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SENATE BILL NO. 776

Offered January 25, 2016

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-3, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to determining residency of public school students.

Patron—Barker

Unanimous consent to introduce

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-3, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-3. (Effective June 30, 2016) Persons to whom public schools shall be free.

A. The public schools in each school division shall be free to each person of school age who resides within the school division. Every person of school age shall be deemed to reside in a school division:

1. When the person is living with a natural parent; or a parent by legal adoption;

2. When, in accordance with the provisions of § 22.1-360, the person is living with a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis, not solely for school purposes, pursuant to a Special Power of Attorney executed under Title 10, United States Code, U.S.C. § 1044b, by the custodial parent;

3. When the parents of such person are dead and the person is living with a person in loco parentis who actually resides within the school division;

4. When the parents of such person are unable to care for the person and the person is living, not solely for school purposes, with another person who resides in the school division and is either (i) the court-appointed guardian, or has legal custody, of the person or; (ii) acting in loco parentis pursuant to placement of the person for adoption by a person or entity authorized to do so under § 63.2-1200; or (iii) an adult relative providing temporary kinship care as that term is defined in § 63.2-100. Local school divisions may require one or both parents and the relative providing kinship care to submit signed, notarized affidavits (a) explaining why the parents are unable to care for the person, (b) detailing the kinship care arrangement, and (c) agreeing that the kinship care provider or the parent will notify the school within 30 days of when the kinship care arrangement ends, as well as a power of attorney authorizing the adult relative to make educational decisions regarding the person. A school division may also require the parent or adult relative to obtain written verification from the local department of social services where the parent or parents live, or from both that department and the department of social services where the kinship provider lives, that the kinship arrangement serves a legitimate purpose that is in the best interest of the person other than school enrollment. With written consent from the parent or adult relative, for the purposes of expediting enrollment, a school division may obtain such written verification directly from the local department or departments of social services. The verification process shall be consistent with confidentiality provisions of Article 5 (§ 22.1-287 et seq.) of Chapter 14 of this title and Chapter 1 (§ 63.2-100 et seq.) of Title 63.2. If the kinship care arrangement lasts more than one year, a school division may require continued verification directly from one or both departments of social services as to why the parents are unable to care for the person and that the kinship care arrangement serves a legitimate purpose other than school enrollment. A local school division may enroll a person living with a relative in a kinship care arrangement that has not been verified by a local department of social services;

5. When the person is living in the school division not solely for school purposes, as an emancipated minor; or

6. When the person living in the school division is a homeless child or youth, as set forth in this subdivision, who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Such persons shall include (i) children and youths, including unaccompanied youths who are not in the physical custody of their parents, who (a) are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or other causes; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations or in emergency, congregate, temporary, or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; (b) are living in an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals with mental illness or individuals intended to be institutionalized; (c) have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or (d) are living in parked cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or

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SB776

59 similar settings; and (ii) migratory children, as defined in the *federal* Elementary and Secondary
60 Education Act of 1965, *P.L. 89-10*, as amended, who are deemed homeless as they are living in
61 circumstances set forth in clause (i).

62 For purposes of clause (i) of subdivision 6, "temporary shelter" means ~~(i)~~ (1) any home, single or
63 multi-unit dwelling, or housing unit in which persons who are without housing or a fixed address
64 receive temporary housing or shelter or ~~(ii)~~ (2) any facility specifically designed or approved for the
65 purpose of providing temporary housing or shelter to persons who are without permanent housing or a
66 fixed address.

67 If a person resides within housing, temporary shelter, or primary nighttime residence as described in
68 subdivision 6 that is situated in more than one school division, the person shall be deemed to reside in
69 and shall be entitled to attend a public school within either school division. However, if a person resides
70 in housing, temporary shelter, or primary nighttime residence as described in subdivision 6 that is
71 located in one school division, but the property on which such housing, temporary shelter, or primary
72 nighttime residence is located lies within more than one school division, such person shall be deemed to
73 reside only in the single school division in which the housing, temporary shelter, or primary nighttime
74 residence is located. Notwithstanding any such residency determination, any person residing in housing,
75 a temporary shelter, or primary nighttime residence as described in subdivision 6 that is located in one
76 school division, but the property on which such housing, temporary shelter, or primary nighttime
77 residence is located lies within more than one school division, shall be deemed to reside in either school
78 division, if such person or any sibling of such person residing in the same housing or temporary shelter
79 attends, prior to July 1, 1999, or, in the case of a primary nighttime residence as described in
80 subdivision 6, prior to July 1, 2000, a school within either school division in which the property on
81 which the housing, temporary shelter, or primary nighttime residence is located.

82 School divisions shall comply with the requirements of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless
83 Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.), to ensure that
84 homeless children and youths shall receive the educational services comparable to those offered to other
85 public school students.

86 School divisions serving the students identified in subdivision 6 shall coordinate the identification
87 and provision of services to such students with relevant local social services agencies and other agencies
88 and programs providing services to such students, and with other school divisions as may be necessary
89 to resolve interdivisional issues.

90 B. In the interest of providing educational continuity to the children of military personnel, no child
91 of a person on active military duty attending a school free of charge in accordance with this section
92 shall be charged tuition by that school division upon such child's relocation to military housing located
93 in another school division in the Commonwealth, pursuant to orders received by such child's parent to
94 relocate to base housing and forfeit his military housing allowance. Such children shall be allowed to
95 continue attending school in the school division they attended immediately prior to the relocation and
96 shall not be charged tuition for attending such school. Such children shall be counted in the average
97 daily membership of the school division in which they are enrolled. Further, the school division in
98 which such children are enrolled subsequent to their relocation to base housing shall not be responsible
99 for providing for their transportation to and from school.