University of Virginia
 149 Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, including business development
 150 or marketing strategies and activities with existing or future joint venturers, partners, or other parties
 151 with whom the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case
 152 may be, has formed, or forms, any arrangement for the delivery of health care, if disclosure of such
 153 information would adversely affect the competitive position of the Medical Center or Eastern Virginia
 154 Medical School, as the case may be.

155 23. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority
 156 or the board of visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University of any of the following: the acquisition or
 157 disposition by the Authority of real property, equipment, or technology software or hardware and related
 158 goods or services, where disclosure would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating
 159 strategy of the Authority; matters relating to gifts or bequests to, and fund-raising activities of, the
 160 Authority; grants and contracts for services or work to be performed by the Authority; marketing or
 161 operational strategies plans of the Authority where disclosure of such strategies or plans would adversely
 162 affect the competitive position of the Authority; and members of the Authority's medical and teaching
 163 staffs and qualifications for appointments thereto.

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

167 25. Meetings or portions of meetings of the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan wherein
 168 personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, which has been provided to the Board or its employees
 169 by or on behalf of individuals who have requested information about, applied for, or entered into
 170 prepaid tuition contracts or savings trust account agreements pursuant to Chapter 7 (§ 23.1-700 et seq.)
 171 of Title 23.1 is discussed.

172 26. Discussion or consideration, by the former Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee
 173 created pursuant to former § 56-484.15, of trade secrets submitted by CMRS providers, as defined in §
 174 56-484.12, related to the provision of wireless E-911 service.

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

181 28. Discussion or consideration of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of

182 § 2.2-3705.6 by a responsible public entity or an affected locality or public entity, as those terms are
183 defined in § 33.2-1800, or any independent review panel appointed to review information and advise
184 the responsible public entity concerning such records.

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

189 30. Discussion or consideration of grant or loan application information subject to the exclusion in
190 subdivision 17 of § 2.2-3705.6 by the Commonwealth Health Research Board.

191 31. Discussion or consideration by the Commitment Review Committee of information subject to the
192 exclusion in subdivision 5 of § 2.2-3705.2 relating to individuals subject to commitment as sexually
193 violent predators under Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of Title 37.2.

194 32. Discussion or consideration of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets developed
195 and held by a local public body providing certain telecommunication services or cable television services
196 and subject to the exclusion in subdivision 18 of § 2.2-3705.6. However, the exemption provided by this
197 subdivision shall not apply to any authority created pursuant to the BVU Authority Act (§ 15.2-7200 et
198 seq.).

199 33. Discussion or consideration by a local authority created in accordance with the Virginia Wireless
200 Service Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5431.1 et seq.) of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets
201 subject to the exclusion in subdivision 19 of § 2.2-3705.6.

202 34. Discussion or consideration by the State Board of Elections or local electoral boards of voting
203 security matters made confidential pursuant to § 24.2-410.2 or 24.2-625.1 *and review by the State Board*
204 *of Elections of complaints related to the personal use of campaign funds pursuant to § 24.2-948.7.*

205 35. Discussion or consideration by the Forensic Science Board or the Scientific Advisory Committee
206 created pursuant to Article 2 (§ 9.1-1109 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 9.1 of criminal investigative
207 files.

208 36. Discussion or consideration by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee of
209 information or confidential matters subject to the exclusion in subdivision A 3 of § 2.2-3705.4, and
210 meetings of the Committee to deliberate concerning the annual maximum scholarship award, review and
211 consider scholarship applications and requests for scholarship award renewal, and cancel, rescind, or
212 recover scholarship awards.

213 37. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Port Authority of information subject to the exclusion
214 in subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to certain proprietary information gathered by or for the Virginia
215 Port Authority.

216 38. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System acting
217 pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, by the Investment Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 51.1-124.26,
218 by any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, by the Board of the Virginia College
219 Savings Plan acting pursuant to § 23.1-706, or by the Virginia College Savings Plan's Investment
220 Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 23.1-702 of information subject to the exclusion in
221 subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.7.

222 39. Discussion or consideration of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 3 of
223 § 2.2-3705.6 related to economic development.

224 40. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of information relating to the denial,
225 suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.3.

226 41. Those portions of meetings of the Virginia Military Advisory Council or any commission created
227 by executive order for the purpose of studying and making recommendations regarding preventing
228 closure or realignment of federal military and national security installations and facilities located in
229 Virginia and relocation of such facilities to Virginia, or a local or regional military affairs organization
230 appointed by a local governing body, during which there is discussion of information subject to the
231 exclusion in subdivision 8 of § 2.2-3705.2.

232 42. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation of
233 information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 28 of § 2.2-3705.7 related to personally identifiable
234 information of donors.

235 43. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission of
236 information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 23 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to certain information
237 contained in grant applications.

238 44. Discussion or consideration by the board of directors of the Commercial Space Flight Authority
239 of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to rate structures or
240 charges for the use of projects of, the sale of products of, or services rendered by the Authority and
241 certain proprietary information of a private entity provided to the Authority.

242 45. Discussion or consideration of personal and proprietary information related to the resource
243 management plan program and subject to the exclusion in (i) subdivision 25 of § 2.2-3705.6 or (ii)

244 subsection E of § 10.1-104.7. This exclusion shall not apply to the discussion or consideration of
245 records that contain information that has been certified for release by the person who is the subject of
246 the information or transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow identification of
247 the person who supplied, or is the subject of, the information.

248 46. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Directors of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control
249 Authority of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.3 related to
250 investigations of applicants for licenses and permits and of licensees and permittees.

251 47. Discussion or consideration of grant, loan, or investment application records subject to the
252 exclusion in subdivision 28 of § 2.2-3705.6 for a grant, loan, or investment pursuant to Article 11
253 (§ 2.2-2351 et seq.) of Chapter 22.

254 48. Discussion or development of grant proposals by a regional council established pursuant to
255 Article 26 (§ 2.2-2484 et seq.) of Chapter 24 to be submitted for consideration to the Virginia Growth
256 and Opportunity Board.

257 49. Discussion or consideration of (i) individual sexual assault cases by a sexual assault response
258 team established pursuant to § 15.2-1627.4, (ii) individual child abuse or neglect cases or sex offenses
259 involving a child by a child sexual abuse response team established pursuant to § 15.2-1627.5, or (iii)
260 individual cases involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation of adults as defined in § 63.2-1603 pursuant to
261 §§ 15.2-1627.5 and 63.2-1605.

262 50. Discussion or consideration by the Board of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
263 Authority, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, or any subcommittees thereof, of the
264 portions of the strategic plan, marketing plan, or operational plan exempt from disclosure pursuant to
265 subdivision 33 of § 2.2-3705.7.

266 51. Those portions of meetings of the subcommittee of the Board of the Virginia Economic
267 Development Partnership Authority established pursuant to subsection F of § 2.2-2237.3 to review and
268 discuss information received from the Virginia Employment Commission pursuant to subdivision C 2 of
269 § 60.2-114 and the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement pursuant to subsection B
270 of § 2.2-2040.

271 52. Discussion or consideration by the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority
272 (the Authority), an advisory committee of the Authority, or any other entity designated by the Authority,
273 of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 35 of § 2.2-3705.7.

274 53. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board conducted pursuant to § 58.1-4105 regarding the
275 denial or revocation of a license of a casino gaming operator, or the refusal to issue, suspension of, or
276 revocation of any license or permit related to casino gaming, and discussion, consideration, or review of
277 matters related to investigations excluded from mandatory disclosure under subdivision 1 of
278 § 2.2-3705.3.

279 54. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board in an appeal conducted pursuant to § 58.1-4007
280 regarding the denial of, revocation of, suspension of, or refusal to renew any license or permit related to
281 sports betting and any discussion, consideration, or review of matters related to investigations excluded
282 from mandatory disclosure under subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.3.

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

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

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

293 E. This section shall not be construed to (i) require the disclosure of any contract between the
294 Department of Health Professions and an impaired practitioner entered into pursuant to Chapter 25.1
295 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1 or (ii) require the board of directors of any authority created pursuant
296 to the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.), or any public body
297 empowered to issue industrial revenue bonds by general or special law, to identify a business or industry
298 to which subdivision A 5 applies. However, such business or industry shall be identified as a matter of
299 public record at least 30 days prior to the actual date of the board's authorization of the sale or issuance
300 of such bonds.

301 **§ 2.2-3711. (Effective pursuant to Acts 2023, cc. 756 and 778, cl. 5) Closed meetings authorized**
302 **for certain limited purposes.**

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

- 304 1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment,

305 appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public
306 officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or
307 schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve
308 discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present
309 during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that
310 involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided that
311 the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.
312 Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local
313 governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership
314 of such body or board collectively.

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

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

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

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

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

332 7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual
333 or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the
334 negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable
335 litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal
336 counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in
337 this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney
338 representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

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340 matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
341 construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is
342 in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

343 9. Discussion or consideration by governing boards of public institutions of higher education of
344 matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities, and of grants and contracts for services or
345 work to be performed by such institution. However, the terms and conditions of any such gifts, bequests,
346 grants, and contracts made by a foreign government, a foreign legal entity, or a foreign person and
347 accepted by a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth shall be subject to public
348 disclosure upon written request to the appropriate board of visitors. For the purpose of this subdivision,
349 (i) "foreign government" means any government other than the United States government or the
350 government of a state or a political subdivision thereof, (ii) "foreign legal entity" means any legal entity
351 (a) created under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof if a majority of the ownership of
352 the stock of such legal entity is owned by foreign governments or foreign persons or if a majority of the
353 membership of any such entity is composed of foreign persons or foreign legal entities or (b) created
354 under the laws of a foreign government, and (iii) "foreign person" means any individual who is not a
355 citizen or national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof.

356 10. Discussion or consideration by the boards of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the
357 Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the Fort Monroe Authority,
358 and The Science Museum of Virginia of matters relating to specific gifts, bequests, and grants from
359 private sources.

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362 prepared by a public body and subject to the exclusion in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.1.

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364 disciplinary action against a member arising out of the possible inadequacy of the disclosure statement
365 filed by the member, provided that the member may request in writing that the committee meeting not
366 be conducted in a closed meeting.

367 14. Discussion of strategy with respect to the negotiation of a hazardous waste siting agreement or to
 368 consider the terms, conditions, and provisions of a hazardous waste siting agreement if the governing
 369 body in open meeting finds that an open meeting will have an adverse effect upon the negotiating
 370 position of the governing body or the establishment of the terms, conditions and provisions of the siting
 371 agreement, or both. All discussions with the applicant or its representatives may be conducted in a
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 374 activity and estimating general and nongeneral fund revenues.

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 384 about crimes or criminal activities, (ii) renders assistance in preventing the escape of another prisoner or
 385 in the apprehension of an escaped prisoner, or (iii) voluntarily or at the instance of a prison official
 386 renders other extraordinary services, the disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize the prisoner's life or
 387 safety.

388 19. Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific
 389 cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement
 390 or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to
 391 public safety; discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 2 or 14 of § 2.2-3705.2,
 392 where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any
 393 facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program; or discussion of reports
 394 or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of
 395 persons using such facility, building or structure.

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 397 of any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, or by a local finance board or board of
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 405 Virginia, prepared by the retirement system, or a local finance board or board of trustees, or the Virginia
 406 College Savings Plan or provided to the retirement system, a local finance board or board of trustees, or
 407 the Virginia College Savings Plan under a promise of confidentiality, of the future value of such
 408 ownership interest or the future financial performance of the entity, and (ii) would have an adverse
 409 effect on the value of the investment to be acquired, held, or disposed of by the retirement system, a
 410 local finance board or board of trustees, the board of visitors of the University of Virginia, or the
 411 Virginia College Savings Plan. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the disclosure
 412 of information relating to the identity of any investment held, the amount invested or the present value
 413 of such investment.

414 21. Those portions of meetings in which individual child death cases are discussed by the State Child
 415 Fatality Review Team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.1, those portions of meetings in which
 416 individual child death cases are discussed by a regional or local child fatality review team established
 417 pursuant to § 32.1-283.2, those portions of meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by
 418 family violence fatality review teams established pursuant to § 32.1-283.3, those portions of meetings in
 419 which individual adult death cases are discussed by the state Adult Fatality Review Team established
 420 pursuant to § 32.1-283.5, those portions of meetings in which individual adult death cases are discussed
 421 by a local or regional adult fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.6, those portions of
 422 meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by overdose fatality review teams established
 423 pursuant to § 32.1-283.7, those portions of meetings in which individual maternal death cases are
 424 discussed by the Maternal Mortality Review Team pursuant to § 32.1-283.8, and those portions of
 425 meetings in which individual death cases of persons with developmental disabilities are discussed by the
 426 Developmental Disabilities Mortality Review Committee established pursuant to § 37.2-314.1.

427 22. Those portions of meetings of the board of visitors of the University of Virginia or Old

428 Dominion University, as the case may be, and those portions of meetings of any persons to whom
429 management responsibilities for the University of Virginia Medical Center or the Eastern Virginia Health
430 Sciences Center at Old Dominion University, as the case may be, have been delegated, in which there is
431 discussed proprietary, business-related information pertaining to the operations of the University of
432 Virginia Medical Center or the Eastern Virginia Health Sciences Center at Old Dominion University, as
433 the case may be, including business development or marketing strategies and activities with existing or
434 future joint venturers, partners, or other parties with whom the University of Virginia Medical Center or
435 the Eastern Virginia Health Sciences Center at Old Dominion University, as the case may be, has
436 formed, or forms, any arrangement for the delivery of health care, if disclosure of such information
437 would adversely affect the competitive position of the University of Virginia Medical Center or the
438 Eastern Virginia Health Sciences Center at Old Dominion University, as the case may be.

439 23. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority
440 or the board of visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University of any of the following: the acquisition or
441 disposition by the Authority of real property, equipment, or technology software or hardware and related
442 goods or services, where disclosure would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating
443 strategy of the Authority; matters relating to gifts or bequests to, and fund-raising activities of, the
444 Authority; grants and contracts for services or work to be performed by the Authority; marketing or
445 operational strategies plans of the Authority where disclosure of such strategies or plans would adversely
446 affect the competitive position of the Authority; and members of the Authority's medical and teaching
447 staffs and qualifications for appointments thereto.

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

451 25. Meetings or portions of meetings of the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan wherein
452 personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, which has been provided to the Board or its employees
453 by or on behalf of individuals who have requested information about, applied for, or entered into
454 prepaid tuition contracts or savings trust account agreements pursuant to Chapter 7 (§ 23.1-700 et seq.)
455 of Title 23.1 is discussed.

456 26. Discussion or consideration, by the former Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee
457 created pursuant to former § 56-484.15, of trade secrets submitted by CMRS providers, as defined in §
458 56-484.12, related to the provision of wireless E-911 service.

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

465 28. Discussion or consideration of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of
466 § 2.2-3705.6 by a responsible public entity or an affected locality or public entity, as those terms are
467 defined in § 33.2-1800, or any independent review panel appointed to review information and advise
468 the responsible public entity concerning such records.

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

473 30. Discussion or consideration of grant or loan application information subject to the exclusion in
474 subdivision 17 of § 2.2-3705.6 by the Commonwealth Health Research Board.

475 31. Discussion or consideration by the Commitment Review Committee of information subject to the
476 exclusion in subdivision 5 of § 2.2-3705.2 relating to individuals subject to commitment as sexually
477 violent predators under Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of Title 37.2.

478 32. Discussion or consideration of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets developed
479 and held by a local public body providing certain telecommunication services or cable television services
480 and subject to the exclusion in subdivision 18 of § 2.2-3705.6. However, the exemption provided by this
481 subdivision shall not apply to any authority created pursuant to the BVU Authority Act (§ 15.2-7200 et
482 seq.).

483 33. Discussion or consideration by a local authority created in accordance with the Virginia Wireless
484 Service Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5431.1 et seq.) of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets
485 subject to the exclusion in subdivision 19 of § 2.2-3705.6.

486 34. Discussion or consideration by the State Board of Elections or local electoral boards of voting
487 security matters made confidential pursuant to § 24.2-410.2 or 24.2-625.1 *and review by the State Board*
488 *of Elections of complaints related to the personal use of campaign funds pursuant to § 24.2-948.7.*

489 35. Discussion or consideration by the Forensic Science Board or the Scientific Advisory Committee

490 created pursuant to Article 2 (§ 9.1-1109 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 9.1 of criminal investigative
491 files.

492 36. Discussion or consideration by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee of
493 information or confidential matters subject to the exclusion in subdivision A 3 of § 2.2-3705.4, and
494 meetings of the Committee to deliberate concerning the annual maximum scholarship award, review and
495 consider scholarship applications and requests for scholarship award renewal, and cancel, rescind, or
496 recover scholarship awards.

497 37. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Port Authority of information subject to the exclusion
498 in subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to certain proprietary information gathered by or for the Virginia
499 Port Authority.

500 38. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System acting
501 pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, by the Investment Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 51.1-124.26,
502 by any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, by the Board of the Virginia College
503 Savings Plan acting pursuant to § 23.1-706, or by the Virginia College Savings Plan's Investment
504 Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 23.1-702 of information subject to the exclusion in
505 subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.7.

506 39. Discussion or consideration of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 3 of
507 § 2.2-3705.6 related to economic development.

508 40. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of information relating to the denial,
509 suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.3.

510 41. Those portions of meetings of the Virginia Military Advisory Council or any commission created
511 by executive order for the purpose of studying and making recommendations regarding preventing
512 closure or realignment of federal military and national security installations and facilities located in
513 Virginia and relocation of such facilities to Virginia, or a local or regional military affairs organization
514 appointed by a local governing body, during which there is discussion of information subject to the
515 exclusion in subdivision 8 of § 2.2-3705.2.

516 42. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation of
517 information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 28 of § 2.2-3705.7 related to personally identifiable
518 information of donors.

519 43. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission of
520 information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 23 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to certain information
521 contained in grant applications.

522 44. Discussion or consideration by the board of directors of the Commercial Space Flight Authority
523 of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to rate structures or
524 charges for the use of projects of, the sale of products of, or services rendered by the Authority and
525 certain proprietary information of a private entity provided to the Authority.

526 45. Discussion or consideration of personal and proprietary information related to the resource
527 management plan program and subject to the exclusion in (i) subdivision 25 of § 2.2-3705.6 or (ii)
528 subsection E of § 10.1-104.7. This exclusion shall not apply to the discussion or consideration of
529 records that contain information that has been certified for release by the person who is the subject of
530 the information or transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow identification of
531 the person who supplied, or is the subject of, the information.

532 46. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Directors of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control
533 Authority of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.3 related to
534 investigations of applicants for licenses and permits and of licensees and permittees.

535 47. Discussion or consideration of grant, loan, or investment application records subject to the
536 exclusion in subdivision 28 of § 2.2-3705.6 for a grant, loan, or investment pursuant to Article 11
537 (§ 2.2-2351 et seq.) of Chapter 22.

538 48. Discussion or development of grant proposals by a regional council established pursuant to
539 Article 26 (§ 2.2-2484 et seq.) of Chapter 24 to be submitted for consideration to the Virginia Growth
540 and Opportunity Board.

541 49. Discussion or consideration of (i) individual sexual assault cases by a sexual assault response
542 team established pursuant to § 15.2-1627.4, (ii) individual child abuse or neglect cases or sex offenses
543 involving a child by a child sexual abuse response team established pursuant to § 15.2-1627.5, or (iii)
544 individual cases involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation of adults as defined in § 63.2-1603 pursuant to
545 §§ 15.2-1627.5 and 63.2-1605.

546 50. Discussion or consideration by the Board of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
547 Authority, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, or any subcommittees thereof, of the
548 portions of the strategic plan, marketing plan, or operational plan exempt from disclosure pursuant to
549 subdivision 33 of § 2.2-3705.7.

550 51. Those portions of meetings of the subcommittee of the Board of the Virginia Economic

551 Development Partnership Authority established pursuant to subsection F of § 2.2-2237.3 to review and
552 discuss information received from the Virginia Employment Commission pursuant to subdivision C 2 of
553 § 60.2-114 and the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement pursuant to subsection B
554 of § 2.2-2040.

555 52. Discussion or consideration by the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority
556 (the Authority), an advisory committee of the Authority, or any other entity designated by the Authority,
557 of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 35 of § 2.2-3705.7.

558 53. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board conducted pursuant to § 58.1-4105 regarding the
559 denial or revocation of a license of a casino gaming operator, or the refusal to issue, suspension of, or
560 revocation of any license or permit related to casino gaming, and discussion, consideration, or review of
561 matters related to investigations excluded from mandatory disclosure under subdivision 1 of
562 § 2.2-3705.3.

563 54. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board in an appeal conducted pursuant to § 58.1-4007
564 regarding the denial of, revocation of, suspension of, or refusal to renew any license or permit related to
565 sports betting and any discussion, consideration, or review of matters related to investigations excluded
566 from mandatory disclosure under subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.3.

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

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

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

577 E. This section shall not be construed to (i) require the disclosure of any contract between the
578 Department of Health Professions and an impaired practitioner entered into pursuant to Chapter 25.1
579 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1 or (ii) require the board of directors of any authority created pursuant
580 to the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.), or any public body
581 empowered to issue industrial revenue bonds by general or special law, to identify a business or industry
582 to which subdivision A 5 applies. However, such business or industry shall be identified as a matter of
583 public record at least 30 days prior to the actual date of the board's authorization of the sale or issuance
584 of such bonds.

585 **§ 24.2-946. Summary of election laws; forms; instructions.**

586 A. The State Board shall summarize the provisions of the election laws relating to the Campaign
587 Finance Disclosure Act of 2006 and provide for distribution of this summary and prescribed forms to
588 each candidate, person, or committee on request or upon their first filing with the State Board pursuant
589 to this chapter, whichever occurs first.

590 B. The *State* Board shall designate the forms required for complying with this chapter which shall be
591 the only such forms used in complying with the provisions of this chapter.

592 C. The *State* Board shall provide, with the summary required by this section, instructions for persons
593 filing reports pursuant to this chapter to assist them in completing the reports. The instructions shall
594 include directions for the reporting of filing fees for any party nomination method. The instructions shall
595 set out the requirements for retaining records and materials for implementing the review provisions of
596 § 24.2-948.5.

597 D. The *State* Board shall provide instructions for candidates who seek election for successive terms
598 in the same office for the filing of reports within each appropriate election cycle for the office and for
599 the aggregation of contributions within each election cycle.

600 E. The *State* Board, *in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General*, shall ~~provide, with the~~
601 ~~summary required by this section, to each candidate, person, or committee on request or upon their first~~
602 ~~filing with the State Board pursuant to this chapter, whichever occurs first, a copy of a written~~
603 ~~explanation prepared by the Attorney General of develop and publish guidance on the provisions of the~~
604 ~~Act that prohibit the personal use of campaign funds. The explanation~~ *Such guidance* shall cover the
605 provisions that prohibit the personal use of campaign funds and shall delineate the differences between
606 prohibited personal uses of campaign funds and permitted uses of the funds, *and shall include examples*
607 *of conduct that complies with and that violates such provisions. The State Board shall periodically*
608 *update such guidance to incorporate advisory opinions and additional examples.*

609 **§ 24.2-948.4. Final report requirement; disbursement of surplus funds.**

610 A. A final report shall be filed by every campaign committee which sets forth (i) all receipts and
611 disbursements not previously reported, (ii) an accounting of the retirement of all debts, and (iii) the
612 disposition of all surplus funds as provided in subsection D. The final report shall include a termination

613 statement, signed by the candidate, that all reporting for the campaign committee is complete and final.
614 Once a campaign committee's final report has been filed, no further report relating to that election shall
615 be required.

616 B. A final report shall be required when (i) a candidate no longer seeks election to the same office in
617 a successive election, (ii) a candidate seeks election to a different office, or (iii) the candidate is
618 deceased.

619 C. If the candidate is deceased, the final report shall be filed and signed by the treasurer. If the
620 candidate was serving as his own treasurer, his executor shall file and sign the final report. Any excess
621 contributed funds shall be disposed of pursuant to the provisions of subsection D.

622 D. Amounts received by a candidate or his campaign committee as contributions that are in excess of
623 the amount necessary to defray his campaign expenditures *or items acquired using campaign*
624 *contributions* may be disposed of only by one or any combination of the following: (i) transferring the
625 excess *or items acquired using campaign contributions* for use in a succeeding election or to retire the
626 deficit in a preceding election; (ii) returning the excess *or items acquired using campaign contributions*
627 to a contributor in an amount not to exceed the contributor's original contribution; (iii) donating the
628 excess *or items acquired using campaign contributions* to any organization described in § 170(c) of the
629 Internal Revenue Code; (iv) contributing the excess *or items acquired using campaign contributions* to
630 one or more candidates or to any political committee that has filed a statement of organization pursuant
631 to this chapter; (v) contributing the excess *or items acquired using campaign contributions* to any
632 political party committee; and (vi) defraying any ordinary, nonreimbursed expense related to his elective
633 office. ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to convert any contributed moneys, securities, or like~~
634 ~~intangible personal property to his personal use or to the use of a member of the candidate's "immediate~~
635 ~~family" as that term is defined in § 30-101.~~

636 **§ 24.2-948.6. Use of campaign funds.**

637 A. A contribution accepted by a candidate or his campaign committee may be used for the following
638 purposes:

- 639 1. For otherwise authorized expenditures in connection with the candidate's campaign;
- 640 2. For ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of the individual as
641 an office holder;
- 642 3. For contributions to any organization described in § 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- 643 4. For transfers to any federal, state, or local political party committee;
- 644 5. For contributions to federal, state, and local candidates subject to the provisions of prevailing
645 law;
- 646 6. For child care expenses that are incurred as a direct result of the persons seeking, holding, or
647 maintaining public office; or
- 648 7. For any other lawful purpose unless prohibited by subsection B.

649 B. Contributions to a candidate or his campaign committee shall not be converted by any person to
650 personal use. For the purpose of this subsection, a contribution shall be considered to be converted to
651 personal use if the contribution is used to fulfill any commitment, obligation, or expense of a person
652 that would exist irrespective of the person's seeking, holding, or maintaining public office, which
653 includes the following:

- 654 1. A home mortgage, rent, or utility payment;
- 655 2. A clothing purchase;
- 656 3. A non-campaign-related automobile expense;
- 657 4. A country club membership;
- 658 5. A vacation or other non-campaign-related trip;
- 659 6. A household food item;
- 660 7. A tuition payment;
- 661 8. Admission to a sporting event, a concert, a theater, or any other form of entertainment not
662 associated with an election campaign; or
- 663 9. Dues, fees, and other payments to a health club or recreational facility.

664 **§ 24.2-948.7. Violations of the ban on personal use of campaign funds; complaint; notice;**
665 **hearing; penalty.**

666 A. A person who believes a violation of § 24.2-948.6 has occurred and (i) contributes to a candidate
667 or his campaign committee that has allegedly committed the violation or (ii) is qualified to vote in the
668 election for the office for which such candidate is running is qualified to file a complaint with the
669 Department. Such complaint shall be in writing on a form provided by the Department, signed and
670 sworn to by the person filing such complaint, notarized, and made under penalty of perjury and subject
671 to the provisions of § 24.2-1016. The complaint shall clearly identify the complainant and the person
672 against whom the complaint is addressed (the respondent) and contain (a) a credible allegation of a
673 violation of § 24.2-948.6 with regard to a specific use of campaign contributions by the candidate or his

674 campaign committee, (b) attached documentation supporting the allegation, (c) the names and contact
675 information of any person the complainant knows to have knowledge of facts relating to the allegation,
676 and (d) any other information required by the Department. The Department shall provide a copy of the
677 complaint to the respondent within 24 hours of receipt. The Department shall complete its review of
678 such complaints and, within 10 days, transmit to the State Board any credible and complete complaint
679 from a qualified complainant and send written notice to the complainant and respondent of the
680 Department's ultimate determination of the complaint's disposition. The State Board shall not act upon
681 any complaint that does not meet the requirements of this subsection but shall be authorized to initiate
682 an inquiry upon its own motion.

683 B. Upon receipt of a complaint or upon its own motion, the State Board shall conduct a preliminary
684 investigation into the specific use of campaign contributions by the candidate. Such preliminary
685 investigation shall be conducted in closed meetings held pursuant to § 2.2-3711. The State Board shall
686 determine, during its preliminary investigation, whether the facts stated in the complaint or that serve as
687 the basis of the State Board's motion taken as true are sufficient to show a violation of § 24.2-948.6. If
688 such facts fail to give rise to such a violation, then the State Board shall dismiss the complaint. If the
689 facts give rise to such a violation, then the State Board shall request that the complainant appear and
690 testify under oath as to the complaint and the allegations therein. If the inquiry was initiated by the
691 State Board's own motion, the State Board may request that witnesses appear and testify under oath as
692 to the allegations raised by the State Board.

693 The State Board shall notify the respondent that a preliminary investigation has commenced within
694 24 hours of initiating such investigation. Before the State Board conducts any vote on the complaint,
695 other than a vote to dismiss, the respondent shall have 30 days to provide to the State Board
696 documentation or other evidence that no action should be taken against the respondent on the basis of
697 the complaint or the allegations brought by the State Board. If the respondent provides such
698 documentation or such other evidence, the State Board shall review the response and determine whether
699 to proceed with the inquiry.

700 After hearing testimony and reviewing any other evidence provided by the complainant, witnesses, or
701 the respondent, the State Board shall dismiss the complaint if the State Board fails to find by a
702 preponderance of the evidence that such violation has occurred. If the State Board finds otherwise, it
703 shall proceed with the inquiry by calling for a public hearing.

704 If at any point prior to the State Board's call for a public hearing on the matter the respondent pays
705 back to the campaign committee from his personal funds the amount that was allegedly converted to his
706 personal use, the State Board shall dismiss the complaint or motion and end the inquiry into the matter.

707 Prior to the State Board's holding a public hearing on the matter, the complaint, the State Board's
708 written notice, and any related records shall not be subject to the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of
709 Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) and shall not be made public, except by the respondent. However,
710 once the State Board has commenced a public meeting to further inquire into alleged conversion of
711 campaign funds to personal use, its materials, meetings, and hearings on the matter shall be open to the
712 public.

713 C. If after such preliminary investigation the State Board determines to proceed with an inquiry into
714 the specific use of campaign contributions by the respondent, the State Board (i) shall immediately
715 notify in writing the complainant and the respondent as to the fact of the inquiry and the allegations
716 against the respondent and (ii) shall schedule one or more hearings on the matter. The respondent shall
717 have the right to postpone the hearing if it is scheduled within the 30 days immediately preceding an
718 election in which the respondent is a candidate for office. If the complaining party declines to
719 participate in the hearing, the complaint shall be dismissed and no further action shall be taken.

720 The respondent shall have the right to access all records obtained during the investigation, present
721 evidence, cross-examine witnesses, face and examine the accuser, and be represented by counsel at any
722 hearings. The State Board may grant the respondent any other rights or privileges not specifically
723 enumerated in this subsection.

724 If at any time the State Board determines that the complaint is without merit, the State Board shall
725 dismiss the complaint, so advise the complainant and the respondent, and take no further action.

726 D. A decision to dispose of a complaint under this section shall require a vote of four members of
727 the State Board. Failure of the State Board to dispose of a complaint within 120 days of the
728 Department's transmission of the signed and sworn complaint shall result in the summary dismissal of
729 the matter, after which no further action shall be taken.

730 Within 120 days of the Department's transmission of the signed and sworn complaint to the State
731 Board or a motion to begin an inquiry, the State Board may dispose of the matter in one of the
732 following ways:

733 1. If for any reason the State Board dismisses the matter during its preliminary investigation and
734 prior to holding a public hearing on the matter, the State Board shall so advise the complainant and the
735 respondent and take no further action. In such case, the records and findings on the matter shall not be

736 subject to the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) and shall not
737 be made public unless the respondent requests in writing that the records and findings be made public.

738 2. If at any time after the commencement of the initial public hearing on the matter the State Board
739 dismisses the matter, the State Board shall so advise the complainant and the respondent and prepare a
740 written judgment stating the grounds for the dismissal.

741 3. If after a public hearing the State Board determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the
742 respondent has violated the provisions of § 24.2-948.6 but that the violation was not made willfully and
743 knowingly, the State Board may require the respondent to repay an amount not to exceed the amount
744 unlawfully converted to the personal use of the respondent. Respondents who claim an inability to repay
745 the amount the State Board has determined is owed may be asked to provide documentation as to their
746 financial condition. The State Board may negotiate a payment plan that enables a respondent to repay.
747 The procedure to enforce repayment under this section shall be as stated in § 24.2-946.3. The State
748 Board shall prepare a written judgment stating its determination of the matter, its recommended remedy,
749 and reasons therefor. A copy of the judgment shall be sent to each party and posted on the State
750 Board's website.

751 4. If the State Board determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent willfully and
752 knowingly violated any provision of § 24.2-948.6, the State Board shall direct the respondent to repay
753 the amount unlawfully converted to his personal use. The State Board may also assess an additional
754 civil penalty, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per itemized expenditure found to be in violation of any
755 provision of § 24.2-948.6 and in no case greater than \$10,000. Respondents who claim an inability to
756 pay an appropriate civil penalty may be asked to provide documentation as to their financial condition.
757 The State Board may negotiate a payment plan that enables a respondent to pay an appropriate civil
758 penalty. Any civil penalty collected under this subdivision shall be payable to the State Treasurer for
759 deposit into the general fund. The procedure to enforce a civil penalty provided in this section shall be
760 as stated in § 24.2-946.3. The State Board shall prepare a written judgment stating its determination of
761 the matter, its recommended remedy, and reasons therefor. A copy of the judgment shall be sent to each
762 party and posted on the State Board's website.

763 E. A person found by the State Board to have violated the provisions of this section shall have a
764 right to the direct review of the finding by a court of competent jurisdiction as provided in the
765 Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.). The provisions of the Administrative Process Act shall
766 not otherwise apply, however, to the finding of a violation by the State Board pursuant to this section.

767 F. The State Board may, by a vote of four members, make a finding that a complaint is frivolous.
768 Such a finding shall be prima facie evidence of abuse of process by the complainant. The State Board
769 shall prepare a written judgment stating its determination of the matter and reasons therefor. A copy of
770 the judgment shall be sent to each party and posted on the State Board's website.

771 **§ 24.2-948.8. Advisory opinions.**

772 A. Any person subject to the provisions of § 24.2-948.6 may submit a complete written request for an
773 advisory opinion concerning the application of that section to a specific transaction or activity on a
774 form provided by the Department. The Department shall transmit any such complete written request for
775 an advisory opinion to the State Board.

776 B. The State Board shall, upon receipt, make public any request for an advisory opinion. Before
777 rendering an advisory opinion, the State Board shall accept written comments submitted by any
778 interested party within the 10-day period following the date the request is made public.

779 C. The State Board shall issue a written advisory opinion within 60 days of receipt of the request for
780 an advisory opinion. However, if an advisory opinion is requested by a candidate or his campaign
781 committee during the 60-day period before any election involving the requesting party, the State Board
782 shall render a written advisory opinion relating to such request no later than 20 days after the State
783 Board receives a complete written request.

784 D. Any advisory opinion rendered by the State Board under subsection C may be relied upon by (i)
785 any person involved in the specific transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is
786 rendered and (ii) any person involved in any specific transaction or activity that is indistinguishable in
787 all its material aspects from the transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is
788 rendered.

789 E. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who relies upon any provision or finding
790 of an advisory opinion in accordance with the provisions of subsection D and who acts in good faith in
791 accordance with the provisions and findings of such advisory opinion shall not, as a result of any such
792 act, be subject to any sanction provided under § 24.2-948.7.

793 **2. That the State Board of Elections shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of**
794 **this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.**

795 **3. That the regulations adopted pursuant to the second enactment of this act shall include**
796 **regulations substantially similar to the regulations of the Federal Election Commission (the FEC)**

797 under 11 C.F.R. Part 112 with respect to advisory opinions and 11 C.F.R. Part 113 with respect to
798 the prohibition on personal use of campaign funds. The regulations adopted pursuant to the
799 second enactment of this act shall also include adoption of past closed matters under review and
800 advisory opinions of the FEC on matters related to the prohibited personal use of campaign funds
801 under federal law as precedent for any future decisions of the State Board of Elections with
802 respect to analogous state law.

803 4. That the State Board of Elections shall publish an updated summary of the provisions of the
804 Campaign Finance Disclosure Act of 2006 (§ 24.2-945 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, as amended
805 by this act) required by subsection E of § 24.2-946 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this
806 act, and any regulations of the State Board of Elections promulgated pursuant to the second
807 enactment of this act within 30 days of the promulgation of such regulations.

808 5. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or
809 commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the
810 necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult
811 correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, Special Session I,
812 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of
813 \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be
814 determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.