

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 860

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 63.1-196.002, relating to reports of missing children in regulated child day programs.

[H 946]

Approved April 22, 1998

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 63.1-196.002 as follows:

§ 63.1-196.002. Regulated child day programs to require proof of child identity and age; report to law-enforcement agencies.

A. Upon enrollment of a child in a regulated child day program, such child day program shall require information from the person enrolling the child regarding previous child day care and schools attended by the child. The regulated child day program shall also require that the person enrolling the child present the regulated child day program with the child's proof of identity and age.

B. For purposes of this section:

"Proof of identity" means a certified copy of a birth certificate or other reliable proof of the child's identity and age.

"Regulated child day program" is one in which a person or organization has agreed to assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child under the age of thirteen for less than a twenty-four-hour period which is licensed pursuant to § 63.1-196, voluntarily registered pursuant to § 63.1-196.04, certified preschool or nursery school programs pursuant to § 63.1-196.3:1, or a religious institution exempt from licensure pursuant to § 63.1-196.3.

C. If the parent, guardian, or other person enrolling the child in a regulated child day program for longer than two consecutive days or other pattern of regular attendance does not provide the information required by subsection A within seven business days of initial attendance, such child day program shall immediately notify the local law-enforcement agency in its jurisdiction of such failure to provide the requested information.

D. Upon receiving notification of such failure to provide the information required by subsection A, the law-enforcement agency shall, if available information warrants, immediately submit an inquiry to the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse and, with the assistance of the local department of social services, if available information warrants, conduct the appropriate investigation to determine whether the child is missing.

E. The State Board of Social Services shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

2. That the State Board of Social Services shall promulgate regulations to be effective in 280 days or less of the enactment of this act.