

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Freedom of
2 Information Act; open meeting exemptions; providing context for those meeting exemptions that
3 cross-reference corollary records exemptions.

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

5 **1. That § 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

6 **§ 2.2-3711. Closed meetings authorized for certain limited purposes.**

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

8 1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment;
9 assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of
10 specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of
11 departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily
12 involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be
13 present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter
14 that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the
15 teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.

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

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

- 26 4. The protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business.
- 27 5. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing
28 business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's
29 interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.
- 30 6. Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining
31 is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be
32 adversely affected.
- 33 7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to
34 actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect
35 the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or
36 retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such
37 counsel. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been
38 specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe
39 will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit
40 the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is
41 consulted on a matter.
- 42 8. ~~In the case of boards of visitors of public institutions of higher education, discussion~~
43 Discussion or consideration by boards of visitors of public institutions of higher education of matters
44 relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities, and grants and contracts for services or work to be
45 performed by such institution. However, the terms and conditions of any such gifts, bequests, grants, and
46 contracts made by a foreign government, a foreign legal entity, or a foreign person and accepted by a
47 public institution of higher education in Virginia shall be subject to public disclosure upon written
48 request to the appropriate board of visitors. For the purpose of this subdivision, (i) "foreign government"
49 means any government other than the United States government or the government of a state or a
50 political subdivision thereof; (ii) "foreign legal entity" means any legal entity created under the laws of
51 the United States or of any state thereof if a majority of the ownership of the stock of such legal entity is
52 owned by foreign governments or foreign persons or if a majority of the membership of any such entity

53 is composed of foreign persons or foreign legal entities, or any legal entity created under the laws of a
54 foreign government; and (iii) "foreign person" means any individual who is not a citizen or national of
55 the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof.

56 9. ~~In the case of the boards of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Virginia~~
57 ~~Museum of Natural History, the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, and The Science Museum of~~
58 ~~Virginia, discussion~~ Discussion or consideration of matters relating to specific gifts, bequests, and grants
59 by boards of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the
60 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and The Science Museum of Virginia.

61 10. Discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards.

62 11. Discussion or consideration of tests, examinations, or other records used, administered, or
63 prepared by a public body and excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.1,
64 relating to the evaluation of (i) any student or any student's performance; (ii) any employee's or
65 employment seeker's qualifications or aptitude for employment, retention, or promotion; or (iii)
66 qualifications for any license or certificate issued by a public body.

67 12. Discussion, consideration, or review by the appropriate House or Senate committees of
68 possible disciplinary action against a member arising out of the possible inadequacy of the disclosure
69 statement filed by the member, provided the member may request in writing that the committee meeting
70 not be conducted in a closed meeting.

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

77 14. Discussion by the Governor and any economic advisory board reviewing forecasts of
78 economic activity and estimating general and nongeneral fund revenues.

79 15. Discussion or consideration of medical and mental health records excluded from this chapter
80 pursuant to subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.5.

81 16. Deliberations of the Virginia Lottery Board in a licensing appeal action conducted pursuant
82 to subsection D of § 58.1-4007 regarding the denial or revocation of a license of a lottery sales agent;
83 and discussion, consideration or review of Virginia Lottery matters related to proprietary lottery game
84 information and studies or investigations ~~exempted from disclosure under~~excluded from this chapter
85 pursuant to subdivision 6 of § 2.2-3705.3 and subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.7.

86 17. Those portions of meetings by local government crime commissions where the identity of, or
87 information tending to identify, individuals providing information about crimes or criminal activities
88 under a promise of anonymity is discussed or disclosed.

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

94 19. Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific
95 cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-
96 enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a
97 related threat to public safety; discussion of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 3
98 or 4 of § 2.2-3705.2, where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or
99 the security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program; or
100 discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure,
101 or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure.

102 20. Discussion by the Board of the Virginia Retirement System, acting pursuant to § 51.1-
103 124.30, or of any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, or of the Rector and Visitors of
104 the University of Virginia, acting pursuant to § 23-76.1, or by the Board of the Virginia College Savings
105 Plan, acting pursuant to § 23-38.80, regarding the acquisition, holding or disposition of a security or

106 other ownership interest in an entity, where such security or ownership interest is not traded on a
107 governmentally regulated securities exchange, to the extent that such discussion (i) concerns
108 confidential analyses prepared for the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia, prepared by the
109 retirement system or by the Virginia College Savings Plan or provided to the retirement system or the
110 Virginia College Savings Plan under a promise of confidentiality, of the future value of such ownership
111 interest or the future financial performance of the entity, and (ii) would have an adverse effect on the
112 value of the investment to be acquired, held or disposed of by the retirement system, the Rector and
113 Visitors of the University of Virginia, or the Virginia College Savings Plan. Nothing in this subdivision
114 shall be construed to prevent the disclosure of information relating to the identity of any investment
115 held, the amount invested or the present value of such investment.

116 21. Those portions of meetings in which individual child death cases are discussed by the State
117 Child Fatality Review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.1, those portions of meetings in which
118 individual child death cases are discussed by a regional or local child fatality review team established
119 pursuant to § 32.1-283.2, those portions of meetings in which individual death cases are discussed by
120 family violence fatality review teams established pursuant to § 32.1-283.3, those portions of meetings in
121 which individual adult death cases are discussed by the state Adult Fatality Review Team established
122 pursuant to § 32.1-283.5, and those portions of meetings in which individual adult death cases are
123 discussed by a local or regional adult fatality review team established pursuant to § 32.1-283.6.

124 22. Those portions of meetings of the University of Virginia Board of Visitors or the Eastern
125 Virginia Medical School Board of Visitors, as the case may be, and those portions of meetings of any
126 persons to whom management responsibilities for the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern
127 Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, have been delegated, in which there is discussed
128 proprietary, business-related information pertaining to the operations of the University of Virginia
129 Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case may be, including business development
130 or marketing strategies and activities with existing or future joint venturers, partners, or other parties
131 with whom the University of Virginia Medical Center or Eastern Virginia Medical School, as the case
132 may be, has formed, or forms, any arrangement for the delivery of health care, if disclosure of such

133 information would adversely affect the competitive position of the Medical Center or Eastern Virginia
134 Medical School, as the case may be.

135 23. ~~In the case of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority, discussion~~
136 Discussion or consideration by Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority of any of
137 the following: the acquisition or disposition of real or personal property where disclosure would
138 adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Authority; operational plans that
139 could affect the value of such property, real or personal, owned or desirable for ownership by the
140 Authority; matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities; grants and contracts for services
141 or work to be performed by the Authority; marketing or operational strategies where disclosure of such
142 strategies would adversely affect the competitive position of the Authority; members of its medical and
143 teaching staffs and qualifications for appointments thereto; and qualifications or evaluations of other
144 employees. This exemption shall also apply when the foregoing discussions occur at a meeting of the
145 Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors.

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

149 25. Meetings or portions of meetings of the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan wherein
150 personal information, as defined in § 2.2-3801, which has been provided to the Board or its employees
151 by or on behalf of individuals who have requested information about, applied for, or entered into prepaid
152 tuition contracts or savings trust account agreements pursuant to Chapter 4.9 (§ 23-38.75 et seq.) of Title
153 23 is discussed.

154 26. Discussion or consideration, by the Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee
155 created pursuant to § 56-484.15, of trade secrets, as defined in the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (§ 59.1-
156 336 et seq.), submitted by CMRS providers as defined in § 56-484.12, related to the provision of
157 wireless E-911 service.

158 27. Those portions of disciplinary proceedings by any regulatory board within the Department of
159 Professional and Occupational Regulation, Department of Health Professions, or the Board of

160 Accountancy conducted pursuant to § 2.2-4019 or 2.2-4020 during which the board deliberates to reach
161 a decision or meetings of health regulatory boards or conference committees of such boards to consider
162 settlement proposals in pending disciplinary actions or modifications to previously issued board orders
163 as requested by either of the parties.

164 28. Discussion or consideration of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 11
165 of § 2.2-3705.6 by a responsible public entity or an affected locality or public entity, as those terms are
166 defined in § 33.2-1800, or any independent review panel appointed to review information and advise the
167 responsible public entity concerning such records.

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

172 30. Discussion or consideration of grant or loan application records excluded from this chapter
173 pursuant to subdivision 17 of § 2.2-3705.6 by (i) the Commonwealth Health Research Board or (ii) the
174 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority or the Research and Technology Investment
175 Advisory Committee appointed to advise the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority.

176 31. Discussion or consideration by the Commitment Review Committee of records excluded
177 from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 9 of § 2.2-3705.2 relating to individuals subject to
178 commitment as sexually violent predators under Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of Title 37.2.

179 32. [Expired.]

180 33. Discussion or consideration of confidential proprietary records and trade secrets developed
181 and held by a local public body providing certain telecommunication services or cable television
182 services, excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 18 of § 2.2-3705.6.

183 34. Discussion or consideration by a local authority created in accordance with the Virginia
184 Wireless Service Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5431.1 et seq.) of confidential proprietary records and trade
185 secrets excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 19 of § 2.2-3705.6.

186 35. Discussion or consideration by the State Board of Elections or local electoral boards of
187 voting security matters made confidential pursuant to § 24.2-625.1.

188 36. Discussion or consideration by the Forensic Science Board or the Scientific Advisory
189 Committee created pursuant to Article 2 (§ 9.1-1109 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 9.1 of ~~records~~
190 criminal investigative files excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision A 2 a of § 2.2-3706.

191 37. Discussion or consideration by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program
192 Awards Committee of records or confidential matters excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision
193 3 of § 2.2-3705.4, and meetings of the Committee to deliberate concerning the annual maximum
194 scholarship award, review and consider scholarship applications and requests for scholarship award
195 renewal, and cancel, rescind, or recover scholarship awards.

196 38. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Port Authority of records excluded from this
197 chapter pursuant to subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.6, relating to certain proprietary information gathered by
198 or for the Virginia Port Authority.

199 39. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System
200 acting pursuant to § 51.1-124.30, by the Investment Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 51.1-
201 124.26, by any local retirement system, acting pursuant to § 51.1-803, by the Board of the Virginia
202 College Savings Plan acting pursuant to § 23-38.80, or by the Virginia College Savings Plan's
203 Investment Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to § 23-38.79:1 of records excluded from this
204 chapter pursuant to subdivision 25 of § 2.2-3705.7.

205 40. Discussion or consideration of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 3
206 of § 2.2-3705.6, relating to business, trade, or tourism development or retention.

207 41. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of records relating to the denial,
208 suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 12 of §
209 2.2-3705.3.

210 42. Those portions of meetings of the Virginia Military Advisory Council or any commission
211 created by executive order for the purpose of studying and making recommendations regarding
212 preventing closure or realignment of federal military and national security installations and facilities

213 located in Virginia and relocation of such facilities to Virginia, or a local or regional military affairs
214 organization appointed by a local governing body, during which there is discussion of records excluded
215 from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 12 of § 2.2-3705.2.

216 43. Discussion or consideration by the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation of
217 records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 29 of § 2.2-3705.7, relating to personally
218 identifiable information of donors.

219 44. Discussion or consideration by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission of
220 records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 23 of § 2.2-3705.6, relating to certain
221 information contained in grant applications.

222 45. Discussion or consideration by the board of directors of the Commercial Space Flight
223 Authority of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 24 of § 2.2-3705.6, relating to
224 rate structures or charges for the use of projects of, the sale of products of, or services rendered by the
225 Authority and certain proprietary records of a private entity provided to the Authority.

226 46. Discussion or consideration of personal and proprietary information furnished by an
227 agricultural landowner or operator to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of
228 Environmental Quality, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or any political
229 subdivision, agency, or board of the Commonwealth that are excluded from ~~the provisions of~~ this
230 chapter pursuant to (i) subdivision 25 of § 2.2-3705.6 or (ii) subsection E of § 10.1-104.7. This
231 exemption shall not apply to the discussion or consideration of records that contain information that has
232 been certified for release by the person who is the subject of the information or transformed into a
233 statistical or aggregate form that does not allow identification of the person who supplied, or is the
234 subject of, the information.

235 47. (Effective July 1, 2018) Discussion or consideration by the Board of Directors of the Virginia
236 Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority of records excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 1
237 of § 2.2-3705.3 or subdivision 34 of § 2.2-3705.7, relating to (i) investigations of applicants for licenses
238 and permits and of licensees and permittees and (ii) proprietary information, trade secrets, financial
239 records, marketing and operational strategies, respectively.

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

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

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

250 E. This section shall not be construed to (i) require the disclosure of any contract between the
251 Department of Health Professions and an impaired practitioner entered into pursuant to Chapter 25.1 (§
252 54.1-2515 et seq.) of Title 54.1 or (ii) require the board of directors of any authority created pursuant to
253 the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act (§ 15.2-4900 et seq.), or any public body empowered
254 to issue industrial revenue bonds by general or special law, to identify a business or industry to which
255 subdivision A 5 applies. However, such business or industry shall be identified as a matter of public
256 record at least 30 days prior to the actual date of the board's authorization of the sale or issuance of such
257 bonds.

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