

HOUSE BILL NO. 2432

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on February 3, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate LaRock)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-273.5, relating to minor students experiencing gender incongruence; parental notification of certain expressions and requests and parental permission for certain plans required; parental care.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-273.5 as follows:

§ 22.1-273.5. Minor students experiencing gender incongruence; parental notification of certain expressions and requests and parental permission for certain plans required.

A. As used in this section, "gender incongruence" means a difference between an individual's biological sex and such individual's perceived or desired gender.

B. Each public elementary or secondary school principal or his designee shall, as soon as practicable, inform at least one parent of a minor student enrolled in such school if such minor (i) expresses to any individual who is employed in such school that such minor is experiencing gender incongruence or (ii) requests that any such employee participate in (a) social affirmation of such minor's gender incongruence or (b) the transition of such minor to a sex or gender different from the minor's biological sex while at school.

C. Each public elementary or secondary school principal or his designee shall request and receive permission from at least one parent of a minor student enrolled at such school prior to the implementation at such school of any plan concerning any gender incongruence experienced by such minor, including any

26 counseling of such minor at school. Any such plan shall include provision for parental participation to the
27 extent requested by the parent.

28 **§ 63.2-100. Definitions.**

29 As used in this title, unless the context requires a different meaning:

30 "Abused or neglected child" means any child less than 18 years of age:

31 1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or
32 inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than
33 accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily or mental
34 functions, including, but not limited to, a child who is with his parent or other person responsible for his
35 care either (i) during the manufacture or attempted manufacture of a Schedule I or II controlled substance,
36 or (ii) during the unlawful sale of such substance by that child's parents or other person responsible for his
37 care, where such manufacture, or attempted manufacture or unlawful sale would constitute a felony
38 violation of § 18.2-248;

39 2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care
40 necessary for his health. However, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means
41 through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious
42 denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a
43 decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal authority
44 for the child, any person with legal authority for the child, who refuses a particular medical treatment for
45 a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary care if (i) such
46 decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child; (ii) the child has
47 reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the subject of his medical
48 treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have considered alternative
49 treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child believe in good
50 faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. Further, in no event shall referring to and raising the
51 child in a manner consistent with the child's biological sex, including related mental health or medical

52 decisions, be considered abuse or neglect. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the
53 provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

54 3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;

55 4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care, or an intimate partner of such parent or
56 person, commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child
57 in violation of the law;

58 5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental
59 or physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person standing in loco
60 parentis;

61 6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or
62 mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as
63 defined in § 55.1-2000, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the
64 parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor for
65 which registration is required as a Tier III offender pursuant to § 9.1-902; or

66 7. Who has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as defined
67 in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C § 7102 et seq., and in the Justice for Victims
68 of Trafficking Act of 2015, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.

69 If a civil proceeding under this title is based solely on the parent having left the child at a hospital
70 or emergency medical services agency, it shall be an affirmative defense that such parent safely delivered
71 the child within 30 days of the child's birth to (i) a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services, (ii)
72 an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services providers, or
73 (iii) a newborn safety device located at and operated by such hospital or emergency medical services
74 agency. For purposes of terminating parental rights pursuant to § 16.1-283 and placement for adoption,
75 the court may find such a child is a neglected child upon the ground of abandonment.

76 "Adoptive home" means any family home selected and approved by a parent, local board or a
77 licensed child-placing agency for the placement of a child with the intent of adoption.

78 "Adoptive placement" means arranging for the care of a child who is in the custody of a child-
79 placing agency in an approved home for the purpose of adoption.

80 "Adult abuse" means the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish or
81 unreasonable confinement of an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603.

82 "Adult day care center" means any facility that is either operated for profit or that desires licensure
83 and that provides supplementary care and protection during only a part of the day to four or more aged,
84 infirm or disabled adults who reside elsewhere, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the
85 State Board of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and (ii) the
86 home or residence of an individual who cares for only persons related to him by blood or marriage.
87 Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned, operated or
88 controlled by a single entity and providing such supplementary care and protection to a combined total of
89 four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults.

90 "Adult exploitation" means the illegal, unauthorized, improper, or fraudulent use of an adult as
91 defined in § 63.2-1603 or his funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets for another's profit,
92 benefit, or advantage, including a caregiver or person serving in a fiduciary capacity, or that deprives the
93 adult of his rightful use of or access to such funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets. "Adult
94 exploitation" includes (i) an intentional breach of a fiduciary obligation to an adult to his detriment or an
95 intentional failure to use the financial resources of an adult in a manner that results in neglect of such
96 adult; (ii) the acquisition, possession, or control of an adult's financial resources or property through the
97 use of undue influence, coercion, or duress; and (iii) forcing or coercing an adult to pay for goods or
98 services or perform services against his will for another's profit, benefit, or advantage if the adult did not
99 agree, or was tricked, misled, or defrauded into agreeing, to pay for such goods or services or to perform
100 such services.

101 "Adult foster care" means room and board, supervision, and special services to an adult who has a
102 physical or mental condition. Adult foster care may be provided by a single provider for up to three adults.

103 "Adult foster care" does not include services or support provided to individuals through the Fostering
104 Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9.

105 "Adult neglect" means that an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 is living under such circumstances
106 that he is not able to provide for himself or is not being provided services necessary to maintain his
107 physical and mental health and that the failure to receive such necessary services impairs or threatens to
108 impair his well-being. However, no adult shall be considered neglected solely on the basis that such adult
109 is receiving religious nonmedical treatment or religious nonmedical nursing care in lieu of medical care,
110 provided that such treatment or care is performed in good faith and in accordance with the religious
111 practices of the adult and there is a written or oral expression of consent by that adult.

112 "Adult protective services" means services provided by the local department that are necessary to
113 protect an adult as defined in § 63.2-1603 from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

114 "Assisted living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults
115 who may have physical or mental impairments and require at least a moderate level of assistance with
116 activities of daily living.

117 "Assisted living facility" means any congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates
118 personal and health care services, 24-hour supervision, and assistance (scheduled and unscheduled) for
119 the maintenance or care of four or more adults who are aged, infirm or disabled and who are cared for in
120 a primarily residential setting, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the State Board of
121 Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, but including any portion of
122 such facility not so licensed; (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for or maintains only
123 persons related to him by blood or marriage; (iii) a facility or portion of a facility serving infirm or disabled
124 persons between the ages of 18 and 21, or 22 if enrolled in an educational program for the handicapped
125 pursuant to § 22.1-214, when such facility is licensed by the Department as a children's residential facility
126 under Chapter 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.), but including any portion of the facility not so licensed; and (iv)
127 any housing project for persons 62 years of age or older or the disabled that provides no more than basic
128 coordination of care services and is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
129 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or by the Virginia Housing Development Authority. Included in
130 this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned or operated by a single
131 entity and providing maintenance or care to a combined total of four or more aged, infirm or disabled

132 adults. Maintenance or care means the protection, general supervision and oversight of the physical and
133 mental well-being of an aged, infirm or disabled individual.

134 "Auxiliary grants" means cash payments made to certain aged, blind or disabled individuals who
135 receive benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended, or would be eligible to receive
136 these benefits except for excess income.

137 "Birth family" or "birth sibling" means the child's biological family or biological sibling.

138 "Birth parent" means the child's biological parent and, for purposes of adoptive placement, means
139 parent(s) by previous adoption.

140 "Board" means the State Board of Social Services.

141 "Child" means any natural person who is (i) under 18 years of age or (ii) for purposes of the
142 Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9, under 21 years of age
143 and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in § 63.2-919.

144 "Child-placing agency" means (i) any person who places children in foster homes, adoptive homes
145 or independent living arrangements pursuant to § 63.2-1819, (ii) a local board that places children in foster
146 homes or adoptive homes pursuant to §§ 63.2-900, 63.2-903, and 63.2-1221, or (iii) an entity that assists
147 parents with the process of delegating parental and legal custodial powers of their children pursuant to
148 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20. "Child-placing agency" does not include the persons to whom
149 such parental or legal custodial powers are delegated pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title
150 20. Officers, employees, or agents of the Commonwealth, or any locality acting within the scope of their
151 authority as such, who serve as or maintain a child-placing agency, shall not be required to be licensed.

152 "Child-protective services" means the identification, receipt and immediate response to complaints
153 and reports of alleged child abuse or neglect for children under 18 years of age. It also includes assessment,
154 and arranging for and providing necessary protective and rehabilitative services for a child and his family
155 when the child has been found to have been abused or neglected or is at risk of being abused or neglected.

156 "Child support services" means any civil, criminal or administrative action taken by the Division
157 of Child Support Enforcement to locate parents; establish paternity; and establish, modify, enforce, or
158 collect child support, or child and spousal support.

159 "Child-welfare agency" means a child-placing agency, children's residential facility, or
160 independent foster home.

161 "Children's residential facility" means any facility, child-caring institution, or group home that is
162 maintained for the purpose of receiving children separated from their parents or guardians for full-time
163 care, maintenance, protection and guidance, or for the purpose of providing independent living services
164 to persons between 18 and 21 years of age who are in the process of transitioning out of foster care.

165 Children's residential facility shall not include:

- 166 1. A licensed or accredited educational institution whose pupils, in the ordinary course of events,
167 return annually to the homes of their parents or guardians for not less than two months of summer vacation;
- 168 2. An establishment required to be licensed as a summer camp by § 35.1-18; and
- 169 3. A licensed or accredited hospital legally maintained as such.

170 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department, his designee or authorized
171 representative.

172 "Department" means the State Department of Social Services.

173 "Department of Health and Human Services" means the Department of Health and Human
174 Services of the United States government or any department or agency thereof that may hereafter be
175 designated as the agency to administer the Social Security Act, as amended.

176 "Disposable income" means that part of the income due and payable of any individual remaining
177 after the deduction of any amount required by law to be withheld.

178 "Energy assistance" means benefits to assist low-income households with their home heating and
179 cooling needs, including, but not limited to, purchase of materials or substances used for home heating,
180 repair or replacement of heating equipment, emergency intervention in no-heat situations, purchase or
181 repair of cooling equipment, and payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment, in accordance
182 with § 63.2-805, or provided under the Virginia Energy Assistance Program established pursuant to the
183 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (Title XXVI of Public Law 97-35), as amended.

184 "Family and permanency team" means the group of individuals assembled by the local department
185 to assist with determining planning and placement options for a child, which shall include, as appropriate,

186 all biological relatives and fictive kin of the child, as well as any professionals who have served as a
187 resource to the child or his family, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers, and clergy
188 members. In the case of a child who is 14 years of age or older, the family and permanency team shall
189 also include any members of the child's case planning team that were selected by the child in accordance
190 with subsection A of § 16.1-281.

191 "Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program" means a program consistent with 42
192 U.S.C. § 673 that provides, subject to a kinship guardianship assistance agreement developed in
193 accordance with § 63.2-1305, payments to eligible individuals who have received custody of a child of
194 whom they had been the foster parents.

195 "Fictive kin" means persons who are not related to a child by blood or adoption but have an
196 established relationship with the child or his family.

197 "Foster care placement" means placement of a child through (i) an agreement between the parents
198 or guardians and the local board where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians or (ii) an
199 entrustment or commitment of the child to the local board or licensed child-placing agency. "Foster care
200 placement" does not include placement of a child in accordance with a power of attorney pursuant to
201 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

202 "Foster home" means a residence approved by a child-placing agency or local board in which any
203 child, other than a child by birth or adoption of such person or a child who is the subject of a power of
204 attorney to delegate parental or legal custodial powers by his parents or legal custodian to the natural
205 person who has been designated the child's legal guardian pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of
206 Title 20 and who exercises legal authority over the child on a continuous basis for at least 24 hours without
207 compensation, resides as a member of the household.

208 "General relief" means money payments and other forms of relief made to those persons mentioned
209 in § 63.2-802 in accordance with the regulations of the Board and reimbursable in accordance with § 63.2-
210 401.

211 "Independent foster home" means a private family home in which any child, other than a child by
212 birth or adoption of such person, resides as a member of the household and has been placed therein

213 independently of a child-placing agency except (i) a home in which are received only children related by
214 birth or adoption of the person who maintains such home and children of personal friends of such person;
215 (ii) a home in which is received a child or children committed under the provisions of subdivision A 4 of
216 § 16.1-278.2, subdivision 6 of § 16.1-278.4, or subdivision A 13 of § 16.1-278.8; and (iii) a home in which
217 are received only children who are the subject of a properly executed power of attorney pursuant to
218 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

219 "Independent living" means a planned program of services designed to assist a child age 16 and
220 over and persons who are former foster care children or were formerly committed to the Department of
221 Juvenile Justice and are between the ages of 18 and 21 in transitioning to self-sufficiency.

222 "Independent living arrangement" means placement of (i) a child at least 16 years of age who is in
223 the custody of a local board or licensed child-placing agency by the local board or licensed child-placing
224 agency or (ii) a child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was committed
225 to the Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement by the Department of Juvenile
226 Justice, in a living arrangement in which such child or person does not have daily substitute parental
227 supervision.

228 "Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14
229 years of age or older who was committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child welfare
230 agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean services and
231 activities provided to a person who (i) was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet reached the
232 age of 21 years; (ii) is between the ages of 18 and 21 and who, immediately prior to his commitment to
233 the Department of Juvenile Justice, was in the custody of a local board of social services; or (iii) is a child
234 at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was committed to the Department
235 of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement in an independent living arrangement. Such services
236 shall include counseling, education, housing, employment, and money management skills development,
237 access to essential documents, and other appropriate services to help children or persons prepare for self-
238 sufficiency.

239 "Independent physician" means a physician who is chosen by the resident of the assisted living
240 facility and who has no financial interest in the assisted living facility, directly or indirectly, as an owner,
241 officer, or employee or as an independent contractor with the residence.

242 "Intercountry placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home or
243 foster care placement into or out of the Commonwealth by a licensed child-placing agency, court, or other
244 entity authorized to make such placements in accordance with the laws of the foreign country under which
245 it operates.

246 "Interstate placement" means the arrangement for the care of a child in an adoptive home, foster
247 care placement or in the home of the child's parent or with a relative or nonagency guardian, into or out
248 of the Commonwealth, by a child-placing agency or court when the full legal right of the child's parent or
249 nonagency guardian to plan for the child has been voluntarily terminated or limited or severed by the
250 action of any court.

251 "Kinship care" means the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives.

252 "Kinship guardian" means the adult relative of a child in a kinship guardianship established in
253 accordance with § 63.2-1305 or 63.2-1306 who has been awarded custody of the child by the court after
254 acting as the child's foster parent.

255 "Kinship guardianship" means a relationship established in accordance with § 63.2-1305 or 63.2-
256 1306 between a child and an adult relative of the child who has formerly acted as the child's foster parent
257 that is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer by the court to the adult
258 relative of the child of the authority necessary to ensure the protection, education, care and control, and
259 custody of the child and the authority for decision making for the child.

260 "Local board" means the local board of social services representing one or more counties or cities.

261 "Local department" means the local department of social services of any county or city in this
262 Commonwealth.

263 "Local director" means the director or his designated representative of the local department of the
264 city or county.

265 "Merit system plan" means those regulations adopted by the Board in the development and
266 operation of a system of personnel administration meeting requirements of the federal Office of Personnel
267 Management.

268 "Parental placement" means locating or effecting the placement of a child or the placing of a child
269 in a family home by the child's parent or legal guardian for the purpose of foster care or adoption.

270 "Public assistance" means Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); auxiliary grants to
271 the aged, blind and disabled; medical assistance; energy assistance; food stamps; employment services;
272 child care; and general relief.

273 "Qualified assessor" means an entity contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance
274 Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screening or to complete the uniform assessment
275 instrument for a home and community-based waiver program, including an independent physician
276 contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to complete the uniform assessment
277 instrument for residents of assisted living facilities, or any hospital that has contracted with the Department
278 of Medical Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screenings.

279 "Qualified individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee
280 of the local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency that placed the child in a qualified
281 residential treatment program and is not affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed
282 by such local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency.

283 "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential
284 placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that
285 meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including
286 any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this
287 definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site
288 and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts
289 outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child and
290 his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and maintains
291 contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever appropriate

292 and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's treatment
293 program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is facilitated;
294 (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months after discharge;
295 (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an organization approved by
296 the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that any child placed in the
297 program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified individual that (a) assesses
298 the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, and functional
299 assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b) identifies whether the needs of the
300 child can be met through placement with a family member or in a foster home or, if not, in a placement
301 setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified residential treatment program, that
302 would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive
303 environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals established for the child in his
304 foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and long-term mental and behavioral
305 health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to be filed with the court prior to any
306 hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282, 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

307 "Residential living care" means a level of service provided by an assisted living facility for adults
308 who may have physical or mental impairments and require only minimal assistance with the activities of
309 daily living. The definition of "residential living care" includes the services provided by independent
310 living facilities that voluntarily become licensed.

311 "Sibling" means each of two or more children having one or more parents in common.

312 "Social services" means foster care, adoption, adoption assistance, child-protective services,
313 domestic violence services, or any other services program implemented in accordance with regulations
314 adopted by the Board. Social services also includes adult services pursuant to Article 4 (§ 51.5-144 et
315 seq.) of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 and adult protective services pursuant to Article 5 (§ 51.5-148) of Chapter
316 14 of Title 51.5 provided by local departments of social services in accordance with regulations and under
317 the supervision of the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

318 "Special order" means an order imposing an administrative sanction issued to any party licensed
319 pursuant to this title by the Commissioner that has a stated duration of not more than 12 months. A special
320 order shall be considered a case decision as defined in § 2.2-4001.

321 "State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program" means a program that provides
322 payments to eligible individuals who have received custody of a relative child subject to a kinship
323 guardianship assistance agreement developed in accordance with § 63.2-1306.

324 "Supervised independent living setting" means the residence of a person 18 years of age or older
325 who is participating in the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter
326 9 where supervision includes a monthly visit with a service worker or, when appropriate, contracted
327 supervision. "Supervised independent living setting" does not include residential facilities or group homes.

328 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" or "TANF" means the program administered by the
329 Department through which a relative can receive monthly cash assistance for the support of his eligible
330 children.

331 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Unemployed Parent" or "TANF-UP" means the
332 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for families in which both natural or adoptive parents
333 of a child reside in the home and neither parent is exempt from Virginia Initiative for Education and Work
334 (VIEW) participation under § 63.2-609.

335 "Title IV-E Foster Care" means a federal program authorized under §§ 472 and 473 of the Social
336 Security Act, as amended, and administered by the Department through which foster care is provided on
337 behalf of qualifying children.

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