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## SENATE BILL NO. 1264

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 16.1-309.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to notifications in juvenile cases; exception to confidentiality.*

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Patron—McDougle

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Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 16.1-309.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 16.1-309.1. Exception as to confidentiality.**

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, where consideration of public interest requires, the judge shall make available to the public the name and address of a juvenile and the nature of the offense for which a juvenile has been adjudicated delinquent (i) for an act which would be a Class 1, 2, or 3 felony, forcible rape, robbery or burglary or a related offense as set out in Article 2 (§ 18.2-89 et seq.) of Chapter 5 of Title 18.2 if committed by an adult or (ii) in any case where a juvenile is sentenced as an adult in circuit court.

B. 1. a. At any time prior to disposition, if a juvenile charged with a delinquent act which would constitute a felony if committed by an adult, or held in custody by a law-enforcement officer, or held in a secure facility pursuant to such charge becomes a fugitive from justice, the attorney for the Commonwealth or, upon notice to the Commonwealth's attorney, the Department of Juvenile Justice or a locally operated court services unit, may, with notice to the juvenile's attorney of record, petition the court having jurisdiction of the offense to authorize public release of the juvenile's name, age, physical description and photograph, the charge for which he is sought or for which he was adjudicated and any other information which may expedite his apprehension. Upon a showing that the juvenile is a fugitive and for good cause, the court shall order release of this information to the public. If a juvenile charged with a delinquent act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult, or held in custody by a law-enforcement officer, or held in a secure facility pursuant to such charge becomes a fugitive from justice at a time when the court is not in session, the Commonwealth's attorney, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or a locally operated court services unit may, with notice to the juvenile's attorney of record, authorize the public release of the juvenile's name, age, physical description and photograph, the charge for which he is sought, and any other information which may expedite his apprehension.

b. At any time prior to disposition, if a juvenile charged with a delinquent act which would constitute a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, or held in custody by a law-enforcement officer, or held in a secure facility pursuant to such charge becomes a fugitive from justice, the attorney for the Commonwealth may, with notice to the juvenile's attorney of record, petition the court having jurisdiction of the offense to authorize public release of the juvenile's name, age, physical description and photograph, the charge for which he is sought or for which he was adjudicated and any other information which may expedite his apprehension. Upon a showing that the juvenile is a fugitive and for good cause, the court shall order release of this information to the public. If a juvenile charged with a delinquent act that would constitute a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, or held in custody by a law-enforcement officer, or held in a secure facility pursuant to such charge becomes a fugitive from justice at a time when the court is not in session, the attorney for the Commonwealth may, with notice to the juvenile's attorney of record, authorize the public release of the juvenile's name, age, physical description and photograph, the charge for which he is sought, and any other information which may expedite his apprehension.

2. After final disposition, if a juvenile (i) found to have committed a delinquent act becomes a fugitive from justice or (ii) who has been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice pursuant to subdivision A 14 of § 16.1-278.8 or § 16.1-285.1 becomes a fugitive from justice by escaping from a facility operated by or under contract with the Department or from the custody of any employee of such facility, the Department may release to the public the juvenile's name, age, physical description and photograph, the charge for which he is sought or for which he was committed, and any other information which may expedite his apprehension. The Department shall promptly notify the attorney for the Commonwealth of the jurisdiction in which the juvenile was tried whenever information is released pursuant to this subdivision. If a juvenile specified in clause (i) being held after disposition in a secure facility not operated by or under contract with the Department becomes a fugitive by such escape, the attorney for the Commonwealth of the locality in which the facility is located may release the

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59 information as provided in this subdivision.

60 C. Whenever a juvenile 14 years of age or older is charged with a delinquent act that would be a  
61 criminal violation of Article 2 (§ 18.2-38 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, a felony involving a  
62 weapon, a felony violation of Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, or an "act of  
63 violence" as defined in subsection A of § 19.2-297.1 if committed by an adult, the judge may, where  
64 consideration of the public interest requires, make the juvenile's name and address available to the  
65 public.

66 D. Upon the request of a victim of a delinquent act that would be a felony or that would be a  
67 misdemeanor violation of § 16.1-253.2, 18.2-57, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-60.3, 18.2-60.4, 18.2-67.4, or 18.2-67.5  
68 if committed by an adult, the court may order that such victim be informed of the charge or charges  
69 brought, the findings of the court, and the disposition of the case. For purposes of this section, "victim"  
70 shall be defined as in § 19.2-11.01.

71 E. Upon request, the judge or clerk may disclose if an order of emancipation of a juvenile pursuant  
72 to § 16.1-333 has been entered, provided (i) the order is not being appealed, (ii) the order has not been  
73 terminated, or (iii) there has not been a judicial determination that the order is void ab initio.

74 F. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a copy of any court order that imposes a curfew or  
75 other restriction on a juvenile may be provided to the chief law-enforcement officer of the county or city  
76 wherein the juvenile resides. The chief law-enforcement officer shall only disclose information contained  
77 in the court order to other law-enforcement officers in the conduct of official duties.

78 G. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, where consideration of public safety requires, the  
79 Department and locally operated court service unit shall release information relating to a juvenile's  
80 criminal street gang involvement, if any, and the criminal street gang-related activity and membership of  
81 others, as criminal street gang is defined in § 18.2-46.1, obtained from an investigation or supervision of  
82 a juvenile and shall include the identity or identifying information of the juvenile; however, the  
83 Department and local court service unit shall not release the identifying information of a juvenile not  
84 affiliated with or involved in a criminal street gang unless that information relates to a specific criminal  
85 act. Such information shall be released to any State Police, local police department, sheriff's office, or  
86 law-enforcement task force that is a part of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political  
87 subdivision thereof, and that is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the  
88 enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the Commonwealth. The exchange of information  
89 shall be for the purpose of an investigation into criminal street gang activity.

90 H. Notwithstanding any other provision of Article 12 (§ 16.1-299 et seq.), a clerk of the court shall  
91 report to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the U.S. Department of Homeland  
92 Security a juvenile who has been detained in a secure facility but only upon an adjudication of  
93 delinquency or finding of guilt for a violent juvenile felony and when there is evidence that the juvenile  
94 is in the United States illegally.

95 *I. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, whenever an intake officer proceeds informally*  
96 *against a juvenile, the Department or local court service unit may disclose information to any*  
97 *law-enforcement officer, school principal where such juvenile attends school, or known victim as*  
98 *necessary to enforce any provision of the diversion program. Additionally, a local court service unit may*  
99 *provide information regarding the availability and ordering of a protective order and restitution and*  
100 *dispositional information to the victim in the case.*