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HOUSE BILL NO. 1923

Offered January 12, 2011

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-389 of the Code of Virginia, relating to dissemination of criminal history record information to certain charitable, etc., organizations.

Patron—Abbott

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 19.2-389 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 19.2-389. Dissemination of criminal history record information.

A. Criminal history record information shall be disseminated, whether directly or through an intermediary, only to:

1. Authorized officers or employees of criminal justice agencies, as defined by § 9.1-101, for purposes of the administration of criminal justice and the screening of an employment application or review of employment by a criminal justice agency with respect to its own employees or applicants, and dissemination to the Virginia Parole Board, pursuant to this subdivision, of such information on all state-responsible inmates for the purpose of making parole determinations pursuant to subdivisions 1, 2, 3, and 5 of § 53.1-136 shall include collective dissemination by electronic means every 30 days;

2. Such other individuals and agencies that require criminal history record information to implement a state or federal statute or executive order of the President of the United States or Governor that expressly refers to criminal conduct and contains requirements or exclusions expressly based upon such conduct, except that information concerning the arrest of an individual may not be disseminated to a noncriminal justice agency or individual if an interval of one year has elapsed from the date of the arrest and no disposition of the charge has been recorded and no active prosecution of the charge is pending;

3. Individuals and agencies pursuant to a specific agreement with a criminal justice agency to provide services required for the administration of criminal justice pursuant to that agreement which shall specifically authorize access to data, limit the use of data to purposes for which given, and ensure the security and confidentiality of the data;

4. Individuals and agencies for the express purpose of research, evaluative, or statistical activities pursuant to an agreement with a criminal justice agency that shall specifically authorize access to data, limit the use of data to research, evaluative, or statistical purposes, and ensure the confidentiality and security of the data;

5. Agencies of state or federal government that are authorized by state or federal statute or executive order of the President of the United States or Governor to conduct investigations determining employment suitability or eligibility for security clearances allowing access to classified information;

6. Individuals and agencies where authorized by court order or court rule;

7. Agencies of any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, public transportation companies owned, operated or controlled by any political subdivision, and any public service corporation that operates a public transit system owned by a local government for the conduct of investigations of applicants for employment, permit, or license whenever, in the interest of public welfare or safety, it is necessary to determine under a duly enacted ordinance if the past criminal conduct of a person with a conviction record would be compatible with the nature of the employment, permit, or license under consideration;

7a. Commissions created pursuant to the Transportation District Act of 1964 (§ 15.2-4500 et seq.) and their contractors, for the conduct of investigations of individuals who have been offered a position of employment whenever, in the interest of public welfare or safety and as authorized in the Transportation District Act of 1964, it is necessary to determine if the past criminal conduct of a person with a conviction record would be compatible with the nature of the employment under consideration;

8. Public or private agencies when authorized or required by federal or state law or interstate compact to investigate (i) applicants for foster or adoptive parenthood or (ii) any individual, and the adult members of that individual's household, with whom the agency is considering placing a child or from whom the agency is considering removing a child due to abuse or neglect, on an emergency, temporary, or permanent basis pursuant to §§ 63.2-901.1 and 63.2-1505, subject to the restriction that the data shall not be further disseminated to any party other than a federal or state authority or court as may be required to comply with an express requirement of law;

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59 9. To the extent permitted by federal law or regulation, public service companies as defined in
60 § 56-1, for the conduct of investigations of applicants for employment when such employment involves
61 personal contact with the public or when past criminal conduct of an applicant would be incompatible
62 with the nature of the employment under consideration;

63 10. The appropriate authority for purposes of granting citizenship and for purposes of international
64 travel, including but not limited to, issuing visas and passports;

65 11. A person requesting a copy of his own criminal history record information as defined in
66 § 9.1-101 at his cost, except that criminal history record information shall be supplied at no charge to a
67 person who has applied to be a volunteer with (i) a Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of
68 America; (ii) a volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad; (iii) the Volunteer Emergency
69 Families for Children; (iv) any affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse, Virginia; (v) any Virginia affiliate of
70 Compeer; ~~or~~ (vi) any board member or any individual who has been offered membership on the board
71 of a Crime Stoppers, Crime Solvers or Crime Line program as defined in § 15.2-1713.1; (vii) *the Boy*
72 *Scouts of America, Girls Scouts of the United States of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of America; or*
73 *(viii) any youth athletic league.*

74 12. Administrators and board presidents of and applicants for licensure or registration as a child
75 welfare agency as defined in § 63.2-100 for dissemination to the Commissioner of Social Services'
76 representative pursuant to § 63.2-1702 for the conduct of investigations with respect to employees of and
77 volunteers at such facilities, caretakers, and other adults living in family day-care homes or homes
78 approved by family day-care systems, and foster and adoptive parent applicants of private child-placing
79 agencies, pursuant to §§ 63.2-1719 through 63.2-1721, subject to the restriction that the data shall not be
80 further disseminated by the facility or agency to any party other than the data subject, the Commissioner
81 of Social Services' representative or a federal or state authority or court as may be required to comply
82 with an express requirement of law for such further dissemination;

83 13. The school boards of the Commonwealth for the purpose of screening individuals who are
84 offered or who accept public school employment and those current school board employees for whom a
85 report of arrest has been made pursuant to § 19.2-83.1;

86 14. The State Lottery Department for the conduct of investigations as set forth in the State Lottery
87 Law (§ 58.1-4000 et seq.), and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the conduct of
88 investigations as set forth in Article 1.1:1 (§ 18.2-340.15 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2;

89 15. Licensed nursing homes, hospitals and home care organizations for the conduct of investigations
90 of applicants for compensated employment in licensed nursing homes pursuant to § 32.1-126.01, hospital
91 pharmacies pursuant to § 32.1-126.02, and home care organizations pursuant to § 32.1-162.9:1, subject to
92 the limitations set out in subsection E;

93 16. Licensed homes for adults, licensed district homes for adults, and licensed adult day-care centers
94 for the conduct of investigations of applicants for compensated employment in licensed homes for adults
95 pursuant to § 63.2-1720, in licensed district homes for adults pursuant to § 63.1-189.1, and in licensed
96 adult day-care centers pursuant to § 63.2-1720, subject to the limitations set out in subsection F;

97 17. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the conduct of investigations as set forth in
98 § 4.1-103.1;

99 18. The State Board of Elections and authorized officers and employees thereof in the course of
100 conducting necessary investigations with respect to registered voters, limited to any record of felony
101 convictions;

102 19. The Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for those individuals who
103 are committed to the custody of the Commissioner pursuant to §§ 19.2-169.2, 19.2-169.6, 19.2-182.2,
104 19.2-182.3, 19.2-182.8, and 19.2-182.9 for the purpose of placement, evaluation, and treatment planning;

105 20. Any alcohol safety action program certified by the Commission on the Virginia Alcohol Safety
106 Action Program for (i) assessments of habitual offenders under § 46.2-360, (ii) interventions with first
107 offenders under § 18.2-251, or (iii) services to offenders under § 18.2-51.4, 18.2-266, or 18.2-266.1;

108 21. Residential facilities for juveniles regulated or operated by the Department of Social Services, the
109 Department of Education, or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for the
110 purpose of determining applicants' fitness for employment or for providing volunteer or contractual
111 services;

112 22. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and facilities operated by the
113 Department for the purpose of determining an individual's fitness for employment pursuant to
114 departmental instructions;

115 23. Pursuant to § 22.1-296.3, the governing boards or administrators of private or religious
116 elementary or secondary schools which are accredited by a statewide accrediting organization
117 recognized, prior to January 1, 1996, by the State Board of Education or a private organization
118 coordinating such records information on behalf of such governing boards or administrators pursuant to
119 a written agreement with the Department of State Police;

120 24. Public and nonprofit private colleges and universities for the purpose of screening individuals

121 who are offered or accept employment;

122 25. Members of a threat assessment team established by a public institution of higher education
123 pursuant to § 23-9.2:10, for the purpose of assessing or intervening with an individual whose behavior
124 may present a threat to safety;

125 26. Executive directors of community services boards or the personnel director serving the
126 community services board for the purpose of determining an individual's fitness for employment
127 pursuant to §§ 37.2-506 and 37.2-607;

128 27. Executive directors of behavioral health authorities as defined in § 37.2-600 for the purpose of
129 determining an individual's fitness for employment pursuant to §§ 37.2-506 and 37.2-607;

130 28. The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services for the purpose of locating persons who
131 owe child support or who are alleged in a pending paternity proceeding to be a putative father, provided
132 that only the name, address, demographics and social security number of the data subject shall be
133 released;

134 29. Authorized officers or directors of agencies licensed pursuant to Article 2 (§ 37.2-403 et seq.) of
135 Chapter 4 of Title 37.2 by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for the
136 purpose of determining if any applicant who accepts employment in any direct consumer care position
137 has been convicted of a crime that affects their fitness to have responsibility for the safety and
138 well-being of persons with mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse pursuant to
139 §§ 37.2-416, 37.2-506, and 37.2-607;

140 30. The Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, for the purpose of evaluating applicants
141 for a motor carrier certificate or license subject to the provisions of Chapters 20 (§ 46.2-2000 et seq.)
142 and 21 (§ 46.2-2100 et seq.) of Title 46.2;

143 31. The chairmen of the Committees for Courts of Justice of the Senate or the House of Delegates
144 for the purpose of determining if any person being considered for election to any judgeship has been
145 convicted of a crime;

146 32. Heads of state agencies in which positions have been identified as sensitive for the purpose of
147 determining an individual's fitness for employment in positions designated as sensitive under Department
148 of Human Resource Management policies developed pursuant to § 2.2-1201.1. Dissemination of criminal
149 history record information to the agencies shall be limited to those positions generally described as
150 directly responsible for the health, safety and welfare of the general populace or protection of critical
151 infrastructures;

152 33. The Office of the Attorney General, for all criminal justice activities otherwise permitted under
153 subdivision A 1 and for purposes of performing duties required by the Civil Commitment of Sexually
154 Violent Predators Act (§ 37.2-900 et seq.);

155 34. Shipyards, to the extent permitted by federal law or regulation, engaged in the design,
156 construction, overhaul, or repair of nuclear vessels for the United States Navy, including their subsidiary
157 companies, for the conduct of investigations of applications for employment or for access to facilities,
158 by contractors, leased laborers, and other visitors;

159 35. Any employer of individuals whose employment requires that they enter the homes of others, for
160 the purpose of screening individuals who apply for, are offered, or have accepted such employment;

161 36. Public agencies when and as required by federal or state law to investigate (i) applicants as
162 providers of adult foster care and home-based services or (ii) any individual with whom the agency is
163 considering placing an adult on an emergency, temporary, or permanent basis pursuant to § 63.2-1601.1,
164 subject to the restriction that the data shall not be further disseminated by the agency to any party other
165 than a federal or state authority or court as may be required to comply with an express requirement of
166 law for such further dissemination, subject to limitations set out in subsection G;

167 37. The Department of Medical Assistance Services, or its designee, for the purpose of screening
168 individuals who, through contracts, subcontracts, or direct employment, volunteer, apply for, are offered,
169 or have accepted a position related to the provision of transportation services to enrollees in the
170 Medicaid Program or the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) Program, or any other
171 program administered by the Department of Medical Assistance Services;

172 38. (Effective until October 1, 2010) The State Corporation Commission for the purpose of
173 investigating individuals who are members, senior officers, directors, and principals of an applicant for
174 licensure as a mortgage lender or mortgage broker, or a licensed mortgage lender or mortgage broker for
175 the purpose of investigating individuals applying for a position of employment in which the individual
176 may have access to or process personal identifying or financial information from a member of the
177 public, pursuant to Chapter 16 (§ 6.1-408 et seq.) of Title 6.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of
178 law, if an application for a mortgage lender or mortgage broker license is denied based in whole or in
179 part on information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange pursuant to § 6.1-414, the
180 Commissioner of Financial Institutions or his designee may disclose such information to the applicant or
181 its designee;

182 38. (Effective October 1, 2010) The State Corporation Commission for the purpose of investigating
183 individuals who are members, senior officers, directors, and principals of an applicant for licensure as a
184 mortgage lender or mortgage broker, or a licensed mortgage lender or mortgage broker for the purpose
185 of investigating individuals applying for a position of employment in which the individual may have
186 access to or process personal identifying or financial information from a member of the public, pursuant
187 to Chapter 16 (§ 6.2-1600 et seq.) of Title 6.2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an
188 application for a mortgage lender or mortgage broker license is denied based in whole or in part on
189 information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange pursuant to § 6.2-1605, the
190 Commissioner of Financial Institutions or his designee may disclose such information to the applicant or
191 its designee;

192 39. The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation for the purpose of investigating
193 individuals for initial licensure pursuant to § 54.1-2106.1;

194 40. Bail bondsmen, in accordance with the provisions of § 19.2-120; and

195 41. Other entities as otherwise provided by law.

196 Upon an ex parte motion of a defendant in a felony case and upon the showing that the records
197 requested may be relevant to such case, the court shall enter an order requiring the Central Criminal
198 Records Exchange to furnish the defendant, as soon as practicable, copies of any records of persons
199 designated in the order on whom a report has been made under the provisions of this chapter.

200 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, upon a written request sworn to
201 before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments, the Central Criminal Records Exchange, or the
202 criminal justice agency in cases of offenses not required to be reported to the Exchange, shall furnish a
203 copy of conviction data covering the person named in the request to the person making the request;
204 however, such person on whom the data is being obtained shall consent in writing, under oath, to the
205 making of such request. A person receiving a copy of his own conviction data may utilize or further
206 disseminate that data as he deems appropriate. In the event no conviction data is maintained on the data
207 subject, the person making the request shall be furnished at his cost a certification to that effect.

208 B. Use of criminal history record information disseminated to noncriminal justice agencies under this
209 section shall be limited to the purposes for which it was given and may not be disseminated further.

210 C. No criminal justice agency or person shall confirm the existence or nonexistence of criminal
211 history record information for employment or licensing inquiries except as provided by law.

212 D. Criminal justice agencies shall establish procedures to query the Central Criminal Records
213 Exchange prior to dissemination of any criminal history record information on offenses required to be
214 reported to the Central Criminal Records Exchange to ensure that the most up-to-date disposition data is
215 being used. Inquiries of the Exchange shall be made prior to any dissemination except in those cases
216 where time is of the essence and the normal response time of the Exchange would exceed the necessary
217 time period. A criminal justice agency to whom a request has been made for the dissemination of
218 criminal history record information that is required to be reported to the Central Criminal Records
219 Exchange may direct the inquirer to the Central Criminal Records Exchange for such dissemination.
220 Dissemination of information regarding offenses not required to be reported to the Exchange shall be
221 made by the criminal justice agency maintaining the record as required by § 15.2-1722.

222 E. Criminal history information provided to licensed nursing homes, hospitals and to home care
223 organizations pursuant to subdivision A 15 shall be limited to the convictions on file with the Exchange
224 for any offense specified in §§ 32.1-126.01, 32.1-126.02, and 32.1-162.9:1.

225 F. Criminal history information provided to licensed assisted living facilities, licensed district homes
226 for adults, and licensed adult day-care centers pursuant to subdivision A 16 shall be limited to the
227 convictions on file with the Exchange for any offense specified in § 63.1-189.1 or 63.2-1720.

228 G. Criminal history information provided to public agencies pursuant to subdivision A 36 shall be
229 limited to the convictions on file with the Exchange for any offense specified in § 63.2-1719.

230 H. Upon receipt of a written request from an employer or prospective employer, the Central Criminal
231 Records Exchange, or the criminal justice agency in cases of offenses not required to be reported to the
232 Exchange, shall furnish at the employer's cost a copy of conviction data covering the person named in
233 the request to the employer or prospective employer making the request; provided that the person on
234 whom the data is being obtained has consented in writing to the making of such request and has
235 presented a photo-identification to the employer or prospective employer. In the event no conviction data
236 is maintained on the person named in the request, the requesting employer or prospective employer shall
237 be furnished at his cost a certification to that effect. The criminal history record search shall be
238 conducted on forms provided by the Exchange.