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## SENATE BILL NO. 1198

Offered January 13, 2021

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A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3800, 2.2-3801, 2.2-3802, and 52-48 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act; license plate readers.*

Patrons—Petersen, Suetterlein and Surovell; Delegate: Rasoul

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 2.2-3800, 2.2-3801, 2.2-3802, and 52-48 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 2.2-3800. Short title; findings; principles of information practice.**

A. This chapter may be cited as the "Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act."

B. The General Assembly finds that:

1. An individual's privacy is directly affected by the extensive collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of personal information;

2. The increasing use of computers and sophisticated information technology has greatly magnified the harm that can occur from these practices;

3. An individual's opportunities to secure employment, insurance, credit, and his right to due process, and other legal protections are endangered by the misuse of certain of these personal information systems; and

4. In order to preserve the rights guaranteed a citizen in a free society, legislation is necessary to establish procedures to govern information systems containing records on individuals.

C. Recordkeeping agencies of the Commonwealth and political subdivisions shall adhere to the following principles of information practice to ensure safeguards for personal privacy:

1. There shall be no personal information system whose existence is secret.

2. Information shall not be collected unless the need for it has been clearly established in advance.

3. Information shall be appropriate and relevant to the purpose for which it has been collected.

4. Information shall not be obtained by fraudulent or unfair means.

5. Information shall not be used unless it is accurate and current.

6. There shall be a prescribed procedure for an individual to learn the purpose for which information has been recorded and particulars about its use and dissemination.

7. There shall be a clearly prescribed and uncomplicated procedure for an individual to correct, erase, or amend inaccurate, obsolete, or irrelevant information.

8. Any agency holding personal information shall assure its reliability and take precautions to prevent its misuse.

9. There shall be a clearly prescribed procedure to prevent personal information collected for one purpose from being used or disseminated for another purpose unless such use or dissemination is authorized or required by law.

10. The Commonwealth or any agency or political subdivision thereof shall not collect personal information except as explicitly or implicitly authorized by law.

11. *Absent a criminal or administrative warrant, law-enforcement and regulatory agencies shall not use license plate readers to collect or maintain personal information in a manner where such personal information is of unknown relevance and will not be promptly evaluated and potentially used to investigate suspected criminal activity, civil or regulatory violations, or terrorism by any person. Notwithstanding the restrictions set forth in this subdivision, law-enforcement agencies shall be allowed to collect information from license plate readers without a warrant; however, any information collected from a license plate reader shall be retained for no more than seven days and shall not be subject to any outside inquiries or internal usage except for the investigation of a crime or a report of a missing person. A law-enforcement or regulatory agency shall not acquire personal information from any third-party private vendor collected by such vendor from a license plate.*

**§ 2.2-3801. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Agency" means any agency, authority, board, department, division, commission, institution, bureau, or like governmental entity of the Commonwealth or of any unit of local government including counties, cities, towns, regional governments, and the departments thereof, and includes constitutional officers, except as otherwise expressly provided by law. "Agency" shall also include any entity, whether public or

59 private, with which any of the foregoing has entered into a contractual relationship for the operation of a  
60 system of personal information to accomplish an agency function. Any such entity included in this  
61 definition by reason of a contractual relationship shall only be deemed an agency as relates to services  
62 performed pursuant to that contractual relationship, provided that if any such entity is a consumer  
63 reporting agency, it shall be deemed to have satisfied all of the requirements of this chapter if it fully  
64 complies with the requirements of the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act as applicable to services  
65 performed pursuant to such contractual relationship.

66 "Data subject" means an individual about whom personal information is indexed or may be located  
67 under his name, personal number, or other identifiable particulars, in an information system.

68 "Disseminate" means to release, transfer, or otherwise communicate information orally, in writing, or  
69 by electronic means.

70 "Information system" means the total components and operations of a record-keeping process,  
71 including information collected or managed by means of computer networks and the Internet, whether  
72 automated or manual, containing personal information and the name, personal number, or other  
73 identifying particulars of a data subject.

74 "License plate reader" means a high-speed, computer-controlled camera system that may be mounted  
75 on street poles, streetlights, highway overpasses, or mobile trailers, or attached to vehicles to optically  
76 scan license plates.

77 "Personal information" means all information that (i) describes, locates, or indexes anything about an  
78 individual including, but not limited to, his social security number, driver's license number, *license plate*  
79 *number*, agency-issued identification number, student identification number, and real or personal  
80 property holdings derived from tax returns; and his education, financial transactions, medical history,  
81 ancestry, religion, political ideology, and criminal or employment record; or (ii) affords a basis for  
82 inferring personal characteristics, such as finger and voice prints, photographs, or things done by or to  
83 such individual; and the record of his presence, registration, or membership in an organization or  
84 activity, *presence at any place*, or admission to an institution. "Personal information" ~~shall~~ does not  
85 include routine information maintained for the purpose of internal office administration whose use could  
86 not be such as to affect adversely any data subject nor does the term include real estate assessment  
87 information.

88 "Proper purpose" includes the sharing or dissemination of data or information among and between  
89 agencies in order to (i) streamline administrative processes to improve the efficiency and efficacy of  
90 services, access to services, eligibility determinations for services, and service delivery; (ii) reduce  
91 paperwork and administrative burdens on applicants for and recipients of public services; (iii) improve  
92 the efficiency and efficacy of the management of public programs; (iv) prevent fraud and improve  
93 auditing capabilities; (v) conduct outcomes-related research; (vi) develop quantifiable data to aid in  
94 policy development and decision making to promote the most efficient and effective use of resources;  
95 and (vii) perform data analytics regarding any of the purposes set forth in this definition.

96 "Purge" means to obliterate information completely from the transient, permanent, or archival records  
97 of an agency.

98 **§ 2.2-3802. Systems to which chapter inapplicable.**

99 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to personal information systems:

- 100 1. Maintained by any court of the Commonwealth;
- 101 2. Which may exist in publications of general circulation;
- 102 3. Contained in the Criminal Justice Information System as defined in §§ 9.1-126 through 9.1-137 or  
103 in the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry maintained by the Department of State Police  
104 pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1, except to the extent that information is required to  
105 be posted on the Internet pursuant to § 9.1-913;
- 106 4. Contained in the Virginia Juvenile Justice Information System as defined in §§ 16.1-222 through  
107 16.1-225;
- 108 5. Maintained by agencies concerning persons required by law to be licensed in the Commonwealth  
109 to engage in the practice of any profession, in which case the names and addresses of persons applying  
110 for or possessing the license may be disseminated upon written request to a person engaged in the  
111 profession or business of offering professional educational materials or courses for the sole purpose of  
112 providing the licensees or applicants for licenses with informational materials relating solely to available  
113 professional educational materials or courses, provided the disseminating agency is reasonably assured  
114 that the use of the information will be so limited;
- 115 6. Maintained by the Parole Board, the Crime Commission, the Judicial Inquiry and Review  
116 Commission, the Virginia Racing Commission, and the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority;
- 117 7. Maintained by any of the following and that deal with investigations and intelligence gathering  
118 related to criminal activity:
  - 119 a. The Department of State Police;
  - 120 b. The police department of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission;

- c. Police departments of cities, counties, and towns;
- d. Sheriff's departments of counties and cities;
- e. Campus police departments of public institutions of higher education as established by Article 3 (§ 23.1-809 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 23.1; and
- f. The Division of Capitol Police.

*Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to personal information collected without a warrant by any such law-enforcement agency through the use of license plate readers in a manner where such personal information is of unknown relevance and will not be promptly evaluated and potentially used to investigate suspected criminal activity, civil or regulatory violations, or terrorism by any person.*

8. Maintained by local departments of social services regarding alleged cases of child abuse or neglect while such cases are also subject to an ongoing criminal prosecution;

9. Maintained by the Virginia Port Authority as provided in § 62.1-132.4 or 62.1-134.1;

10. Maintained by the Virginia Tourism Authority in connection with or as a result of the promotion of travel or tourism in the Commonwealth, in which case names and addresses of persons requesting information on those subjects may be disseminated upon written request to a person engaged in the business of providing travel services or distributing travel information, provided the Virginia Tourism Authority is reasonably assured that the use of the information will be so limited;

11. Maintained by the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services of the Department of General Services and the Department of Forensic Science, which deal with scientific investigations relating to criminal activity or suspected criminal activity, except to the extent that § 9.1-1104 may apply;

12. Maintained by the Department of Corrections or the Office of the State Inspector General that deal with investigations and intelligence gathering by persons acting under the provisions of Chapter 3.2 (§ 2.2-307 et seq.);

13. Maintained by (i) the Office of the State Inspector General or internal audit departments of state agencies or institutions that deal with communications and investigations relating to the Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline or (ii) an auditor appointed by the local governing body of any county, city, or town or a school board that deals with local investigations required by § 15.2-2511.2;

14. Maintained by the Department of Social Services or any local department of social services relating to public assistance fraud investigations;

15. Maintained by the Department of Social Services related to child welfare or public assistance programs when requests for personal information are made to the Department of Social Services. Requests for information from these systems shall be made to the appropriate local department of social services that is the custodian of that record. Notwithstanding the language in this section, an individual shall not be prohibited from obtaining information from the central registry in accordance with the provisions of § 63.2-1515; and

16. Maintained by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services related to adult services, adult protective services, or auxiliary grants when requests for personal information are made to the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Requests for information from these systems shall be made to the appropriate local department of social services that is the custodian of that record.

#### **§ 52-48. Confidentiality and immunity from service of process; penalties.**

A. Papers, records, documents, reports, materials, databases, or other evidence or information relative to criminal intelligence or any terrorism investigation in the possession of the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center shall be confidential and shall not be subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) or the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act (§ 2.2-3800 et seq.). Every three years, the Department shall conduct a review of information contained in any database maintained by the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center. Data that has been determined to not have a nexus to terrorist activity shall be removed from such database. A reasonable suspicion standard shall be applied when determining whether or not information has a nexus to terrorist activity.

B. No person, having access to information maintained by the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center, shall be subject to subpoena in a civil action in any court of the Commonwealth to testify concerning a matter of which he has knowledge pursuant to his access to criminal intelligence information maintained by the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center.

C. No person or agency receiving information from the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center shall release or disseminate that information without prior authorization from the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center.

D. Any person who knowingly disseminates information in violation of this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. If such unauthorized dissemination results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, such person is guilty of a Class 4 felony.

E. For purposes of this chapter:

"Criminal intelligence information" means data that has been evaluated and determined to be relevant

182 to the identification and criminal activity of individuals or organizations that are reasonably suspected of  
183 involvement in criminal activity. "Criminal intelligence information" ~~shall~~ *does* not include criminal  
184 investigative files *or personal information collected without a warrant by any law-enforcement or*  
185 *regulatory agency through use of license plate readers in a manner where such personal information is*  
186 *of unknown relevance and and will not be promptly evaluated and potentially used to investigate*  
187 *suspected criminal activity, civil or regulatory violations, or terrorism by any person.*