

LD1349633

**SENATE BILL NO. 725**

Offered January 12, 1995

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 16.1-241 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 18.2-75.1, 18.2-75.2 and 18.2-75.3, relating to procedures governing abortions for minors; penalty.*

Patrons—Colgan, Benedetti, Chichester, Earley, Gartlan, Goode, Holland, R.J., Miller, K.G., Norment, Potts, Quayle and Wampler; Delegates: Brickley, Parrish and Rollison

Referred to the Committee on Education and Health

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 16.1-241 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 18.2-75.1, 18.2-75.2 and 18.2-75.3 as follows:**

§ 16.1-241. (For effective date - See note) Jurisdiction.

The judges of the juvenile and domestic relations district court elected or appointed under this law shall be conservators of the peace within the corporate limits of the cities and the boundaries of the counties for which they are respectively chosen and within one mile beyond the limits of such cities and counties. Except as hereinafter provided, each juvenile and domestic relations district court shall have, within the limits of the territory for which it is created, exclusive original jurisdiction, and within one mile beyond the limits of said city or county, concurrent jurisdiction with the juvenile court or courts of the adjoining city or county over all cases, matters and proceedings involving:

A. The custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child:

1. Who is alleged to be abused, neglected, in need of services, in need of supervision, a status offender, or delinquent, except where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court has been terminated under the provisions of § 16.1-269.6;

2. Who is abandoned by his parent or other custodian or who by reason of the absence or physical or mental incapacity of his parents is without parental care and guardianship;

2a. Who is at risk of being abused or neglected by a parent or custodian who has been adjudicated as having abused or neglected another child in the care of the parent or custodian;

3. Whose custody, visitation or support is a subject of controversy or requires determination. In such cases jurisdiction shall be concurrent with and not exclusive of courts having equity jurisdiction, except as provided in § 16.1-244;

4. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204 or whose parent or parents for good cause desire to be relieved of his care and custody;

5. Where the termination of residual parental rights and responsibilities is sought. In such cases jurisdiction shall be concurrent with and not exclusive of courts having equity jurisdiction, as provided in § 16.1-244;

6. Who is charged with a traffic infraction as defined in § 46.2-100.

The authority of the juvenile court to adjudicate matters involving the custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child shall not be limited to the consideration of petitions filed by a mother, father or legal guardian but shall include petitions filed at any time by any party with a legitimate interest therein. A party with a legitimate interest shall be broadly construed and shall include, but not be limited to, grandparents, stepparents, former stepparents, blood relatives and family members. A party with a legitimate interest shall not include any person (i) whose parental rights have been involuntarily terminated by court order if the child subsequently has been legally adopted, or (ii) who has been convicted of a violation of subsection A of § 18.2-61 or subsection B of § 18.2-366 when the child who is the subject of the petition was conceived as a result of such violation. The authority of the juvenile court to consider a petition involving the custody of a child shall not be proscribed or limited where the child has previously been awarded to the custody of a local board of social services.

B. The admission of minors for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of this chapter and the commitment of a mentally ill person or judicial certification of eligibility for admission to a treatment facility of a mentally retarded person in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 1 (§ 37.1-1 et seq.) and 2 (§ 37.1-63 et seq.) of Title 37.1. Jurisdiction of the commitment and certification of adults shall be concurrent with the general district court.

C. Except as provided in subsections D and H hereof, judicial consent to such activities as may require parental consent may be given for a child who has been separated from his parents, guardian,

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SB725

60 legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis and is in the custody of the court when such  
61 consent is required by law.

62 D. Judicial consent for emergency surgical or medical treatment for a child who is neither married  
63 nor has ever been married, when the consent of his parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person  
64 standing in loco parentis is unobtainable because such parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person  
65 standing in loco parentis (i) is not a resident of this Commonwealth, (ii) his whereabouts is unknown,  
66 (iii) he cannot be consulted with promptness, reasonable under the circumstances or (iv) fails to give  
67 such consent or provide such treatment when requested by the judge to do so.

68 E. Any person charged with deserting, abandoning or failing to provide support for any person in  
69 violation of law.

70 F. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis of a child:

71 1. Who has been abused or neglected;

72 2. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204  
73 or is otherwise before the court pursuant to subdivision A 4 of this section;

74 3. Who has been adjudicated in need of services, in need of supervision, or delinquent, if the court  
75 finds that such person has by overt act or omission induced, caused, encouraged or contributed to the  
76 conduct of the child complained of in the petition.

77 G. Petitions filed by or on behalf of a child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other  
78 person standing in loco parentis for the purpose of obtaining treatment, rehabilitation or other services  
79 which are required by law to be provided for that child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian  
80 or other person standing in loco parentis. Jurisdiction in such cases shall be concurrent with and not  
81 exclusive of that of courts having equity jurisdiction as provided in § 16.1-244.

82 H. Judicial consent to apply for work permit for a child when such child is separated from his  
83 parents, legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

84 I. The prosecution and punishment of persons charged with ill-treatment, abuse, abandonment or  
85 neglect of children or with any violation of law which causes or tends to cause a child to come within  
86 the purview of this law, or with any other offense against the person of a child. In prosecution for  
87 felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to determining whether or not  
88 there is probable cause.

89 J. All offenses in which one family or household member is charged with an offense in which  
90 another family or household member is the victim and all offenses under § 18.2-49.1.

91 In prosecution for felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to  
92 determining whether or not there is probable cause. For purposes of this subsection, "family or  
93 household member," as defined in § 16.1-228, shall also be construed to include parent and child,  
94 stepparent and stepchild, brothers and sisters, and grandparent and grandchild, regardless of whether  
95 such persons reside in the same home.

96 K. Petitions filed by a natural parent, whose parental rights to a child have been voluntarily  
97 relinquished pursuant to a court proceeding, to seek a reversal of the court order terminating such  
98 parental rights. No such petition shall be accepted, however, after the child has been placed in the home  
99 of adoptive parents.

100 L. Any person who seeks spousal support after having separated from his spouse. A decision under  
101 this subdivision shall not be res judicata in any subsequent action for spousal support in a circuit court.  
102 A circuit court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction in all causes of action under this subdivision.

103 M. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to § 16.1-253.1 or  
104 § 16.1-279.1.

105 N. Any person who escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility  
106 in which he had been placed by the court or as a result of his commitment to the Virginia Department  
107 of Youth and Family Services.

108 O. Petitions for emancipation of a minor pursuant to Article 15 (§ 16.1-331 et seq.) of this chapter.

109 P. Petitions for enforcement of administrative support orders entered pursuant to Chapter 13  
110 (§ 63.1-249 et seq.) of Title 63.1, or by another state in the same manner as if the orders were entered  
111 by a juvenile and domestic relations district court upon the filing of a certified copy of such order in the  
112 juvenile and domestic relations district court.

113 Q. Petitions for a determination of parentage pursuant to Chapter 3.1 (§ 20-49.1 et seq.) of Title 20.

114 R. Petitions for the purpose of obtaining an emergency protective order pursuant to § 16.1-253.4.

115 S. Petitions filed by school boards against a parent pursuant to § 16.1-241.2.

116 *T. Petitions for obtaining authorization for a physician to perform an abortion pursuant to*  
117 *§ 18.2-75.2.*

118 The ages specified in this law refer to the age of the child at the time of the acts complained of in  
119 the petition.

120 § 16.1-241. (Delayed effective date - See notes) Jurisdiction.

121 The judges of the family court elected or appointed under this law shall be conservators of the peace

within the corporate limits of the cities and the boundaries of the counties for which they are respectively chosen and within one mile beyond the limits of such cities and counties. Except as hereinafter provided, each family court shall have, within the limits of the territory for which it is created, exclusive original jurisdiction, and within one mile beyond the limits of said city or county, concurrent jurisdiction with the family court or courts of the adjoining city or county over all cases, matters and proceedings involving:

A. The custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child:

1. Who is alleged to be abused, neglected, in need of services, in need of supervision, a status offender, or delinquent, except where the jurisdiction of the family court has been terminated under the provisions of § 16.1-269.6;

2. Who is abandoned by his parent or other custodian or who by reason of the absence or physical or mental incapacity of his parents is without parental care and guardianship;

2a. Who is at risk of being abused or neglected by a parent or custodian who has been adjudicated as having abused or neglected another child in the care of the parent or custodian;

3. Whose custody, visitation or support is a subject of controversy or requires determination;

4. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204 or whose parent or parents for good cause desire to be relieved of his care and custody;

5. Where the termination of residual parental rights and responsibilities is sought;

6. Who is charged with a traffic infraction as defined in § 46.2-100.

The authority of the family court to adjudicate matters involving the custody, visitation, support, control or disposition of a child shall not be limited to the consideration of petitions filed by a mother, father or legal guardian but shall include petitions filed at any time by any party with a legitimate interest therein. A party with a legitimate interest shall be broadly construed and shall include, but not be limited to, grandparents, stepparents, former stepparents, blood relatives and family members. A party with a legitimate interest shall not include any person (i) whose parental rights have been involuntarily terminated by court order if the child subsequently has been legally adopted, or (ii) who has been convicted of a violation of subsection A of § 18.2-61 or subsection B of § 18.2-366 when the child who is the subject of the petition was conceived as a result of such violation. The authority of the family court to consider a petition involving the custody of a child shall not be proscribed or limited where the child has previously been awarded to the custody of a local board of social services.

B. The admission of minors for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of this chapter and the commitment of a mentally ill person or judicial certification of eligibility for admission to a treatment facility of a mentally retarded person in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 1 (§ 37.1-1 et seq.) and 2 (§ 37.1-63 et seq.) of Title 37.1. Jurisdiction of the commitment and certification of adults shall be concurrent with the general district court.

C. Except as provided in subsections D and H hereof, judicial consent to such activities as may require parental consent may be given for a child who has been separated from his parents, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis and is in the custody of the court when such consent is required by law.

D. Judicial consent for emergency surgical or medical treatment for a child who is neither married nor has ever been married, when the consent of his parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis is unobtainable because such parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis (i) is not a resident of this Commonwealth, (ii) his whereabouts is unknown, (iii) cannot be consulted with promptness, reasonable under the circumstances or (iv) fails to give such consent or provide such treatment when requested by the judge to do so.

E. Any person charged with deserting, abandoning or failing to provide support for any person in violation of law pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 20-61 et seq.) of Title 20.

F. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis of a child:

1. Who has been abused or neglected;

2. Who is the subject of an entrustment agreement entered into pursuant to § 63.1-56 or § 63.1-204 or is otherwise before the court pursuant to subdivision A 4 of this section;

3. Who has been adjudicated in need of services, in need of supervision, or delinquent, if the court finds that such person has by overt act or omission induced, caused, encouraged or contributed to the conduct of the child complained of in the petition.

G. Petitions filed by or on behalf of a child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis for the purpose of obtaining treatment, rehabilitation or other services which are required by law to be provided for that child or such child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco parentis.

H. Judicial consent to apply for work permit for a child when such child is separated from his parents, legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

183 I. The prosecution and punishment of persons charged with ill-treatment, abuse, abandonment or  
184 neglect of children or with any violation of law which causes or tends to cause a child to come within  
185 the purview of this law, or with any other offense against the person of a child. In prosecution for  
186 felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to determining whether or not  
187 there is probable cause.

188 J. All offenses in which one family or household member is charged with an offense in which  
189 another family or household member is the victim and all offenses under § 18.2-49.1.

190 In prosecution for felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to  
191 determining whether or not there is probable cause. For purposes of this subsection, "family or  
192 household member," as defined in § 16.1-228, shall also be construed to include parent and child,  
193 stepparent and stepchild, brothers and sisters, and grandparent and grandchild, regardless of whether  
194 such persons reside in the same home.

195 K. Petitions filed by a natural parent, whose parental rights to a child have been voluntarily  
196 relinquished pursuant to a court proceeding, to seek a reversal of the court order terminating such  
197 parental rights. No such petition shall be accepted, however, after the child has been placed in the home  
198 of adoptive parents.

199 L. Any person who seeks spousal support after having separated from his spouse.

200 M. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to § 16.1-253.1 or  
201 § 16.1-279.1.

202 N. Any person who escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility  
203 in which he had been placed by the court or as a result of his commitment to the Virginia Department  
204 of Youth and Family Services.

205 O. Petitions for emancipation of a minor pursuant to Article 15 (§ 16.1-331 et seq.) of this chapter.

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207 (§ 63.1-249 et seq.) of Title 63.1, or by another state in the same manner as if the orders were entered  
208 by a family court upon the filing of a certified copy of such order in the family court.

209 Q. Petitions for a determination of parentage pursuant to Chapter 3.1 (§ 20-49.1 et seq.) of Title 20.

210 R. Petitions for the purpose of obtaining an emergency protective order pursuant to § 16.1-253.4.

211 S. Suits for divorce and for annulling or affirming marriage in accordance with Title 20.

212 T. Suits for separate maintenance.

213 U. Suits for equitable distribution based on a foreign decree in accordance with § 20-107.3.

214 V. Petitions for adoption.

215 W. Petitions for change of name when incident to suits for annulling or affirming marriage, divorce,  
216 or adoption or when ancillary to any action within the jurisdiction of the family court.

217 X. Petitions regarding records of birth pursuant to Chapter 7 (§ 32.1-249 et seq.) of Title 32.1.

218 Y. Judicial review of school board actions pursuant to § 22.1-87 and of hearing officer decisions  
219 pursuant to §§ 22.1-214 and 22.1-214.1.

220 Z. Petitions filed by school boards against a parent pursuant to § 16.1-241.2.

221 AA. *Petitions for obtaining authorization for a physician to perform an abortion pursuant to*  
222 *§ 18.2-75.2.*

223 . The ages specified in this law refer to the age of the child at the time of the acts complained of in  
224 the petition.

225 *§ 18.2-75.1. Minors; abortion requirements and procedure; penalty.*

226 A. *No physician shall knowingly perform an abortion, induce any miscarriage or terminate any*  
227 *pregnancy as provided in § 18.2-72, § 18.2-73, or § 18.2-74 upon an unemancipated woman under the*  
228 *age of eighteen years unless:*

229 *1. The physician or his agent has given at least twenty-four hours' notice of his intent to perform an*  
230 *abortion directly in person or by telephone to (i) a parent, (ii) a person standing in loco parentis with*  
231 *whom the minor resides on a regular basis who is responsible for the care and control or the minor in*  
232 *the absence of the minor's parents and with the consent of such parents, or (iii) another lawfully*  
233 *appointed custodian of the minor, and the physician has secured the informed, written consent of the*  
234 *minor;*

235 *2. The physician or his agent, after a reasonable effort to notify the parent or other person as*  
236 *required by subdivision A 1, (i) has mailed notice to one parent or such other person by certified mail*  
237 *addressed to the parent or other person at the usual place of abode of the parent or other person with*  
238 *return receipt requested, (ii) seventy-two hours have elapsed since such mailing, and (iii) the physician*  
239 *has secured the informed written consent of the minor;*

240 *3. At least one person who is entitled to notice is present with the minor seeking the abortion, and*  
241 *the physician has secured the informed written consent of the minor; or*

242 *4. The abortion is authorized in writing by at least one person who is entitled to notice, the*  
243 *authorization is delivered to the physician prior to the abortion, and the physician has secured the*  
244 *informed written consent of the minor.*

For purposes of this section, a minor shall be emancipated if: (i) the minor has entered into a valid marriage, whether or not that marriage has been terminated by dissolution; (ii) the minor is on active duty with any of the armed forces of the United States of America; or (iii) the minor willingly lives separate and apart from her parents or guardian, with the consent or acquiescence of the parents or guardian, and the minor is, or is capable of, supporting herself and competently managing her own financial affairs.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 18.2-71, any physician who performs an abortion, induces any miscarriage or terminates any pregnancy upon an unmarried, unemancipated woman under the age of eighteen years which would otherwise be lawful under the provisions of this article without complying with the provisions of this section and § 18.2-75.2 shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

§ 18.2-75.2. Minor's abortion; judicial procedure in lieu of notification.

If an unmarried, unemancipated minor elects not to allow the notification of one of her parents or other person as provided in § 18.2-75.1, upon petition as provided in § 16.1-241 and after hearing, a judge may authorize a physician to perform the abortion if the judge determines that the minor is mature and capable of giving informed consent to the proposed abortion. If the judge determines that the minor is not mature, or if the minor does not claim to be mature, the judge shall determine whether the performance of an abortion upon her without notification of her parent or such other person would be in her best interests and shall authorize a physician to perform the abortion without such notification if the judge concludes that the minor's best interests would be served thereby.

The minor may participate in the court proceedings on her own behalf, and the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for her. The court shall advise her that she has a right to counsel and shall, upon her request, appoint counsel for her.

Court proceedings under this section shall be confidential and shall be given precedence over other pending matters so that the court may reach a decision promptly and without delay so as to serve the minor's best interests. Court proceedings under this section shall be heard as soon as practicable, but in no event later than four days after the petition is filed.

An expedited confidential appeal shall be available to any minor for whom the court denies an order authorizing an abortion without notification. Any such appeal must be heard and decided no later than five days after the appeal is filed. An order authorizing an abortion without notification shall not be subject to appeal.

No filing fees shall be required of the minor at either the trial or appellate level.

If either the trial or appellate court fails to act within the time periods required by this section, the trial court shall immediately authorize a physician to perform the abortion without notification to the minor's parent or custodian.

§ 18.2-75.3. When notification or judicial approval not required.

The provisions of § 18.2-75.1 shall not apply when:

1. The pregnant minor woman declares that she is abused or neglected or a victim of incest and the attending physician has reason to suspect that the minor may be an abused or neglected child as defined in § 63.1-248.2 or a victim of incest and reports the suspected abuse or neglect to the local department of public welfare or social services as required by § 63.1-248.3; or

2. The attending physician certifies in the minor's medical record that in his good faith medical judgment (i) the abortion is medically necessary immediately to avert her death or (ii) there is insufficient time to provide the required notice or judicial authorization because a delay would create a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function or substantial physical injury.