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HOUSE BILL NO. 2181

Offered January 14, 2009

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-3705.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Freedom of Information Act; protection of internal controls of the Commonwealth's financial systems.

Patron—Phillips

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-3705.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-3705.2. Exclusions to application of chapter; records relating to public safety.

The following records are excluded from the provisions of this chapter but may be disclosed by the custodian in his discretion, except where such disclosure is prohibited by law:

1. Confidential records, including victim identity, provided to or obtained by staff in a rape crisis center or a program for battered spouses.

2. Those portions of engineering and construction drawings and plans submitted for the sole purpose of complying with the Building Code in obtaining a building permit that would identify specific trade secrets or other information, the disclosure of which would be harmful to the competitive position of the owner or lessee. However, such information shall be exempt only until the building is completed. Information relating to the safety or environmental soundness of any building shall not be exempt from disclosure.

Those portions of engineering and construction drawings and plans that reveal critical structural components, security equipment and systems, ventilation systems, fire protection equipment, mandatory building emergency equipment or systems, elevators, electrical systems, telecommunications equipment and systems, and other utility equipment and systems submitted for the purpose of complying with the Uniform Statewide Building Code (§ 36-97 et seq.) or the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (§ 27-94 et seq.), the disclosure of which would jeopardize the safety or security of any public or private commercial office, multifamily residential or retail building or its occupants in the event of terrorism or other threat to public safety, to the extent that the owner or lessee of such property, equipment or system in writing (i) invokes the protections of this paragraph; (ii) identifies the drawings, plans, or other materials to be protected; and (iii) states the reasons why protection is necessary.

Nothing in this subdivision shall prevent the disclosure of information relating to any building in connection with an inquiry into the performance of that building after it has been subjected to fire, explosion, natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

3. Documentation or other information that describes the design, function, operation or access control features of any security system, whether manual or automated, which is used to control access to or use of any automated data processing or telecommunications system.

4. Plans and information to prevent or respond to terrorist activity, the disclosure of which would jeopardize the safety of any person, including (i) critical infrastructure sector or structural components; (ii) vulnerability assessments, operational, procedural, transportation, and tactical planning or training manuals, and staff meeting minutes or other records; and (iii) engineering or architectural records, or records containing information derived from such records, to the extent such records reveal the location or operation of security equipment and systems, elevators, ventilation, fire protection, emergency, electrical, telecommunications or utility equipment and systems of any public building, structure or information storage facility, or telecommunications or utility equipment or systems. The same categories of records of any governmental or nongovernmental person or entity submitted to a public body for the purpose of antiterrorism response planning may be withheld from disclosure if such person or entity in writing (a) invokes the protections of this subdivision, (b) identifies with specificity the records or portions thereof for which protection is sought, and (c) states with reasonable particularity why the protection of such records from public disclosure is necessary to meet the objective of antiterrorism planning or protection. Such statement shall be a public record and shall be disclosed upon request. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit the disclosure of records relating to the structural or environmental soundness of any building, nor shall it prevent the disclosure of information relating to any building in connection with an inquiry into the performance of that building after it has been subjected to fire, explosion, natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

5. Information that would disclose the security aspects of a system safety program plan adopted pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 659 by the Commonwealth's designated Rail Fixed Guideway Systems Safety

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59 Oversight agency; and information in the possession of such agency, the release of which would
60 jeopardize the success of an ongoing investigation of a rail accident or other incident threatening railway
61 safety.

62 6. Engineering and architectural drawings, operational, procedural, tactical planning or training
63 manuals, or staff meeting minutes or other records, the disclosure of which would reveal surveillance
64 techniques, personnel deployments, alarm or security systems or technologies, or operational and
65 transportation plans or protocols, to the extent such disclosure would jeopardize the security of any
66 governmental facility, building or structure or the safety of persons using such facility, building or
67 structure.

68 7. Security plans and specific assessment components of school safety audits, as provided in
69 § 22.1-279.8.

70 Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit the disclosure of records relating to the
71 effectiveness of security plans after (i) any school building or property has been subjected to fire,
72 explosion, natural disaster or other catastrophic event, or (ii) any person on school property has suffered
73 or been threatened with any personal injury.

74 8. [Expired.]

75 9. Records of the Commitment Review Committee concerning the mental health assessment of an
76 individual subject to commitment as a sexually violent predator under Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of
77 Title 37.2; except that in no case shall records identifying the victims of a sexually violent predator be
78 disclosed.

79 10. Subscriber data, which for the purposes of this subdivision, means the name, address, telephone
80 number, and any other information identifying a subscriber of a telecommunications carrier, provided
81 directly or indirectly by a telecommunications carrier to a public body that operates a 911 or E-911
82 emergency dispatch system or an emergency notification or reverse 911 system, if the data is in a form
83 not made available by the telecommunications carrier to the public generally. Nothing in this subdivision
84 shall prevent the release of subscriber data generated in connection with specific calls to a 911
85 emergency system, where the requester is seeking to obtain public records about the use of the system
86 in response to a specific crime, emergency or other event as to which a citizen has initiated a 911 call.

87 11. Subscriber data, which for the purposes of this subdivision, means the name, address, telephone
88 number, and any other information identifying a subscriber of a telecommunications carrier, collected by
89 a local governing body in accordance with the Enhanced Public Safety Telephone Services Act
90 (§ 56-484.12 et seq.), and other identifying information of a personal, medical, or financial nature
91 provided to a local governing body in connection with a 911 or E-911 emergency dispatch system or an
92 emergency notification or reverse 911 system, if such records are not otherwise publicly available.
93 Nothing in this subdivision shall prevent the release of subscriber data generated in connection with
94 specific calls to a 911 emergency system, where the requester is seeking to obtain public records about
95 the use of the system in response to a specific crime, emergency or other event as to which a citizen has
96 initiated a 911 call.

97 12. Records of the Virginia Military Advisory Council, the Virginia National Defense Industrial
98 Authority, or a local or regional military affairs organization appointed by a local governing body, to the
99 extent such records (i) contain information relating to strategies under consideration or development by
100 the Council, the Authority, or such organizations to prevent the closure or realignment of federal
101 military installations located in Virginia, to limit the adverse economic effect of such realignment or
102 closure, or to seek additional tenant activity growth from the Department of Defense or (ii) disclose
103 trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-336 et seq.), provided to the Council,
104 the Authority, or such organizations in connection with their work. In order to invoke the trade secret
105 protection provided by clause (ii), the submitting entity shall, in writing and at the time of submission
106 (a) invoke this exclusion, (b) identify with specificity the information for which such protection is
107 sought, and (c) state the reason why such protection is necessary. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
108 construed to authorize the withholding of all or part of any record, other than a trade secret that has
109 been specifically identified as required by this subdivision, after the Department of Defense has issued a
110 final, unappealable decision, or in the event of litigation, a court of competent jurisdiction has entered a
111 final, unappealable order concerning the closure, realignment, or expansion of the military installation or
112 tenant activities for which records are sought.

113 13. *Documentation or other information that describes the design, function, operation, or*
114 *implementation of internal controls over the Commonwealth's financial processes and systems, and the*
115 *assessment of risks and vulnerabilities of those controls, including the annual assessment of internal*
116 *controls mandated by the Comptroller, the disclosure of which would jeopardize the security of the*
117 *Commonwealth's financial assets. However, summary reports relating to the soundness of any fiscal*
118 *process shall be disclosed in a form that does not compromise the internal controls.*