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HOUSE BILL NO. 500

Offered January 18, 1996

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, relating to sheriffs' fees for service in the juvenile and family courts.

 Patron—Woodrum

 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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 as follows:

§ 16.1-241. 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, 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

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60 nor has ever been married, when the consent of his parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person
61 standing in loco parentis is unobtainable because such parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person
62 standing in loco parentis (i) is not a resident of this Commonwealth, (ii) his whereabouts is unknown,
63 (iii) he cannot be consulted with promptness, reasonable under the circumstances or (iv) fails to give
64 such consent or provide such treatment when requested by the judge to do so.

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

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

68 1. Who has been abused or neglected;

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

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

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

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

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

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

88 In prosecution for felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to
89 determining whether or not there is probable cause. Any objection based on jurisdiction under this
90 subsection shall be made before a jury is impaneled and sworn in a jury trial or, in a nonjury trial,
91 before the earlier of when the court begins to hear or receive evidence or the first witness is sworn, or it
92 shall be conclusively waived for all purposes. Any such objection shall not affect or be grounds for
93 challenging directly or collaterally the jurisdiction of the court in which the case is tried. For purposes
94 of this subsection, "family or household member," as defined in § 16.1-228, shall also be construed to
95 include parent and child, stepparent and stepchild, brothers and sisters, and grandparent and grandchild,
96 regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home.

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

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

104 M. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to § 16.1-253.1 or
105 § 16.1-279.1.

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

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

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

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

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

116 S. Petitions filed by school boards against parents pursuant to §§ 16.1-241.2 and 22.1-279.3.

117 T. Petitions to enforce any request for information or subpoena that is not complied with or to
118 review any refusal to issue a subpoena in an administrative appeal regarding child abuse and neglect
119 pursuant to § 63.1-248.6:1.

120 U. Petitions filed in connection with parental placement adoption consent hearings, pursuant to
121 § 63.1-220.3. Such proceedings shall be advanced on the docket so as to be heard by the court within

ten days of filing of the petition, or as soon thereafter as practicable so as to provide the earliest possible disposition.

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

Notwithstanding any other provision of law no fees shall be charged by a sheriff for the service of any process in a proceeding pursuant to subdivision 3 of subsection A or ~~subsections~~ subsection B, D, M or R of this section.

§ 16.1-241. (Delayed effective date) Jurisdiction.

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;

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

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

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

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

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

199 In prosecution for felonies over which the court has jurisdiction, jurisdiction shall be limited to
200 determining whether or not there is probable cause. Any objection based on jurisdiction under this
201 subsection shall be made before a jury is impaneled and sworn in a jury trial or, in a nonjury trial,
202 before the earlier of when the court begins to hear or receive evidence or the first witness is sworn, or it
203 shall be conclusively waived for all purposes. Any such objection shall not affect or be grounds for
204 challenging directly or collaterally the jurisdiction of the court in which the case is tried. For purposes
205 of this subsection, "family or household member," as defined in § 16.1-228, shall also be construed to
206 include parent and child, stepparent and stepchild, brothers and sisters, and grandparent and grandchild,
207 regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home.

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

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

213 M. Petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining an order of protection pursuant to § 16.1-253.1 or
214 § 16.1-279.1.

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

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

219 P. Petitions for enforcement of administrative support orders entered pursuant to Chapter 13
220 (§ 63.1-249 et seq.) of Title 63.1, or by another state in the same manner as if the orders were entered
221 by a family court upon the filing of a certified copy of such order in the family court.

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

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

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

225 T. Suits for separate maintenance.

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

227 V. Petitions for adoption.

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

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

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

233 Z. Petitions filed by school boards against parents pursuant to §§ 16.1-241.2 and 22.1-279.3.

234 AA. Petitions to enforce any request for information or subpoena that is not complied with or to
235 review any refusal to issue a subpoena in an administrative appeal regarding child abuse and neglect
236 pursuant to § 63.1-248.6:1.

237 BB. Petitions filed in connection with parental placement adoption consent hearings, pursuant to
238 § 63.1-220.3. Such proceedings shall be advanced on the docket so as to be heard by the court within
239 ten days of filing of the petition, or as soon thereafter as practicable so as to provide the earliest
240 possible disposition.

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

243 Notwithstanding any other provision of law no fees shall be charged by a sheriff for the service of
244 any process in a proceeding pursuant to subdivision 3 of subsection A or ~~subsections~~ subsection B, D,

245 M or R of this section.