

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-410.2, relating to the Virginia voter registration system; security plans and procedures; remedying security risks.

[H 2178]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-410.2 as follows:

§ 2.2-3711. Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.

A. Public bodies may hold closed meetings only for the following purposes:

1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively.

2. Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student of any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth or any state school system. However, any such student, legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians shall be permitted to be present during the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence at a closed meeting, if such student, parents, or guardians so request in writing and such request is submitted to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.

3. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

4. The protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business.

5. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

6. Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

8. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

9. Discussion or consideration by governing boards of public institutions of higher education of matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities, and of grants and contracts for services or work to be performed by such institution. However, the terms and conditions of any such gifts, bequests, grants, and contracts made by a foreign government, a foreign legal entity, or a foreign person and accepted by a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth shall be subject to public

57 disclosure upon written request to the appropriate board of visitors. For the purpose of this subdivision,
58 (i) "foreign government" means any government other than the United States government or the
59 government of a state or a political subdivision thereof, (ii) "foreign legal entity" means any legal entity
60 (a) created under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof if a majority of the ownership of
61 the stock of such legal entity is owned by foreign governments or foreign persons or if a majority of the
62 membership of any such entity is composed of foreign persons or foreign legal entities or (b) created
63 under the laws of a foreign government, and (iii) "foreign person" means any individual who is not a
64 citizen or national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof.

65 10. Discussion or consideration by the boards of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the
66 Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and The Science Museum of
67 Virginia of matters relating to specific gifts, bequests, and grants from private sources.

68 11. Discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards.

69 12. Discussion or consideration of tests, examinations, or other information used, administered, or
70 prepared by a public body and subject to the exclusion in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.1.

71 13. Discussion, consideration, or review by the appropriate House or Senate committees of possible
72 disciplinary action against a member arising out of the possible inadequacy of the disclosure statement
73 filed by the member, provided the member may request in writing that the committee meeting not be
74 conducted in a closed meeting.

75 14. Discussion of strategy with respect to the negotiation of a hazardous waste siting agreement or to
76 consider the terms, conditions, and provisions of a hazardous waste siting agreement if the governing
77 body in open meeting finds that an open meeting will have an adverse effect upon the negotiating
78 position of the governing body or the establishment of the terms, conditions and provisions of the siting
79 agreement, or both. All discussions with the applicant or its representatives may be conducted in a
80 closed meeting.

81 15. Discussion by the Governor and any economic advisory board reviewing forecasts of economic
82 activity and estimating general and nongeneral fund revenues.

83 16. Discussion or consideration of medical and mental health records subject to the exclusion in
84 subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.5.

85 17. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board in a licensing appeal action conducted pursuant to
86 subsection D of § 58.1-4007 regarding the denial or revocation of a license of a lottery sales agent; and
87 discussion, consideration or review of Virginia Lottery matters related to proprietary lottery game
88 information and studies or investigations excluded from disclosure under subdivision 6 of § 2.2-3705.3
89 and subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.7.

90 18. Those portions of meetings in which the Board of Corrections discusses or discloses the identity
91 of, or information tending to identify, any prisoner who (i) provides information about crimes or
92 criminal activities, (ii) renders assistance in preventing the escape of another prisoner or in the
93 apprehension of an escaped prisoner, or (iii) voluntarily or at the instance of a prison official renders
94 other extraordinary services, the disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize the prisoner's life or safety.

95 19. Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific
96 cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement
97 or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to
98 public safety; discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 2 or 14 of § 2.2-3705.2,
99 where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any
100 facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program; or discussion of reports
101 or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of
102 persons using such facility, building or structure.

103 20. Discussion by the Board of the Virginia Retirement System, acting pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, or
104 of any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, or by a local finance board or board of
105 trustees of a trust established by one or more local public bodies to invest funds for postemployment
106 benefits other than pensions, acting pursuant to Article 8 (§ 15.2-1544 et seq.) of Chapter 15 of Title
107 15.2, or by the board of visitors of the University of Virginia, acting pursuant to § 23.1-2210, or by the
108 Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan, acting pursuant to § 23.1-706, regarding the acquisition,
109 holding or disposition of a security or other ownership interest in an entity, where such security or
110 ownership interest is not traded on a governmentally regulated securities exchange, to the extent that
111 such discussion (i) concerns confidential analyses prepared for the board of visitors of the University of
112 Virginia, prepared by the retirement system, or a local finance board or board of trustees, or the Virginia
113 College Savings Plan or provided to the retirement system, a local finance board or board of trustees, or
114 the Virginia College Savings Plan under a promise of confidentiality, of the future value of such
115 ownership interest or the future financial performance of the entity, and (ii) would have an adverse
116 effect on the value of the investment to be acquired, held, or disposed of by the retirement system, a
117 local finance board or board of trustees, the board of visitors of the University of Virginia, or the

118 Virginia College Savings Plan. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the disclosure
119 of information relating to the identity of any investment held, the amount invested or the present value
120 of such investment.

121 21. Those portions of meetings in which individual child death cases are discussed by the State Child
122 Fatality Review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.1, those portions of meetings in which
123 individual child death cases are discussed by a regional or local child fatality review team established
124 pursuant to § 32.1-283.2, those portions of meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by
125 family violence fatality review teams established pursuant to § 32.1-283.3, those portions of meetings in
126 which individual adult death cases are discussed by the state Adult Fatality Review Team established
127 pursuant to § 32.1-283.5, those portions of meetings in which individual adult death cases are discussed
128 by a local or regional adult fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.6, and those portions
129 of meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by overdose fatality review teams established
130 pursuant to § 32.1-283.7.

131 22. Those portions of meetings of the board of visitors of the University of Virginia or the Eastern
132 Virginia Medical School Board of Visitors, as the case may be, and those portions of meetings of any
133 persons to whom management responsibilities for the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern
134 Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, have been delegated, in which there is discussed
135 proprietary, business-related information pertaining to the operations of the University of Virginia
136 Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, including business development
137 or marketing strategies and activities with existing or future joint venturers, partners, or other parties
138 with whom the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case
139 may be, has formed, or forms, any arrangement for the delivery of health care, if disclosure of such
140 information would adversely affect the competitive position of the Medical Center or Eastern Virginia
141 Medical School, as the case may be.

142 23. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority
143 or the board of visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University of any of the following: the acquisition or
144 disposition by the Authority of real property, equipment, or technology software or hardware and related
145 goods or services, where disclosure would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating
146 strategy of the Authority; matters relating to gifts or bequests to, and fund-raising activities of, the
147 Authority; grants and contracts for services or work to be performed by the Authority; marketing or
148 operational strategies plans of the Authority where disclosure of such strategies or plans would adversely
149 affect the competitive position of the Authority; and members of the Authority's medical and teaching
150 staffs and qualifications for appointments thereto.

151 24. Those portions of the meetings of the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program Committee within
152 the Department of Health Professions to the extent such discussions identify any practitioner who may
153 be, or who actually is, impaired pursuant to Chapter 25.1 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1.

154 25. Meetings or portions of meetings of the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan wherein
155 personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, which has been provided to the Board or its employees
156 by or on behalf of individuals who have requested information about, applied for, or entered into
157 prepaid tuition contracts or savings trust account agreements pursuant to Chapter 7 (§ 23.1-700 et seq.)
158 of Title 23.1 is discussed.

159 26. Discussion or consideration, by the former Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee
160 created pursuant to former § 56-484.15, of trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act
161 (§ 59.1-336 et seq.), submitted by CMRS providers as defined in § 56-484.12, related to the provision of
162 wireless E-911 service.

163 27. Those portions of disciplinary proceedings by any regulatory board within the Department of
164 Professional and Occupational Regulation, Department of Health Professions, or the Board of
165 Accountancy conducted pursuant to § 2.2-4019 or 2.2-4020 during which the board deliberates to reach
166 a decision or meetings of health regulatory boards or conference committees of such boards to consider
167 settlement proposals in pending disciplinary actions or modifications to previously issued board orders as
168 requested by either of the parties.

169 28. Discussion or consideration of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of
170 § 2.2-3705.6 by a responsible public entity or an affected locality or public entity, as those terms are
171 defined in § 33.2-1800, or any independent review panel appointed to review information and advise the
172 responsible public entity concerning such records.

173 29. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including
174 interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where
175 discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of
176 the public body.

177 30. Discussion or consideration of grant or loan application information subject to the exclusion in
178 subdivision 17 of § 2.2-3705.6 by (i) the Commonwealth Health Research Board or (ii) the Innovation

179 and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority or the Research and Technology Investment Advisory
180 Committee appointed to advise the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority.

181 31. Discussion or consideration by the Commitment Review Committee of information subject to the
182 exclusion in subdivision 5 of § 2.2-3705.2 relating to individuals subject to commitment as sexually
183 violent predators under Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of Title 37.2.

184 32. Discussion or consideration of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets developed
185 and held by a local public body providing certain telecommunication services or cable television services
186 and subject to the exclusion in subdivision 18 of § 2.2-3705.6. However, the exemption provided by this
187 subdivision shall not apply to any authority created pursuant to the BVU Authority Act (§ 15.2-7200 et
188 seq.).

189 33. Discussion or consideration by a local authority created in accordance with the Virginia Wireless
190 Service Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5431.1 et seq.) of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets
191 subject to the exclusion in subdivision 19 of § 2.2-3705.6.

192 34. Discussion or consideration by the State Board of Elections or local electoral boards of voting
193 security matters made confidential pursuant to § 24.2-410.2 or 24.2-625.1.

194 35. Discussion or consideration by the Forensic Science Board or the Scientific Advisory Committee
195 created pursuant to Article 2 (§ 9.1-1109 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 9.1 of criminal investigative
196 files subject to the exclusion in subdivision B 1 of § 2.2-3706.

197 36. Discussion or consideration by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee of
198 information or confidential matters subject to the exclusion in subdivision A 3 of § 2.2-3705.4, and
199 meetings of the Committee to deliberate concerning the annual maximum scholarship award, review and
200 consider scholarship applications and requests for scholarship award renewal, and cancel, rescind, or
201 recover scholarship awards.

202 37. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Port Authority of information subject to the exclusion
203 in subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to certain proprietary information gathered by or for the Virginia
204 Port Authority.

205 38. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System acting
206 pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, by the Investment Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 51.1-124.26,
207 by any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, by the Board of the Virginia College
208 Savings Plan acting pursuant to § 23.1-706, or by the Virginia College Savings Plan's Investment
209 Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 23.1-702 of information subject to the exclusion in
210 subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.7.

211 39. Discussion or consideration of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 3 of
212 § 2.2-3705.6 related to economic development.

213 40. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of information relating to the denial,
214 suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.3.

215 41. Those portions of meetings of the Virginia Military Advisory Council or any commission created
216 by executive order for the purpose of studying and making recommendations regarding preventing
217 closure or realignment of federal military and national security installations and facilities located in
218 Virginia and relocation of such facilities to Virginia, or a local or regional military affairs organization
219 appointed by a local governing body, during which there is discussion of information subject to the
220 exclusion in subdivision 8 of § 2.2-3705.2.

221 42. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation of
222 information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 28 of § 2.2-3705.7 related to personally identifiable
223 information of donors.

224 43. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission of
225 information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 23 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to certain information
226 contained in grant applications.

227 44. Discussion or consideration by the board of directors of the Commercial Space Flight Authority
228 of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to rate structures or
229 charges for the use of projects of, the sale of products of, or services rendered by the Authority and
230 certain proprietary information of a private entity provided to the Authority.

231 45. Discussion or consideration of personal and proprietary information related to the resource
232 management plan program and subject to the exclusion in (i) subdivision 25 of § 2.2-3705.6 or (ii)
233 subsection E of § 10.1-104.7. This exclusion shall not apply to the discussion or consideration of records
234 that contain information that has been certified for release by the person who is the subject of the
235 information or transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow identification of the
236 person who supplied, or is the subject of, the information.

237 46. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Directors of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control
238 Authority of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.3 related to
239 investigations of applicants for licenses and permits and of licensees and permittees.

240 47. Discussion or consideration of grant or loan application records subject to the exclusion in
 241 subdivision 28 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to the submission of an application for an award from the
 242 Virginia Research Investment Fund pursuant to Article 8 (§ 23.1-3130 et seq.) of Chapter 31 of Title
 243 23.1 or interviews of parties to an application by a reviewing entity pursuant to subsection D of
 244 § 23.1-3133 or by the Virginia Research Investment Committee.

245 48. Discussion or development of grant proposals by a regional council established pursuant to
 246 Article 26 (§ 2.2-2484 et seq.) of Chapter 24 to be submitted for consideration to the Virginia Growth
 247 and Opportunity Board.

248 49. Discussion or consideration of (i) individual sexual assault cases by a sexual assault team
 249 established pursuant to § 15.2-1627.4 or (ii) individual child abuse or neglect cases or sex offenses
 250 involving a child by a child abuse team established pursuant to § 15.2-1627.5.

251 50. Discussion or consideration by the Board of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
 252 Authority, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, or any subcommittees thereof, of the
 253 portions of the strategic plan, marketing plan, or operational plan exempt from disclosure pursuant to
 254 subdivision 33 of § 2.2-3705.7.

255 51. Those portions of meetings of the subcommittee of the Board of the Virginia Economic
 256 Development Partnership Authority established pursuant to subsection F of § 2.2-2237.3 to review and
 257 discuss information received from the Virginia Employment Commission pursuant to subdivision C 2 of
 258 § 60.2-114.

259 B. No resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation or motion adopted, passed or agreed to in a
 260 closed meeting shall become effective unless the public body, following the meeting, reconvenes in open
 261 meeting and takes a vote of the membership on such resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation, or
 262 motion that shall have its substance reasonably identified in the open meeting.

263 C. Public officers improperly selected due to the failure of the public body to comply with the other
 264 provisions of this section shall be de facto officers and, as such, their official actions are valid until they
 265 obtain notice of the legal defect in their election.

266 D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the holding of conferences between two or
 267 more public bodies, or their representatives, but these conferences shall be subject to the same
 268 procedures for holding closed meetings as are applicable to any other public body.

269 E. This section shall not be construed to (i) require the disclosure of any contract between the
 270 Department of Health Professions and an impaired practitioner entered into pursuant to Chapter 25.1
 271 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1 or (ii) require the board of directors of any authority created pursuant
 272 to the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.), or any public body
 273 empowered to issue industrial revenue bonds by general or special law, to identify a business or industry
 274 to which subdivision A 5 applies. However, such business or industry shall be identified as a matter of
 275 public record at least 30 days prior to the actual date of the board's authorization of the sale or issuance
 276 of such bonds.

277 **§ 24.2-410.2. Security of the Virginia voter registration system.**

278 A. *The State Board shall promulgate regulations and standards necessary to ensure the security and*
 279 *integrity of the Virginia voter registration system and the supporting technologies utilized by the*
 280 *counties and cities to maintain and record registrant information. The State Board shall, in consultation*
 281 *with representatives of local government information technology professionals and general registrars,*
 282 *update the security standards at least annually. Such review shall be completed by November 30 each*
 283 *year.*

284 B. *The electoral board of each county and city that utilizes supporting technologies to maintain and*
 285 *record registrant information shall develop and annually update written plans and procedures to ensure*
 286 *the security and integrity of those supporting technologies. All plans and procedures shall be in*
 287 *compliance with the security standards established by the State Board pursuant to subsection A. Each*
 288 *electoral board shall report annually by March 1 to the Department of Elections on its security plans*
 289 *and procedures. The general registrar and the Department of Elections shall provide assistance to the*
 290 *electoral board, upon request by the electoral board.*

291 C. *In accordance with the process prescribed by the State Board, the Department of Elections may*
 292 *limit access to the Virginia voter registration system by any county or city that has failed to comply*
 293 *with the provisions of subsection B or the security standards established by the State Board pursuant to*
 294 *subsection A. Such access shall be limited as necessary in order to address and resolve any security*
 295 *risks or to enforce compliance with the provisions of subsection B or the security standards established*
 296 *by the State Board. Prior to restricting access to Virginia voter registration system by any county or*
 297 *city, the Department of Elections shall provide notice to the county or city of the failure to comply with*
 298 *the provisions of subsection A or B and the county or city shall have seven days to correct any*
 299 *deficiencies. The Department of Elections may provide technical assistance to any county or city upon*
 300 *request by the county or city.*

301 *D. Records of the State Board or of a local electoral board, to the extent such records describe*
302 *protocols for maintaining the security of the Virginia voter registration system and the supporting*
303 *technologies utilized to maintain and record registrant information, the release of which would*
304 *compromise the security of the Virginia voter registration system, shall be confidential and excluded*
305 *from inspection and copying under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.).*

306 *E. The State Board or a local electoral board may hold a closed meeting pursuant to the provisions*
307 *of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) for the purpose of discussing protocols*
308 *for maintaining the security of the Virginia voter registration system and the supporting technologies*
309 *utilized to maintain and record registrant information, where discussion of such matters in open meeting*
310 *would compromise the security of the Virginia voter registration system. Nothing in this subsection shall*
311 *be construed to authorize a closed meeting to discuss any breach of security of the Virginia voter*
312 *registration system.*

313 *F. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the release of information concerning any*
314 *breach of security of the Virginia voter registration system.*

315 **2. That the State Board of Elections shall convene a work group prior to adopting standards**
316 **prescribed by § 24.2-410.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act. Such work group shall**
317 **consist of representatives from counties and cities, selected in consultation with the Virginia**
318 **Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, and the Virginia Association of Local**
319 **Government Information Technology Executives. The representatives selected shall include**
320 **representatives from both rural and urban localities and localities of varying population sizes. At**
321 **least one staff member of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, designated by the**
322 **Director of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, shall also serve on this work**
323 **group. Such work group shall review proposed standards and develop general cost estimates for**
324 **implementation of such security standards pursuant to this act.**

325 **3. That the Department of Elections shall establish a standing advisory group of local government**
326 **information technology professionals and general registrars to provide assistance to the State**
327 **Board of Elections and consult on emerging security concerns and updates to annual security**
328 **standards pursuant to subsection A of § 24.2-410.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.**