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HOUSE BILL NO. 174

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled December 23, 2013

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-3705.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; administrative investigations; local inspectors general.

Patron—Farrell

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-3705.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-3705.3. Exclusions to application of chapter; records relating to administrative investigations.

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 of all investigations of applications for licenses and permits, and of all licensees and permittees, made by or submitted to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the State Lottery Department, the Virginia Racing Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services relating to investigations and applications pursuant to Article 1.1:1 (§ 18.2-340.15 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, or the Private Security Services Unit of the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

2. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Health Professions or by any health regulatory board in the Commonwealth.

3. Investigator notes, and other correspondence and information, furnished in confidence with respect to an active investigation of individual employment discrimination complaints made to the Department of Human Resource Management or to such personnel of any local public body, including local school boards as are responsible for conducting such investigations in confidence. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the disclosure of information taken from inactive reports in a form that does not reveal the identity of charging parties, persons supplying the information or other individuals involved in the investigation.

4. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Medical Assistance Services pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 32.1-323 et seq.) of Title 32.1.

5. Investigative notes and other correspondence and information furnished in confidence with respect to an investigation or conciliation process involving an alleged unlawful discriminatory practice under the Virginia Human Rights Act (§ 2.2-3900 et seq.) or under any local ordinance adopted in accordance with the authority specified in § 2.2-524, or adopted pursuant to § 15.2-965, or adopted prior to July 1, 1987, in accordance with applicable law, relating to local human rights or human relations commissions. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the distribution of information taken from inactive reports in a form that does not reveal the identity of the parties involved or other persons supplying information.

6. Records of studies and investigations by the State Lottery Department of (i) lottery agents, (ii) lottery vendors, (iii) lottery crimes under §§ 58.1-4014 through 58.1-4018, (iv) defects in the law or regulations that cause abuses in the administration and operation of the lottery and any evasions of such provisions, or (v) the use of the lottery as a subterfuge for organized crime and illegal gambling where such official records have not been publicly released, published or copyrighted. All studies and investigations referred to under clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) shall be open to inspection and copying upon completion of the study or investigation.

7. Investigative notes, correspondence and information furnished in confidence, and records otherwise exempted by this chapter or any Virginia statute, provided to or produced by or for (i) the Auditor of Public Accounts; (ii) the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission; (iii) an appropriate authority as defined in § 2.2-3010 with respect to an allegation of wrongdoing or abuse under the Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act (§ 2.2-3009 et seq.); (iv) the Office of the State Inspector General with respect to an investigation initiated through the Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline or an investigation initiated pursuant to Chapter 3.2 (§ 2.2-307 et seq.) or a local inspector general or other local investigator appointed by the local governing body of any county, city, or town or a school board who by charter, ordinance, or statute has responsibility for conducting an investigation of any officer, employee, department, or program of the locality or school division; (v) the committee or the auditor with respect to an investigation or audit conducted pursuant to § 15.2-825; or (vi) the auditors, appointed

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59 by the local governing body of any county, city or town or a school board, who by charter, ordinance,  
60 or statute have responsibility for conducting an investigation of any officer, department or program of  
61 such body. Records of completed investigations shall be disclosed in a form that does not reveal the  
62 identity of the complainants or persons supplying information to investigators. Unless disclosure is  
63 prohibited by this section, the records disclosed shall include, but not be limited to, the agency involved,  
64 the identity of the person who is the subject of the complaint, the nature of the complaint, and the  
65 actions taken to resolve the complaint. If an investigation does not lead to corrective action, the identity  
66 of the person who is the subject of the complaint may be released only with the consent of the subject  
67 person. Local governing bodies shall adopt guidelines to govern the disclosure required by this  
68 subdivision.

69 8. Information furnished in confidence to the Department of Human Resource Management with  
70 respect to an investigation, consultation, or mediation under § 2.2-1202.1, and memoranda,  
71 correspondence and other records resulting from any such investigation, consultation or mediation.  
72 However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the distribution of information taken from inactive reports  
73 in a form that does not reveal the identity of the parties involved or other persons supplying  
74 information.

75 9. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of complainants furnished in confidence with respect  
76 to an investigation of individual zoning enforcement complaints or complaints relating to the Uniform  
77 Statewide Building Code (§ 36-97 et seq.) or the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (§ 27-94 et seq.) made  
78 to a local governing body.

79 10. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Criminal Justice Services  
80 pursuant to Article 4 (§ 9.1-138 et seq.), Article 4.1 (§ 9.1-150.1 et seq.), Article 11 (§ 9.1-185 et seq.),  
81 and Article 12 (§ 9.1-186 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1.

82 11. Records furnished to or prepared by the Board of Education pursuant to subsection D of  
83 § 22.1-253.13:3 in connection with the review or investigation of any alleged breach in security,  
84 unauthorized alteration, or improper administration of tests by local school board employees responsible  
85 for the distribution or administration of the tests. However, this section shall not prohibit the disclosure  
86 of records to (i) a local school board or division superintendent for the purpose of permitting such board  
87 or superintendent to consider or to take personnel action with regard to an employee or (ii) any  
88 requester, after the conclusion of a review or investigation, in a form that (a) does not reveal the identity  
89 of any person making a complaint or supplying information to the Board on a confidential basis and (b)  
90 does not compromise the security of any test mandated by the Board.

91 12. Investigator notes, and other correspondence and information, furnished in confidence with  
92 respect to an active investigation conducted by or for the Board of Education related to the denial,  
93 suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses. However, this subdivision shall not prohibit the disclosure  
94 of records to a local school board or division superintendent for the purpose of permitting such board or  
95 superintendent to consider or to take personnel action with regard to an employee. Records of completed  
96 investigations shall be disclosed in a form that does not reveal the identity of any complainant or person  
97 supplying information to investigators. The records disclosed shall include information regarding the  
98 school or facility involved, the identity of the person who was the subject of the complaint, the nature  
99 of the complaint, and the actions taken to resolve the complaint. If an investigation fails to support a  
100 complaint or does not lead to corrective action, the identity of the person who was the subject of the  
101 complaint may be released only with the consent of the subject person. No personally identifiable  
102 information in the records regarding a current or former student shall be released except as permitted by  
103 state or federal law.

104 13. Records, notes and information provided in confidence and related to an investigation by the  
105 Attorney General under Article 1 (§ 3.2-4200 et seq.) or Article 3 (§ 3.2-4204 et seq.) of Chapter 42 of  
106 Title 3.2, Article 10 (§ 18.2-246.6 et seq.) of Chapter 6 or Chapter 13 (§ 18.2-512 et seq.) of Title 18.2,  
107 or Article 1 (§ 58.1-1000) of Chapter 10 of Title 58.1. However, records related to an investigation that  
108 has been inactive for more than six months shall, upon request, be disclosed provided such disclosure is  
109 not otherwise prohibited by law and does not reveal the identity of charging parties, complainants,  
110 persons supplying information, witnesses or other individuals involved in the investigation.