

HOUSE BILL NO. 767

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate O'Quinn)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-228, 22.1-258, 22.1-261, 22.1-262, 22.1-267, and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary and secondary schools; compulsory attendance policies and procedures; educational neglect defined.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-228, 22.1-258, 22.1-261, 22.1-262, 22.1-267, and 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-228. Definitions.

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

"Abused or neglected child" means any child:

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

2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for his health; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a

27 decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal authority
28 for the child, any person with legal authority for the child who refuses a particular medical treatment for
29 a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary care if (i) such
30 decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child; (ii) the child has
31 reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the subject of his medical
32 treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have considered alternative
33 treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child believe in good
34 faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. No child whose parent or other person responsible
35 for his care allows the child to engage in independent activities without adult supervision shall for that
36 reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child, provided that (a) such independent activities
37 are appropriate based on the child's age, maturity, and physical and mental abilities and (b) such lack of
38 supervision does not constitute conduct that is so grossly negligent as to endanger the health or safety of
39 the child. Such independent activities include traveling to or from school or nearby locations by bicycle
40 or on foot, playing outdoors, or remaining at home for a reasonable period of time. Nothing in this
41 subdivision shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

- 42 3. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care abandons such child;
- 43 4. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care, or an intimate partner of such parent or
44 person, commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child
45 in violation of the law;
- 46 5. Who is without parental care or guardianship caused by the unreasonable absence or the mental
47 or physical incapacity of the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco
48 parentis;
- 49 6. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates a substantial risk of physical or
50 mental injury by knowingly leaving the child alone in the same dwelling, including an apartment as
51 defined in § 55.1-2000, with a person to whom the child is not related by blood or marriage and who the
52 parent or other person responsible for his care knows has been convicted of an offense against a minor for
53 which registration is required as a Tier III offender pursuant to § 9.1-902; ~~or~~

54 7. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits educational neglect as defined
55 in § 22.1-258; or

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

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

66 "Adoptive home" means the place of residence of any natural person in which a child resides as a
67 member of the household and in which he has been placed for the purposes of adoption or in which he has
68 been legally adopted by another member of the household.

69 "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.

70 "Ancillary crime" or "ancillary charge" means any delinquent act committed by a juvenile as a part
71 of the same act or transaction as, or that constitutes a part of a common scheme or plan with, a delinquent
72 act that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

73 "Child," "juvenile," or "minor" means a person who is (i) younger than 18 years of age or (ii) for
74 purposes of the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter 9 of Title
75 63.2, younger than 21 years of age and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in § 63.2-919.

76 "Child in need of services" means (i) a child whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or
77 results in a serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of the child or (ii) a child under the age of
78 14 whose behavior, conduct or condition presents or results in a serious threat to the well-being and
79 physical safety of another person; however, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by
80 spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or

81 religious denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be a child in need of services, nor shall
82 any child who habitually remains away from or habitually deserts or abandons his family as a result of
83 what the court or the local child protective services unit determines to be incidents of physical, emotional
84 or sexual abuse in the home be considered a child in need of services for that reason alone.

85 However, to find that a child falls within these provisions, (i) the conduct complained of must
86 present a clear and substantial danger to the child's life or health or to the life or health of another person,
87 (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not presently being received,
88 and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment, rehabilitation or services needed
89 by the child or his family.

90 "Child in need of supervision" means:

91 1. A child who, while subject to compulsory school attendance, is habitually ~~and without~~
92 ~~justification~~ absent from school as defined in § 22.1-258, and (i) the child has been offered an adequate
93 opportunity to receive the benefit of any and all educational services and programs that are required to be
94 provided by law and which meet the child's particular educational needs, (ii) the school system from which
95 the child is absent or other appropriate agency has made a reasonable effort to effect the child's regular
96 attendance without success, and (iii) the school system has provided documentation that it has complied
97 with the provisions of § 22.1-258; or

98 2. A child who, without reasonable cause and without the consent of his parent, lawful custodian
99 or placement authority, remains away from or deserts or abandons his family or lawful custodian on more
100 than one occasion or escapes or remains away without proper authority from a residential care facility in
101 which he has been placed by the court, and (i) such conduct presents a clear and substantial danger to the
102 child's life or health, (ii) the child or his family is in need of treatment, rehabilitation or services not
103 presently being received, and (iii) the intervention of the court is essential to provide the treatment,
104 rehabilitation or services needed by the child or his family.

105 "Child welfare agency" means a child-placing agency, child-caring institution or independent
106 foster home as defined in § 63.2-100.

107 "The court" or the "juvenile court" or the "juvenile and domestic relations court" means the
108 juvenile and domestic relations district court of each county or city.

109 "Delinquent act" means (i) an act designated a crime under the law of the Commonwealth, or an
110 ordinance of any city, county, town, or service district, or under federal law, (ii) a violation of § 18.2-
111 308.7, or (iii) a violation of a court order as provided for in § 16.1-292, but does not include an act other
112 than a violation of § 18.2-308.7, which is otherwise lawful, but is designated a crime only if committed
113 by a child.

114 "Delinquent child" means a child who has committed a delinquent act or an adult who has
115 committed a delinquent act prior to his 18th birthday, except where the jurisdiction of the juvenile court
116 has been terminated under the provisions of § 16.1-269.6.

117 "Department" means the Department of Juvenile Justice and "Director" means the administrative
118 head in charge thereof or such of his assistants and subordinates as are designated by him to discharge the
119 duties imposed upon him under this law.

120 "Driver's license" means any document issued under Chapter 3 (§ 46.2-300 et seq.) of Title 46.2,
121 or the comparable law of another jurisdiction, authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle upon the
122 highways.

123 "Family abuse" means any act involving violence, force, or threat that results in bodily injury or
124 places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury and that is committed by
125 a person against such person's family or household member. Such act includes, but is not limited to, any
126 forceful detention, stalking, criminal sexual assault in violation of Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter
127 4 of Title 18.2, or any criminal offense that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable
128 apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury.

129 "Family or household member" means (i) the person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in
130 the same home with the person, (ii) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the
131 same home with the person, (iii) the person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters,
132 half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents and grandchildren, regardless of whether such persons reside in
133 the same home with the person, (iv) the person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-

134 law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person, (v) any individual
135 who has a child in common with the person, whether or not the person and that individual have been
136 married or have resided together at any time, or (vi) any individual who cohabits or who, within the
137 previous 12 months, cohabited with the person, and any children of either of them then residing in the
138 same home with the person.

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

141 "Foster care services" means the provision of a full range of casework, treatment and community
142 services for a planned period of time to a child who is abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or in
143 need of services as defined in this section and his family when the child (i) has been identified as needing
144 services to prevent or eliminate the need for foster care placement, (ii) has been placed through an
145 agreement between the local board of social services or a public agency designated by the community
146 policy and management team and the parents or guardians where legal custody remains with the parents
147 or guardians, (iii) has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services or child welfare
148 agency, (iv) has been placed under the supervisory responsibility of the local board pursuant to § 16.1-
149 293, or (v) is living with a relative participating in the Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance
150 program set forth in § 63.2-1305 and developed consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 673 or the State-Funded
151 Kinship Guardianship Assistance program set forth in § 63.2-1306.

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

158 "Independent living services" means services and activities provided to a child in foster care 14
159 years of age or older and who has been committed or entrusted to a local board of social services, child
160 welfare agency, or private child-placing agency. "Independent living services" may also mean services

161 and activities provided to a person who (i) was in foster care on his 18th birthday and has not yet reached
162 the age of 21 years; (ii) is between the ages of 18 and 21 and who, immediately prior to his commitment
163 to the Department of Juvenile Justice, was in the custody of a local board of social services; or (iii) is a
164 child at least 16 years of age or a person between the ages of 18 and 21 who was committed to the
165 Department of Juvenile Justice immediately prior to placement in an independent living arrangement.
166 "Independent living services" includes counseling, education, housing, employment, and money
167 management skills development and access to essential documents and other appropriate services to help
168 children or persons prepare for self-sufficiency.

169 "Intake officer" means a juvenile probation officer appointed as such pursuant to the authority of
170 this chapter.

171 "Jail" or "other facility designed for the detention of adults" means a local or regional correctional
172 facility as defined in § 53.1-1, except those facilities utilized on a temporary basis as a court holding cell
173 for a child incident to a court hearing or as a temporary lock-up room or ward incident to the transfer of a
174 child to a juvenile facility.

175 "The judge" means the judge or the substitute judge of the juvenile and domestic relations district
176 court of each county or city.

177 "This law" or "the law" means the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Law embraced
178 in this chapter.

179 "Legal custody" means (i) a legal status created by court order which vests in a custodian the right
180 to have physical custody of the child, to determine and redetermine where and with whom he shall live,
181 the right and duty to protect, train and discipline him and to provide him with food, shelter, education and
182 ordinary medical care, all subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities or (ii) the legal status
183 created by court order of joint custody as defined in § 20-107.2.

184 "Permanent foster care placement" means the place of residence in which a child resides and in
185 which he has been placed pursuant to the provisions of §§ 63.2-900 and 63.2-908 with the expectation and
186 agreement between the placing agency and the place of permanent foster care that the child shall remain
187 in the placement until he reaches the age of majority unless modified by court order or unless removed

188 pursuant to § 16.1-251 or 63.2-1517. A permanent foster care placement may be a place of residence of
189 any natural person or persons deemed appropriate to meet a child's needs on a long-term basis.

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

194 "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential
195 placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that
196 meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including
197 any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this
198 definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site
199 and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts
200 outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child and
201 his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and maintains
202 contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever appropriate
203 and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's treatment
204 program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is facilitated;
205 (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months after discharge;
206 (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an organization approved by
207 the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that any child placed in the
208 program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified individual that (a) assesses
209 the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, and functional
210 assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b) identifies whether the needs of the
211 child can be met through placement with a family member or in a foster home or, if not, in a placement
212 setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified residential treatment program, that
213 would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive
214 environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals established for the child in his

215 foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and long-term mental and behavioral
216 health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to be filed with the court prior to any
217 hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282, 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

218 "Residual parental rights and responsibilities" means all rights and responsibilities remaining with
219 the parent after the transfer of legal custody or guardianship of the person, including but not limited to the
220 right of visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation and the responsibility
221 for support.

222 "Secure facility" or "detention home" means a local, regional or state public or private locked
223 residential facility that has construction fixtures designed to prevent escape and to restrict the movement
224 and activities of children held in lawful custody.

225 "Shelter care" means the temporary care of children in physically unrestricting facilities.

226 "State Board" means the State Board of Juvenile Justice.

227 "Status offender" means a child who commits an act prohibited by law which would not be criminal
228 if committed by an adult.

229 "Status offense" means an act prohibited by law which would not be an offense if committed by
230 an adult.

231 "Violent juvenile felony" means any of the delinquent acts enumerated in subsection B or C of §
232 16.1-269.1 when committed by a juvenile 14 years of age or older.

233 **§ 22.1-258. Appointment of attendance officers; notification when pupil fails to report to**
234 **school; plan; conference; court proceedings; educational neglect.**

235 A. As used in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:

236 "Chronically absent" means any student who is subject to compulsory education requirements
237 pursuant to § 22.1-254 who has missed 10 percent or more of the academic year for any reason, including
238 excused absences and unexcused absences.

239 "Educational neglect" means failure or refusal to provide necessary education for a child subject
240 to compulsory attendance pursuant to § 22.1-254 and who is enrolled in a public school and who has
241 missed 10 percent or more of the academic year, including failure or refusal to:

242 1. Comply with compulsory attendance requirements by causing or allowing the child to become
243 chronically absent; and

244 2. Enroll a child in any public school or otherwise meet the compulsory attendance requirements
245 pursuant to § 22.1-254, including any failure to comply with the requirements set forth in § 22.1-254.1, if
246 such failure or refusal to enroll such child continues after the school notifies and institutes proceedings
247 against the parent and the time elapsed between the institution of proceedings and the continued
248 noncompliance exceeds 10 percent of the academic year, pursuant to § 22.1-262.

249 "Educational neglect" does not include any situation in which a child who becomes chronically
250 absent is also a student with disabilities or has a Section 504 Plan in place in relation to documented
251 medical needs that would prohibit or preclude regular attendance.

252 "Habitually absent" means any student who is subject to compulsory education requirements
253 pursuant to § 22.1-254 and who has missed more than one additional school day after the school made
254 efforts to make direct contact with such student's parent after such student's fifth unexcused absence and
255 either (i) such efforts to make direct contact and resolve such student's nonattendance failed or (ii)
256 circumstances exist in which the parent is intentionally noncompliant with compulsory attendance
257 requirements.

258 B. Every school board shall have power to appoint one or more attendance officers, who shall be
259 charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this article. Where no attendance officer is appointed
260 by the school board, the division superintendent or his designee shall act as attendance officer.

261 Whenever any pupil fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and no indication
262 has been received by school personnel that the pupil's parent is aware of and supports the pupil's absence,
263 a reasonable effort to notify by telephone the parent to obtain an explanation for the pupil's absence shall
264 be made by either the school principal or his designee, the attendance officer, other school personnel, or
265 volunteers organized by the school administration for this purpose. Any such volunteers shall not be liable
266 for any civil damages for any acts or omissions resulting from making such reasonable efforts to notify
267 parents and obtain such explanation when such acts or omissions are taken in good faith, unless such acts
268 or omissions were the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct. This subsection shall not be

269 construed to limit, withdraw, or overturn any defense or immunity already existing in statutory or common
270 law or to affect any claim occurring prior to the effective date of this law. School divisions are encouraged
271 to use noninstructional personnel for this notice.

272 Whenever any pupil fails to report to school for a total of five scheduled school days for the school
273 year and no indication has been received by school personnel that the pupil's parent is aware of and
274 supports the pupil's absence, and a reasonable effort to notify the parent has failed, the school principal or
275 his designee shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that direct contact is made with the parent in person,
276 through telephone conversation, or through the use of other communications devices to obtain an
277 explanation for the pupil's absence and to explain to the parent the consequences of continued
278 nonattendance, including the point at which continued nonattendance amounts to being chronically absent,
279 a form of educational neglect. The school principal or his designee, the pupil, and the pupil's parent shall
280 jointly develop a plan to resolve the pupil's nonattendance. Such plan shall include documentation of the
281 reasons for the pupil's nonattendance.

282 If the pupil is absent for more than one additional day after direct contact with the pupil's parent,
283 and school personnel have received no indication that the pupil's parent is aware of and supports the pupil's
284 absence, the school principal or his designee shall schedule a conference with the pupil, his parent, and
285 school personnel. Such conference may include the attendance officer and other community service
286 providers to resolve issues related to the pupil's nonattendance. The conference shall be held no later than
287 10 school days after the tenth absence of the pupil, regardless of whether his parent approves of the
288 conference. The conference team shall monitor the pupil's attendance and may meet again as necessary to
289 address concerns and plan additional interventions if attendance does not improve. In circumstances in
290 which the parent is intentionally noncompliant with compulsory attendance requirements~~or~~, the pupil is
291 resisting parental efforts to comply with compulsory attendance requirements, or previous efforts to
292 contact the parent have failed, the student shall be considered habitually absent and the principal or his
293 designee shall make a referral to the attendance officer. The attendance officer shall schedule a conference
294 with the pupil and his parent within 10 school days and may (i) file a complaint with the juvenile and
295 domestic relations district court alleging the pupil is a child in need of supervision as defined in § 16.1-

296 228 or (ii) institute proceedings against the parent pursuant to § 18.2-371 or 22.1-262. In filing a complaint
297 against the student, the attendance officer shall provide written documentation of the efforts to comply
298 with the provisions of this section. In the event that both parents have been awarded joint physical custody
299 pursuant to § 20-124.2 and the school has received notice of such order, both parents shall be notified at
300 the last known addresses of the parents.

301 An attendance officer, or a division superintendent or his designee when acting as an attendance
302 officer pursuant to § 22.1-258, may complete, sign, and file with the intake officer of the juvenile and
303 domestic relations district court, on forms approved by the Supreme Court of Virginia, a petition for a
304 violation of a school attendance order entered by the juvenile and domestic relations district court pursuant
305 to § 16.1-278.5 in response to the filing of a petition alleging the pupil is a child in need of supervision as
306 defined in § 16.1-228.

307 In the event that the school has followed the procedures in this section and such nonattendance
308 continues until such student becomes chronically absent, such continued nonattendance shall constitute
309 educational neglect and the school shall report such neglect to the appropriate authorities in accordance
310 with §§ 22.1-291.3 and 63.2-1509.

311 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit in any way the authority of any attendance officer
312 or division superintendent to seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance law as
313 set forth in this article.

314 Attendance officers, other school personnel or volunteers organized by the school administration
315 for this purpose shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability in connection with the notice to
316 parents of a pupil's absence or failure to give such notice as required by this section.

317 **§ 22.1-261. Attendance officer to make list of children not enrolled; duties of attendance**
318 **officer.**

319 The attendance officer or the division superintendent or his designee shall check the reports
320 submitted pursuant to subsection A of § 22.1-260 with reports from the State Registrar of Vital Records
321 and Health Statistics. From these reports and from any other reliable source the attendance officer or the
322 division superintendent or his designee shall, within five days after receiving all reports submitted

323 pursuant to subsection A of § 22.1-260, make a list of the names of children who are not enrolled in any
324 school and who are not exempt from school attendance. It shall be the duty of the attendance officer, on
325 behalf of the local school board, to investigate all cases of nonenrollment and, when no valid reason is
326 found therefor, to notify the parent, ~~guardian or other person having control of the child~~ to require the
327 attendance of such child at the school within three days from the date of such notice and inform the parent
328 of the consequences of continued noncompliance set forth in § 22.1-262, including that failure to enroll
329 such child for more than one additional day after the third day following the receipt of such notice shall
330 result in the institution of court proceedings against such parent and that continued failure to enroll such
331 child for a period of time amounting to 10 percent or more of the academic year after the institution of
332 court proceedings shall constitute educational neglect pursuant to § 22.1-258.

333 **§ 22.1-262. Complaint to court when parent fails to comply with law.**

334 A list of persons notified pursuant to § 22.1-261 shall be sent by the attendance officer to the
335 appropriate school principal. If the parent (i) fails to comply with the provisions of § 22.1-261 within the
336 time specified in the notice or (ii) fails to comply with the provisions of § 22.1-254, it shall be the duty of
337 the attendance officer, with the knowledge and approval of the division superintendent, to make complaint
338 against the pupil's parent in the name of the Commonwealth before the juvenile and domestic relations
339 district court. If proceedings are instituted against the parent for failure to comply with the provisions of
340 § 22.1-258 resulting in such pupil becoming habitually absent, the attendance officer is to provide
341 documentation to the court regarding the school division's compliance with § 22.1-258. In addition thereto,
342 such child may be proceeded against as a child in need of services or a child in need of supervision as
343 provided in Chapter 11 (§ 16.1-226 et seq.) of Title 16.1. If, after instituting proceedings against the parent
344 for failure to comply with the provisions of (i) § 22.1-258 resulting in such pupil becoming habitually
345 absent, such nonattendance continues, and such pupil becoming chronically absent or (ii) § 22.1-254 or
346 22.1-261, such parent continues to refuse or fails to comply and the time elapsed between the institution
347 of the proceedings and the continued noncompliance to date amounts to 10 percent or more of the
348 academic year, the continued noncompliance shall constitute educational neglect pursuant to § 22.1-258

349 and the school shall be obligated to report it to the appropriate authorities in accordance with §§ 22.1-
350 291.3 and 63.2-1509, notwithstanding the pending or ongoing proceedings against the parent.

351 **§ 22.1-267. Proceedings against habitually absent child.**

352 Any child permitted by any parent, guardian, or other person having control thereof to be habitually
353 absent, as defined in § 22.1-258, from school contrary to the provisions of this article may be proceeded
354 against as a child in need of supervision as provided in Chapter 11 (§ 16.1-226 et seq.) of Title 16.1.

355 **§ 63.2-100. Definitions.**

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

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

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

366 2. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care neglects or refuses to provide care
367 necessary for his health. However, no child who in good faith is under treatment solely by spiritual means
368 through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious
369 denomination shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child. Further, a
370 decision by parents who have legal authority for the child or, in the absence of parents with legal authority
371 for the child, any person with legal authority for the child, who refuses a particular medical treatment for
372 a child with a life-threatening condition shall not be deemed a refusal to provide necessary care if (i) such
373 decision is made jointly by the parents or other person with legal authority and the child; (ii) the child has
374 reached 14 years of age and is sufficiently mature to have an informed opinion on the subject of his medical
375 treatment; (iii) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child have considered alternative

376 treatment options; and (iv) the parents or other person with legal authority and the child believe in good
377 faith that such decision is in the child's best interest. No child whose parent or other person responsible
378 for his care allows the child to engage in independent activities without adult supervision shall for that
379 reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child, provided that (a) such independent activities
380 are appropriate based on the child's age, maturity, and physical and mental abilities and (b) such lack of
381 supervision does not constitute conduct that is so grossly negligent as to endanger the health or safety of
382 the child. Such independent activities include traveling to or from school or nearby locations by bicycle
383 or on foot, playing outdoors, or remaining at home for a reasonable period of time. Nothing in this
384 subdivision shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4;

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

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

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

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

397 7. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care commits educational neglect as defined
398 in § 22.1-258; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

423 "Adult exploitation" means the illegal, unauthorized, improper, or fraudulent use of an adult as
424 defined in § 63.2-1603 or his funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets for another's profit,
425 benefit, or advantage, including a caregiver or person serving in a fiduciary capacity, or that deprives the
426 adult of his rightful use of or access to such funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets. "Adult
427 exploitation" includes (i) an intentional breach of a fiduciary obligation to an adult to his detriment or an
428 intentional failure to use the financial resources of an adult in a manner that results in neglect of such

429 adult; (ii) the acquisition, possession, or control of an adult's financial resources or property through the
430 use of undue influence, coercion, or duress; and (iii) forcing or coercing an adult to pay for goods or
431 services or perform services against his will for another's profit, benefit, or advantage if the adult did not
432 agree, or was tricked, misled, or defrauded into agreeing, to pay for such goods or services or to perform
433 such services.

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

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

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

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

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

450 "Assisted living facility" means any congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates
451 personal and health care services, 24-hour supervision, and assistance (scheduled and unscheduled) for
452 the maintenance or care of four or more adults who are aged or infirm or who have disabilities and who
453 are cared for in a primarily residential setting, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the
454 State Board of Health or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, but including
455 any portion of such facility not so licensed; (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for or

456 maintains only persons related to him by blood or marriage; (iii) a facility or portion of a facility serving
457 individuals who are infirm or who have disabilities between the ages of 18 and 21, or 22 if enrolled in an
458 educational program for individuals with disabilities pursuant to § 22.1-214, when such facility is licensed
459 by the Department as a children's residential facility under Chapter 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.), but including
460 any portion of the facility not so licensed; and (iv) any housing project for individuals who are 62 years
461 of age or older or individuals with disabilities that provides no more than basic coordination of care
462 services and is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, by the U.S.
463 Department of Agriculture, or by the Virginia Housing Development Authority. Included in this definition
464 are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned or operated by a single entity and
465 providing maintenance or care to a combined total of four or more adults who are aged or infirm or who
466 have disabilities. Maintenance or care means the protection, general supervision and oversight of the
467 physical and mental well-being of an individual who is aged or infirm or who has a disability.

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

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

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

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

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

478 "Child-placing agency" means (i) any person who places children in foster homes, adoptive homes
479 or independent living arrangements pursuant to § 63.2-1819, (ii) a local board that places children in foster
480 homes or adoptive homes pursuant to §§ 63.2-900, 63.2-903, and 63.2-1221, or (iii) an entity that assists
481 parents with the process of delegating parental and legal custodial powers of their children pursuant to
482 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20. "Child-placing agency" does not include the persons to whom

483 such parental or legal custodial powers are delegated pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title
484 20. Officers, employees, or agents of the Commonwealth, or any locality acting within the scope of their
485 authority as such, who serve as or maintain a child-placing agency, shall not be required to be licensed.

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

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

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

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

499 Children's residential facility shall not include:

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

504 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department, his designee or authorized
505 representative.

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

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

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

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

518 "Family and permanency team" means the group of individuals assembled by the local department
519 to assist with determining planning and placement options for a child, which shall include, as appropriate,
520 all biological relatives and fictive kin of the child, as well as any professionals who have served as a
521 resource to the child or his family, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers, and clergy
522 members. In the case of a child who is 14 years of age or older, the family and permanency team shall
523 also include any members of the child's case planning team that were selected by the child in accordance
524 with subsection A of § 16.1-281.

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

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

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

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

542 "General relief" means money payments and other forms of relief made to those persons mentioned
543 in § 63.2-802 in accordance with the regulations of the Board and reimbursable in accordance with § 63.2-
544 401.

545 "Independent foster home" means a private family home in which any child, other than a child by
546 birth or adoption of such person, resides as a member of the household and has been placed therein
547 independently of a child-placing agency except (i) a home in which are received only children related by
548 birth or adoption of the person who maintains such home and children of personal friends of such person;
549 (ii) a home in which is received a child or children committed under the provisions of subdivision A 4 of
550 § 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
551 are received only children who are the subject of a properly executed power of attorney pursuant to
552 Chapter 10 (§ 20-166 et seq.) of Title 20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

589 "Kinship guardianship" means a relationship established in accordance with § 63.2-1305 or 63.2-
590 1306 between a child and an adult relative of the child who has formerly acted as the child's foster parent
591 that is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer by the court to the adult
592 relative of the child of the authority necessary to ensure the protection, education, care and control, and
593 custody of the child and the authority for decision making for the child.

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

595 "Local department" means the local department of social services of any county or city in the
596 Commonwealth.

597 "Local director" means the director or his designated representative of the local department of the
598 city or county.

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

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

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

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

613 "Qualified individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee
614 of the local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency that placed the child in a qualified

615 residential treatment program and is not affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed
616 by such local board of social services or licensed child-placing agency.

617 "Qualified residential treatment program" means a program that (i) provides 24-hour residential
618 placement services for children in foster care; (ii) has adopted a trauma-informed treatment model that
619 meets the clinical and other needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, including
620 any clinical or other needs identified through assessments conducted pursuant to clause (viii) of this
621 definition; (iii) employs registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff who provide care, on site
622 and within the scope of their practice, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (iv) conducts
623 outreach with the child's family members, including efforts to maintain connections between the child and
624 his siblings and other family; documents and maintains records of such outreach efforts; and maintains
625 contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child; (v) whenever appropriate
626 and in the best interest of the child, facilitates participation by family members in the child's treatment
627 program before and after discharge and documents the manner in which such participation is facilitated;
628 (vi) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least six months after discharge;
629 (vii) is licensed in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(10) and accredited by an organization approved by
630 the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (viii) requires that any child placed in the
631 program receive an assessment within 30 days of such placement by a qualified individual that (a) assesses
632 the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, and functional
633 assessment tool approved by the Commissioner of Social Services; (b) identifies whether the needs of the
634 child can be met through placement with a family member or in a foster home or, if not, in a placement
635 setting authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 672(k)(2), including a qualified residential treatment program, that
636 would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive
637 environment and be consistent with the short-term and long-term goals established for the child in his
638 foster care or permanency plan; (c) establishes a list of short-term and long-term mental and behavioral
639 health goals for the child; and (d) is documented in a written report to be filed with the court prior to any
640 hearing on the child's placement pursuant to § 16.1-281, 16.1-282, 16.1-282.1, or 16.1-282.2.

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

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

646 "Social services" means foster care, adoption, adoption assistance, child-protective services,
647 domestic violence services, or any other services program implemented in accordance with regulations
648 adopted by the Board. Social services also includes adult services pursuant to Article 4 (§ 51.5-144 et
649 seq.) of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 and adult protective services pursuant to Article 5 (§ 51.5-148) of Chapter
650 14 of Title 51.5 provided by local departments of social services in accordance with regulations and under
651 the supervision of the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

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

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

658 "Supervised independent living setting" means the residence of a person 18 years of age or older
659 who is participating in the Fostering Futures program set forth in Article 2 (§ 63.2-917 et seq.) of Chapter
660 9 where supervision includes a monthly visit with a service worker or, when appropriate, contracted
661 supervision. "Supervised independent living setting" does not include residential facilities or group homes.

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

665 "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Unemployed Parent" or "TANF-UP" means the
666 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for families in which both natural or adoptive parents

667 of a child reside in the home and neither parent is exempt from Virginia Initiative for Education and Work
668 (VIEW) participation under § 63.2-609.

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

672 **2. That the Department of Social Services shall amend its regulations in 22VAC40-705-30 of the**
673 **Virginia Administrative Code to include the definition of "educational neglect" in accordance with**
674 **the provisions of this act.**

675 **3. That the Board of Education shall amend its regulations in accordance with the provisions of this**
676 **act.**

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