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SENATE BILL NO. 340

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 9, 2024

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-3705.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Freedom of Information Act; exclusions from mandatory disclosure; purchase card statement.

Patrons—Salim and Surovell

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-3705.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-3705.2. Exclusions to application of chapter; records relating to public safety.**

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. Confidential information, including victim identity, provided to or obtained by staff in a rape crisis center or a program for battered spouses.

2. Information that describes the design, function, operation, or access control features of any security system, whether manual or automated, which is used to control access to or use of any automated data processing or telecommunications system.

3. Information that would disclose the security aspects of a system safety program plan adopted pursuant to Federal Transit Administration regulations by the Commonwealth's designated Rail Fixed Guideway Systems Safety Oversight agency; and information in the possession of such agency, the release of which would jeopardize the success of an ongoing investigation of a rail accident or other incident threatening railway safety.

4. Information concerning security plans and specific assessment components of school safety audits, as provided in § 22.1-279.8.

Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the disclosure of information relating to the effectiveness of security plans after (i) any school building or property has been subjected to fire, explosion, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event or (ii) any person on school property has suffered or been threatened with any personal injury.

5. Information concerning the mental health assessment of an individual subject to commitment as a sexually violent predator under Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of Title 37.2 held by the Commitment Review Committee; except that in no case shall information identifying the victims of a sexually violent predator be disclosed.

6. Subscriber data provided directly or indirectly by a communications services provider to a public body that operates a 911 or E-911 emergency dispatch system or an emergency notification or reverse 911 system if the data is in a form not made available by the communications services provider to the public generally. Nothing in this subdivision shall prevent the disclosure of subscriber data generated in connection with specific calls to a 911 emergency system, where the requester is seeking to obtain public records about the use of the system in response to a specific crime, emergency or other event as to which a citizen has initiated a 911 call.

For the purposes of this subdivision:

"Communications services provider" means the same as that term is defined in § 58.1-647.

"Subscriber data" means the name, address, telephone number, and any other information identifying a subscriber of a communications services provider.

7. Subscriber data collected by a local governing body in accordance with the Enhanced Public Safety Telephone Services Act (§ 56-484.12 et seq.) and other identifying information of a personal, medical, or financial nature provided to a local governing body in connection with a 911 or E-911 emergency dispatch system or an emergency notification or reverse 911 system if such records are not otherwise publicly available.

Nothing in this subdivision shall prevent the disclosure of subscriber data generated in connection with specific calls to a 911 emergency system, where the requester is seeking to obtain public records about the use of the system in response to a specific crime, emergency or other event as to which a citizen has initiated a 911 call.

For the purposes of this subdivision:

"Communications services provider" means the same as that term is defined in § 58.1-647.

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59 "Subscriber data" means the name, address, telephone number, and any other information identifying
60 a subscriber of a communications services provider.

61 8. Information held by the Virginia Military Advisory Council or any commission created by
62 executive order for the purpose of studying and making recommendations regarding preventing closure
63 or realignment of federal military and national security installations and facilities located in Virginia and
64 relocation of such facilities to Virginia, or a local or regional military affairs organization appointed by a
65 local governing body, that would (i) reveal strategies under consideration or development by the Council
66 or such commission or organizations to prevent the closure or realignment of federal military
67 installations located in Virginia or the relocation of national security facilities located in Virginia, to
68 limit the adverse economic effect of such realignment, closure, or relocation, or to seek additional tenant
69 activity growth from the Department of Defense or federal government or (ii) disclose trade secrets
70 provided to the Council or such commission or organizations in connection with their work.

71 In order to invoke the trade secret protection provided by clause (ii), the submitting entity shall, in
72 writing and at the time of submission (a) invoke this exclusion, (b) identify with specificity the
73 information for which such protection is sought, and (c) state the reason why such protection is
74 necessary. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the disclosure of all or part of any
75 record, other than a trade secret that has been specifically identified as required by this subdivision, after
76 the Department of Defense or federal agency has issued a final, unappealable decision, or in the event of
77 litigation, a court of competent jurisdiction has entered a final, unappealable order concerning the
78 closure, realignment, or expansion of the military installation or tenant activities, or the relocation of the
79 national security facility, for which records are sought.

80 9. Information, as determined by the State Comptroller, that describes the design, function, operation,
81 or implementation of internal controls over the Commonwealth's financial processes and systems, and
82 the assessment of risks and vulnerabilities of those controls, including the annual assessment of internal
83 controls mandated by the State Comptroller, if disclosure of such information would jeopardize the
84 security of the Commonwealth's financial assets. *However, Nothing in this subdivision shall be*
85 *construed to authorize the withholding of (i) the name of the public employee, officer, or official as it*
86 *appears on a purchase card statement or other payment record or (ii) the description of individual*
87 *purchases. Additionally,* records relating to the investigation of and findings concerning the soundness of
88 any fiscal process shall be disclosed in a form that does not compromise internal controls. Nothing in
89 this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit the Auditor of Public Accounts or the Joint Legislative
90 Audit and Review Commission from reporting internal control deficiencies discovered during the course
91 of an audit.

92 10. Information relating to the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS) or any other similar local
93 or regional public safety communications system that (i) describes the design, function, programming,
94 operation, or access control features of the overall system, components, structures, individual networks,
95 and subsystems of the STARS or any other similar local or regional communications system or (ii)
96 relates to radio frequencies assigned to or utilized by STARS or any other similar local or regional
97 communications system, code plugs, circuit routing, addressing schemes, talk groups, fleet maps,
98 encryption, or programming maintained by or utilized by STARS or any other similar local or regional
99 public safety communications system.

100 11. Information concerning a salaried or volunteer Fire/EMS company or Fire/EMS department if
101 disclosure of such information would reveal the telephone numbers for cellular telephones, pagers, or
102 comparable portable communication devices provided to its personnel for use in the performance of their
103 official duties.

104 12. Information concerning the disaster recovery plans or the evacuation plans in the event of fire,
105 explosion, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event for hospitals and nursing homes regulated by the
106 Board of Health pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 32.1-123 et seq.) of Title 32.1 provided to the Department of
107 Health. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prevent the disclosure of information relating to
108 the effectiveness of executed evacuation plans after the occurrence of fire, explosion, natural disaster, or
109 other catastrophic event.

110 13. Records received by the Department of Criminal Justice Services pursuant to §§ 9.1-184,
111 22.1-79.4, and 22.1-279.8 or for purposes of evaluating threat assessment teams established by a public
112 institution of higher education pursuant to § 23.1-805 or by a private nonprofit institution of higher
113 education, to the extent such records reveal security plans, walk-through checklists, or vulnerability and
114 threat assessment components.

115 14. Information contained in (i) engineering, architectural, or construction drawings; (ii) operational,
116 procedural, tactical planning, or training manuals; (iii) staff meeting minutes; or (iv) other records that
117 reveal any of the following, the disclosure of which would jeopardize the safety or security of any
118 person; governmental facility, building, or structure or persons using such facility, building, or structure;
119 or public or private commercial office, multifamily residential, or retail building or its occupants:

120 a. Critical infrastructure information or the location or operation of security equipment and systems

of any public building, structure, or information storage facility, including ventilation systems, fire protection equipment, mandatory building emergency equipment or systems, elevators, electrical systems, telecommunications equipment and systems, or utility equipment and systems;

b. Vulnerability assessments, information not lawfully available to the public regarding specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities, or security plans and measures of an entity, facility, building structure, information technology system, or software program;

c. Surveillance techniques, personnel deployments, alarm or security systems or technologies, or operational or transportation plans or protocols; or

d. Interconnectivity, network monitoring, network operation centers, master sites, or systems related to the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS) or any other similar local or regional public safety communications system.

The same categories of records of any person or entity submitted to a public body for the purpose of antiterrorism response planning or cybersecurity planning or protection may be withheld from disclosure if such person or entity in writing (a) invokes the protections of this subdivision, (b) identifies with specificity the records or portions thereof for which protection is sought, and (c) states with reasonable particularity why the protection of such records from public disclosure is necessary to meet the objective of antiterrorism, cybersecurity planning or protection, or critical infrastructure information security and resilience. Such statement shall be a public record and shall be disclosed upon request.

Any public body receiving a request for records excluded under clauses (a) and (b) of this subdivision 14 shall notify the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or his designee of such request and the response made by the public body in accordance with § 2.2-3704.

Nothing in this subdivision 14 shall prevent the disclosure of records relating to (1) the structural or environmental soundness of any such facility, building, or structure or (2) an inquiry into the performance of such facility, building, or structure after it has been subjected to fire, explosion, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event.

As used in this subdivision, "critical infrastructure information" means the same as that term is defined in 6 U.S.C. § 671.

15. Information held by the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority that is categorized as classified or sensitive but unclassified, including national security, defense, and foreign policy information, provided that such information is exempt under the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.