

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend and reenact § 63.2-904 of the Code of Virginia, relating to foster care; possession of
3 firearm.

4 [S 1315]
5 Approved

6 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

7 1. That § 63.2-904 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 § 63.2-904. Investigation, visitation, and supervision of foster homes or independent living
9 arrangement; possession and storage of firearms; removal of child.

10 A. Before placing or arranging for the placement of any such child in a foster home or independent
11 living arrangement, a local board or licensed child-placing agency shall cause a careful study to be made
12 to determine the suitability of such home or independent living arrangement, and after placement shall
13 cause such home or independent living arrangement and child to be visited as often as necessary to
14 protect the interests of such child.

15 B. Every local board or licensed child-placing agency that places a child in a foster home or
16 independent living arrangement shall maintain such supervision over such home or independent living
17 arrangement as shall be required by the standards and policies established by the Board.

18 C. Whenever any child placed by a local board or licensed child-placing agency and still under its
19 control or supervision is subject, in the home in which he is placed, to unwholesome influences or to
20 neglect or mistreatment, or whenever the Commissioner shall so order, such local board or agency shall
21 cause the child to be removed from such home and shall make for him such arrangements as may be
22 approved by the Commissioner.

23 D. Consistent with the reasonable and prudent parent standard defined in 42 U.S.C. § 675(10)(A),
24 caregivers for children in foster care shall support normalcy for such children. The Board shall adopt
25 regulations to assist local boards and licensed child-placing agencies in carrying out practices that
26 support careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interest of the
27 child while at the same time encouraging his emotional and developmental growth.

28 E. Possession of any firearms or other weapons in the foster home shall comply with federal and
29 state laws. The individual providing foster care services shall store all firearms, other weapons, and
30 ammunition in a locked closet or cabinet unless they are being lawfully carried on the individual's
31 person. The key or combination to the locked closet or cabinet shall be maintained out of the reach of
32 all children in the home.

ENROLLED

SB1315ER