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Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 11:32 AM

To: DSS LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV < DSS LICENSING@LISTSERV.COV.VIRGINIA.GOV >

Subject: Legislation that passed in the 2024 General Assembly

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: June 5, 2024

TO: Children's Residential Facilities

FROM: Tara Ragland

Director, Division of Licensing Programs

SUBJECT: 2024 Legislative Information

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of legislation that passed in the 2024 General Assembly session that affects children's residential facilities.

House Bill 317

This bill amends and reenacts §§ 2.2-438, 2.2-445, and 2.2-447 of the Code of Virginia adding children's residential facilities to the authority of the Children's Ombudsman regarding children receiving child-protective services, in foster care, or placed for adoption and children who may have died as a result of alleged abuse or neglect. Children's residential facilities, upon the Ombudsman's request, shall grant the Ombudsman access to all information, records, documents in the possession of the facility during an investigation.

This bill also authorizes the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to request that the children's residential facility, Department of Social Services, local department of social services, or licensed child-placing agency grant access and provide consent to interview children in foster care who are the subject of or the complainant in an investigation.

Here is the <u>link</u> for the Office of the Children's Ombudsman website for additional information and resources.

This is effective July 1, 2024.

House Bill 777

This bill amends and reenacts §§ 22.1-3 and 22.1-3.4 of the Code of Virginia providing provisions to allow a student to continue to attend their enrolled school when the student has transitioned out of foster care.

This is effective July 1, 2024.

Please contact you licensing inspector if you have any questions.