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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1878**

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-3705.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; exclusions to application of chapter; local administrative investigations; disclosure.*

Patrons—Williams Graves and Clark

Referred to Committee on General Laws

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 2.2-3705.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-3705.3. Exclusions to application of chapter; records relating to administrative investigations.**

The following information contained in a public record is excluded from the mandatory disclosure provisions of this chapter but may be disclosed by the custodian in his discretion, except where such disclosure is prohibited by law. Redaction of information excluded under this section from a public record shall be conducted in accordance with § 2.2-3704.01.

1. Information relating to investigations of applicants for licenses and permits, and of all licensees and permittees, made by or submitted to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, the Virginia Lottery pursuant to Chapter 40 (§ 58.1-4000 et seq.) and Chapter 41 (§ 58.1-4100 et seq.) of Title 58.1, the Virginia Racing Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services relating to investigations and applications pursuant to Article 1.1:1 (§ 18.2-340.15 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, or the Private Security Services Unit of the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

2. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Health Professions or by any health regulatory board in the Commonwealth pursuant to § 54.1-108.

3. Investigator notes, and other correspondence and information, furnished in confidence with respect to an active investigation of individual employment discrimination complaints made to the Department of Human Resource Management, to such personnel of any local public body, including local school boards, as are responsible for conducting such investigations in confidence, or to any public institution of higher education. However, nothing in this subdivision shall prevent the disclosure of information taken from inactive reports in a form that does not reveal the identity of charging parties, persons supplying the information, or other individuals involved in the investigation.

4. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Medical Assistance Services pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 32.1-323 et seq.) of Title 32.1.

5. Investigative notes and other correspondence and information furnished in confidence with respect to an investigation or conciliation process involving an alleged unlawful discriminatory practice under the Virginia Human Rights Act (§ 2.2-3900 et seq.) or under any local ordinance adopted in accordance with the authority specified in § 2.2-524, or adopted pursuant to § 15.2-965, or adopted prior to July 1, 1987, in accordance with applicable law, relating to local human rights or human relations commissions. However, nothing in this subdivision shall prevent the distribution of information taken from inactive reports in a form that does not reveal the identity of the parties involved or other persons supplying information.

6. Information relating to studies and investigations by the Virginia Lottery of (i) lottery agents, (ii) lottery vendors, (iii) lottery crimes under §§ 58.1-4014 through 58.1-4018, (iv) defects in the law or regulations that cause abuses in the administration and operation of the lottery and any evasions of such provisions, or (v) the use of the lottery as a subterfuge for organized crime and illegal gambling where such information has not been publicly released, published or copyrighted. All studies and investigations referred to under clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) shall be open to inspection and copying upon completion of the study or investigation.

7. Investigative notes, correspondence and information furnished in confidence, and records otherwise exempted by this chapter or any Virginia statute, provided to or produced by or for (i) the Auditor of Public Accounts; (ii) the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission; (iii) an appropriate authority as defined in § 2.2-3010 with respect to an allegation of wrongdoing or abuse under the Fraud and Abuse Whistle Blower Protection Act (§ 2.2-3009 et seq.); (iv) the Office of the State Inspector General with respect to an investigation initiated through the Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline or an investigation initiated pursuant to Chapter 3.2 (§ 2.2-307 et seq.); (v) internal auditors appointed by the head of a state agency or by any public institution of higher education; (vi) the committee or the auditor with respect to an investigation or audit conducted pursuant to § 15.2-825; or (vii) the auditors, appointed by

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59 the local governing body of any county, city, or town or a school board, who by charter, ordinance, or  
60 statute have responsibility for conducting an investigation of any officer, department, or program of such  
61 body. Information contained in completed investigations shall be disclosed in a form that does not reveal  
62 the identity of the complainants or persons supplying information to investigators. Unless disclosure is  
63 excluded by this subdivision, the information disclosed shall include the agency involved, the identity of  
64 the person who is the subject of the complaint, the nature of the complaint, and the actions taken to  
65 resolve the complaint. If an investigation does not lead to corrective action, the identity of the person  
66 who is the subject of the complaint may be released only with the consent of the subject person. Local  
67 governing bodies shall adopt guidelines to govern the disclosure required by this subdivision.

68 8. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers personal contact information of complainants  
69 furnished in confidence to a local governing body with respect to an investigation of individual (i)  
70 zoning enforcement complaints or complaints relating to the; (ii) Uniform Statewide Building Code  
71 (§ 36-97 et seq.) or the complaints; or (iii) Statewide Fire Prevention Code (§ 27-94 et seq.) made to a  
72 local governing body complaints; (iv) local code complaints pertaining to public health and safety and  
73 nuisances, §§ 15.2-900, 15.2-901, 15.2-904, 15.2-906, 15.2-907, 15.2-908, and 15.2-921; and (v) local  
74 code complaints pertaining to waste and recycling pursuant to Article 2 (§ 15.2-927 et seq.) of Chapter  
75 9 of Title 15.2. As used in this subdivision, "personal contact information" includes a home or business  
76 (a) address, (b) email address, or (c) telephone number or comparable number assigned to any other  
77 electronic communication device. Information contained in completed investigations shall be disclosed in  
78 a form that does not reveal the identity of the complainants or persons supplying information to  
79 investigators.

80 9. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Criminal Justice Services  
81 pursuant to Article 4 (§ 9.1-138 et seq.), Article 4.1 (§ 9.1-150.1 et seq.), Article 11 (§ 9.1-185 et seq.),  
82 and Article 12 (§ 9.1-186 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1.

83 10. Information furnished to or prepared by the Board of Education pursuant to subsection D of  
84 § 22.1-253.13:3 in connection with the review or investigation of any alleged breach in security,  
85 unauthorized alteration, or improper administration of tests by local school board employees responsible  
86 for the distribution or administration of the tests. However, this section shall not prohibit the disclosure  
87 of such information to (i) a local school board or division superintendent for the purpose of permitting  
88 such board or superintendent to consider or to take personnel action with regard to an employee or (ii)  
89 any requester, after the conclusion of a review or investigation, in a form that (a) does not reveal the  
90 identity of any person making a complaint or supplying information to the Board on a confidential basis  
91 and (b) does not compromise the security of any test mandated by the Board.

92 11. Information contained in (i) an application for licensure or renewal of a license for teachers and  
93 other school personnel, including transcripts or other documents submitted in support of an application,  
94 and (ii) an active investigation conducted by or for the Board of Education related to the denial,  
95 suspension, cancellation, revocation, or reinstatement of teacher and other school personnel licenses  
96 including investigator notes and other correspondence and information, furnished in confidence with  
97 respect to such investigation. However, this subdivision shall not prohibit the disclosure of such (a)  
98 application information to the applicant at his own expense or (b) investigation information to a local  
99 school board or division superintendent for the purpose of permitting such board or superintendent to  
100 consider or to take personnel action with regard to an employee. Information contained in completed  
101 investigations shall be disclosed in a form that does not reveal the identity of any complainant or person  
102 supplying information to investigators. The completed investigation information disclosed shall include  
103 information regarding the school or facility involved, the identity of the person who was the subject of  
104 the complaint, the nature of the complaint, and the actions taken to resolve the complaint. If an  
105 investigation fails to support a complaint or does not lead to corrective action, the identity of the person  
106 who was the subject of the complaint may be released only with the consent of the subject person. No  
107 personally identifiable information regarding a current or former student shall be released except as  
108 permitted by state or federal law.

109 12. Information provided in confidence and related to an investigation by the Attorney General under  
110 Article 1 (§ 3.2-4200 et seq.) or Article 3 (§ 3.2-4204 et seq.) of Chapter 42 of Title 3.2, Article 10 (§  
111 18.2-246.6 et seq.) of Chapter 6 or Chapter 13 (§ 18.2-512 et seq.) of Title 18.2, or Article 1  
112 (§ 58.1-1000) of Chapter 10 of Title 58.1. However, information related to an investigation that has been  
113 inactive for more than six months shall, upon request, be disclosed provided such disclosure is not  
114 otherwise prohibited by law and does not reveal the identity of charging parties, complainants, persons  
115 supplying information, witnesses, or other individuals involved in the investigation.

116 13. Records of active investigations being conducted by the Department of Behavioral Health and  
117 Developmental Services pursuant to Chapter 4 (§ 37.2-400 et seq.) of Title 37.2.