

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-67.7:1, relating to admission*
3 *of prior sex offenses into evidence in child sex crime cases.*

4 [H 403]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-67.7:1 as follows:**8 **§ 18.2-67.7:1. Evidence of similar crimes in child sexual offense cases.**

9 *A. In a criminal case in which the defendant is accused of a felony sexual offense involving a child*
10 *victim, evidence of the defendant's conviction of another sexual offense or offenses is admissible and*
11 *may be considered for its bearing on any matter to which it is relevant.*

12 *B. The Commonwealth shall provide to the defendant 14 days prior to trial notice of its intention to*
13 *introduce copies of final orders evidencing the defendant's qualifying prior criminal convictions. Such*
14 *notice shall include (i) the date of each prior conviction, (ii) the name and jurisdiction of the court*
15 *where each prior conviction was obtained, and (iii) each offense of which the defendant was convicted.*
16 *Prior to commencement of the trial, the Commonwealth shall provide to the defendant photocopies of*
17 *certified copies of the final orders that it intends to introduce.*

18 *C. This section shall not be construed to limit the admission or consideration of evidence under any*
19 *other section or rule of court.*

20 *D. For purposes of this section, "sexual offense" means any offense or any attempt or conspiracy to*
21 *engage in any offense described in Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 or § 18.2-370, 18.2-370.01,*
22 *or 18.2-370.1 or any substantially similar offense under the laws of another state or territory of the*
23 *United States, the District of Columbia, or the United States.*

24 *E. Evidence offered in a criminal case pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be subject to*
25 *exclusion in accordance with the Virginia Rules of Evidence, including but not limited to Rule 2:403.*