

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1999 SESSION

## CHAPTER 261

*An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-1120 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Contractor Transaction Recovery Fund.*

[H 2500]

Approved March 18, 1999

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

**1. That § 54.1-1120 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-1120. Recovery from Fund generally.

A. Whenever any person is awarded a judgment in a court of competent jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Virginia against any individual or entity which involves improper or dishonest conduct occurring (i) during a period when such individual or entity was a regulant and (ii) in connection with a transaction involving contracting, the claimant may file a verified claim with the Director to obtain a directive ordering payment from the Fund of the amount unpaid upon the judgment, subject to the following conditions:

1. If any action is instituted against a regulant by any person, such person shall serve a copy of the process upon the Board in the manner prescribed by law. Included in such service shall be an affidavit stating all acts constituting improper or dishonest conduct. The provisions of § 8.01-288 shall not be applicable to the service of process required by this subdivision.

2. A copy of any pleading or document filed subsequent to the initial service of process in the action against a regulant shall be provided to the Board. The claimant shall submit such copies to the Board by certified mail, or the equivalent, upon his receipt of the pleading or document.

3. For judgments entered on or after July 1, 1996, a verified claim shall be filed with the Director no later than twelve months after the judgment became final. Such verified claim shall be accompanied by the copies of the order for the underlying judgment, and evidence of compliance with subdivisions 6 and 7 below.

4. The claimant shall be an individual whose contract with the regulant involved contracting for the claimant's residence(s) *located in the Commonwealth*.

5. The claimant shall not himself be (i) an employee of such judgment debtor, (ii) a vendor of such judgment debtor, (iii) another licensee, (iv) the spouse or child of such judgment debtor nor the employee of such spouse or child, or (v) any financial or lending institution nor anyone whose business involves the construction or development of real property.

6. No directive ordering payment from the Fund shall be entered unless and until the claimant has filed with the Director a verified claim containing the following statements:

a. That the claimant has conducted debtor's interrogatories to determine whether the judgment debtor has any assets which may be sold or applied in satisfaction of the judgment.

b. A description of the assets disclosed by such interrogatories.

c. That all legally available actions have been taken for the sale, or application of the disclosed assets and the amount realized therefrom.

d. The balance remaining due the claimant after the sale or application of such assets.

7. A claimant shall not be denied recovery from the Fund due to the fact the order for the judgment filed with the verified claim does not contain a specific finding of "improper or dishonest conduct." Any language in the order which supports the conclusion that the court found that the conduct of the regulant involved improper or dishonest conduct may be used by the Board to determine eligibility for recovery from the Fund.

B. If the regulant has filed bankruptcy, the claimant shall file a claim with the proper bankruptcy court. If no distribution is made, the claimant may then file a claim with the Board. The Board shall determine (i) whether the conduct that gave rise to the claim was improper or dishonest and (ii) what amount, if any, such claimant is entitled to recover from the Fund.