

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to corporal punishment.*

3 [S 942]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**6 **1. That § 22.1-279.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

7 § 22.1-279.1. Corporal punishment prohibited.

8 A. No teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school
9 operated by the Commonwealth shall subject a student to corporal punishment. This prohibition of
10 corporal punishment shall not be deemed to prevent (i) the use of incidental, minor or reasonable
11 physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control; (ii) the use of reasonable and
12 necessary force to quell a disturbance or remove a student from the scene of a disturbance which
13 threatens physical injury to persons or damage to property; (iii) the use of reasonable and necessary
14 force to prevent a student from inflicting physical harm on himself; (iv) the use of reasonable and
15 necessary force for self-defense or the defense of others; or (v) the use of reasonable and necessary
16 force to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects or controlled substances or
17 paraphernalia which are upon the person of the student or within his control.

18 B. In determining whether a person was acting within the exceptions provided in this section, due
19 deference shall be given to reasonable judgments at the time of the event which were made by a
20 teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated by the
21 Commonwealth.

22 C. For the purposes of this section, "corporal punishment" means the infliction of, or causing the
23 infliction of, physical pain on a student as a means of discipline.

24 This definition shall not include physical pain, *injury* or discomfort caused by *the use of incidental,*
25 *minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control as*
26 *permitted in subdivision (i) of subsection A of this section or the use of reasonable and necessary force*
27 *as permitted by subdivisions (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) of subsection A of this section, or by participation in*
28 *practice or competition in an interscholastic sport, or participation in physical education or an*
29 *extracurricular activity.*