

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 20-124.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to mediation; fees.*

3 [H 287]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**6 **1. That § 20-124.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**7 **§ 20-124.4. Mediation.**

8 A. In any appropriate case the court shall refer the parents or persons with a legitimate interest to a  
9 dispute resolution ~~evaluation~~ *orientation* session to be conducted by a mediator certified pursuant to  
10 guidelines promulgated by the Judicial Council at no cost and in accordance with the procedures set out  
11 in Chapter 20.2 (§ 8.01-576.4 et seq.) of Title 8.01. In assessing the appropriateness of a referral, the  
12 court shall ascertain upon motion of a party whether there is a history of family abuse. If an agreement  
13 is not reached on any issue through further mediation as agreed to by the parties, prior to the return date  
14 set by the court pursuant to § 8.01-576.5, the court shall proceed with a hearing on any unresolved  
15 issue, unless a continuance has been granted by the court. ~~The fee of a mediator appointed in any~~  
16 ~~custody, support or visitation case shall be \$100 per appointment and shall be paid by the~~  
17 ~~Commonwealth from the funds appropriated for payment of appointments made pursuant to subsection B~~  
18 ~~of § 16.1-267.~~

19 B. *The fee of the mediator shall be \$100 per appointment mediated and shall be paid by the*  
20 *Commonwealth from the funds appropriated for payment of appointments made pursuant to subsection B*  
21 *of § 16.1-267. Any referral that includes both (i) custody or visitation and (ii) child or spousal support*  
22 *shall be considered two separate appointments.*

ENROLLED

HB287ER