

## 2025 SESSION

## INTRODUCED

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## **SENATE BILL NO. 1062**

Offered January 8, 2025

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***A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-1201, 2.2-1211, 2.2-1212, and 51.1-1101 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Human Resource Management; State Government Internship Coordinator.***

Patrons—Hashmi and Aird

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

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

1. That §§ 2.2-1201, 2.2-1211, 2.2-1212, and 51.1-1101 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

## **§ 2.2-1201. Duties of Department; Director.**

### **3.2.2 Duties of Department, Director:**

A. The Department shall have the following duties:

1. Make recommendations to the Governor regarding the establishment and maintenance of a classification plan for the service of the Commonwealth, and recommend necessary amendments thereto.

2. Make recommendations to the Governor regarding the establishment and administration of a compensation plan for all employees, and recommend necessary amendments thereto.

3. Design and maintain a personnel information system that shall support the operational needs of the Department and of state agencies, and that shall provide for the management information needs of the Governor, his secretaries, and the General Assembly. The system shall provide at a minimum a roster of all employees in the service of the Commonwealth, in which there shall be set forth as to each employee, the employing agency, the class title, pay, status, and such other data as may be deemed desirable to produce significant facts pertaining to personnel administration.

4. Establish and direct a program of employee-management relations designed to improve communications between employees and agencies of the Commonwealth.

5. Establish and administer a system of performance evaluation for all employees in the service of the Commonwealth, based on the quality of service rendered, related where practicable to specific standards of performance. In no event shall workers' compensation leave affect the total number of hours credited during a performance cycle for purposes of calculating incentive increases in salary based on such performance evaluations.

6. Establish and administer a system of recruitment designed to attract high quality employees to the service of the Commonwealth. In administering this system, applicants shall be rated on the basis of relative merit and classified in accordance with their suitability for the various classes of positions in the service of the Commonwealth, and a record thereof shall be maintained in the open register.

7. Design and utilize an application form which shall include, but not be limited to, information on prior volunteer work performed by the applicant.

8. Establish and employ a State Government Internship Coordinator to attract high quality interns to the service of the Commonwealth with the goal of developing such interns to serve the Commonwealth as employees upon the conclusion of the internship and the intern's education. The State Government Internship Coordinator shall consult with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to support, track, and promote state government internship opportunities with institutions of higher education.

*9. Establish and administer a system to provide professional development opportunities for state agency interns, intern supervisors, and human resources staff. The Department shall consult with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to support state agencies in developing new and existing internship programs, promoting such programs to potential interns, and educating intern supervisors and human resources staff on the implementation of a successful internship program.*

10. Establish and administer a comprehensive and integrated program of employee training and management development.

9.11. In coordination with the Governor or his designee, develop an online training module addressing diversity and cultural competency that shall be available for use by all employees and agencies of the Commonwealth. Such training module shall include (i) information related to race, ethnicity, disabilities, gender, religion, and other protected classes under state law; (ii) strategies to create an inclusive and equitable culture; (iii) strategies to ensure equity and inclusion in state employee recruitment and hiring; and (iv) strategies to ensure that state employees provide equitable, competent, and welcoming services to all persons.

10. 12. Establish and administer a program of evaluation of the effectiveness of performance of the personnel activities of the agencies of the Commonwealth.

44. 13. Establish and administer a program to ensure equal employment opportunity to applicants for state

59 employment and to state employees in all incidents of employment.

60 **42.** 14. Establish and administer regulations relating to disciplinary actions; however, no disciplinary  
61 action shall include the suspension without pay for more than 10 days of any state employee who is under  
62 investigation without a hearing conducted either by a level of supervision above the employee's immediate  
63 supervisor or by his agency head.

64 **43.** 15. Adopt and implement a centralized program to provide awards to employees who propose  
65 procedures or ideas that are adopted and that will result in eliminating or reducing state expenditures or  
66 improving operations, provided such proposals are placed in effect. The centralized program shall be  
67 designed to (i) protect the identity of the individual making the proposal while it is being evaluated for  
68 implementation by a state agency, (ii) publicize the acceptance of proposals and financial awards to state  
69 employees, and (iii) include a reevaluation process that individuals making proposals may access if their  
70 proposals are rejected by the evaluating agency. The reevaluation process must include individuals from the  
71 private sector. State employees who make a suggestion or proposal under this section shall receive initial  
72 confirmation of receipt within 30 days. A determination of the feasibility of the suggestion or proposal shall  
73 occur within 60 days of initial receipt.

74 **44.** 16. Develop state personnel policies and, after approval by the Governor, disseminate and interpret  
75 state personnel policies and procedures to all agencies. Such personnel policies shall permit an employee,  
76 with the written approval of his agency head, to substitute (i) up to 33 percent of his accrued paid sick leave,  
77 (ii) up to 100 percent of any other paid leave, or (iii) any combination of accrued paid sick leave and any  
78 other paid leave for leave taken pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. § 2601 et  
79 seq.). On and after December 1, 1999, such personnel policy shall include an acceptable use policy for the  
80 Internet. At a minimum, the Department's acceptable use policy shall contain provisions that (i) prohibit use  
81 by state employees of the Commonwealth's computer equipment and communications services for sending,  
82 receiving, viewing, or downloading illegal material via the Internet and (ii) establish strict disciplinary  
83 measures for violation of the acceptable use policy. An agency head may supplement the Department's  
84 acceptable use policy with such other terms, conditions, and requirements as he deems appropriate. The  
85 Director of the Department shall have the final authority to establish and interpret personnel policies and  
86 procedures and shall have the authority to ensure full compliance with such policies. However, unless  
87 specifically authorized by law, the Director of the Department shall have no authority with respect to the state  
88 grievance procedures.

89 **44a.** 17. Develop state personnel policies, with the approval of the Governor, that permit any full-time  
90 state employee who is also a member of the organized reserve forces of any of the armed services of the  
91 United States or of the Virginia National Guard to carry forward from year to year the total of his accrued  
92 annual leave time without regard to the regulation or policy of his agency regarding the maximum number of  
93 hours allowed to be carried forward at the end of a calendar year. Any amount over the usual amount allowed  
94 to be carried forward shall be reserved for use only as leave taken pursuant to active military service as  
95 provided by § 2.2-2903.1. Such leave and its use shall be in addition to leave provided under § 44-93. Any  
96 leave carried forward for the purposes described remaining upon termination of employment with the  
97 Commonwealth or any department, institution, or agency thereof that has not been used in accordance with §  
98 2.2-2903.1 shall not be paid or credited in any way to the employee.

99 **44b.** 18. Develop state personnel policies that provide break time for nursing mothers to express breast  
100 milk. Such policies shall require an agency to provide (i) a reasonable break time for an employee to express  
101 breast milk for her nursing child after the child's birth each time such employee has need to express the breast  
102 milk and (ii) a place, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from  
103 coworkers and the public and that may be used by an employee to express breast milk. Such break time shall,  
104 if possible, run concurrently with any break time already provided to the employee. An agency shall not be  
105 required to compensate an employee receiving reasonable break time for any work time spent for such  
106 purpose. For purposes of this subdivision, "reasonable," with regard to break time provided for nursing  
107 mothers to express breast milk, means a break time that complies with the guidance for employers in  
108 assessing the frequency and timing of breaks to express breast milk set forth in the U.S. Department of  
109 Labor's Request for Information RIN 1235-ZA00, 75 Federal Register 80073 (December 21, 2010).

110 **45.** 19. Ascertain and publish on an annual basis, by agency, the number of employees in the service of  
111 the Commonwealth, including permanent full-time and part-time employees, those employed on a temporary  
112 or contractual basis, and constitutional officers and their employees whose salaries are funded by the  
113 Commonwealth. The publication shall contain the net gain or loss to the agency in personnel from the  
114 previous fiscal year and the net gains and losses in personnel for each agency for a three-year period.

115 **46.** 20. Submit a report to the members of the General Assembly on or before September 30 of each year  
116 showing (i) the total number of full-time and part-time employees, (ii) contract temporary employees, (iii)  
117 hourly temporary employees, and (iv) the number of employees who voluntarily and involuntarily terminated  
118 their employment with each department, agency, or institution in the previous fiscal year.

119 **47.** 21. Administer the workers' compensation insurance plan for state employees in accordance with §

120 2.2-2821.

121 18. 22. Work jointly with the Department of General Services and the Virginia Information Technologies  
 122 Agency to develop expedited processes for the procurement of staff augmentation to supplement salaried and  
 123 wage employees of state agencies. Such processes shall be consistent with the Virginia Public Procurement  
 124 Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.). The Department may perform contract administration duties and responsibilities for  
 125 any resulting statewide augmentation contracts.

126 19. 23. In coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources or his designee, develop an  
 127 online training module addressing safety and disaster awareness, which shall be incorporated into existing  
 128 mandatory training.

129 B. The Director may convene such ad hoc working groups as the Director deems appropriate to address  
 130 issues regarding the state workforce.

**§ 2.2-1211. Required diversity and cultural competency training.**

132 All state employees commencing or recommencing employment with the Commonwealth on or after  
 133 January 1, 2021, shall complete an online diversity and cultural competency training module provided by the  
 134 Department pursuant to subdivision A 9 11 of § 2.2-1201 within 90 days of commencing or recommencing  
 135 such employment. Each state agency shall maintain records showing that each employee has completed the  
 136 training required by this section and the date on which such training was completed.

**§ 2.2-1212. Required online safety and disaster awareness training.**

138 All state employees shall annually complete an online safety and disaster awareness training module that  
 139 includes information on public health safety provided by the Department pursuant to subdivision A 49 23 of §  
 140 2.2-1201. Each state agency shall maintain records showing that each employee has completed the training  
 141 required by this section and the date on which such training was completed.

**§ 51.1-1101. Sickness and disability program; disability insurance policies.**

143 A. The Board shall develop, implement, and administer a sick leave, short-term disability, and long-term  
 144 disability benefits program in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The Board is authorized to  
 145 delegate or assign to any person any of the duties required to be performed by the Board pursuant to this  
 146 chapter. The Board is authorized to purchase long-term disability insurance policies for participating  
 147 employees. The policies shall be purchased from and carried with a disability insurance company which is  
 148 authorized to do business in the Commonwealth. Each policy shall contain a provision stipulating the  
 149 maximum expense and risk charges that are determined by the Board to be on a basis consistent with the  
 150 general level of charges made by disability insurance companies under policies of long-term disability  
 151 insurance issued to large employers. The Board may require that the policies have reinsurance with a  
 152 disability insurance company incorporated or organized under the laws of and authorized to do business in  
 153 the Commonwealth. This section is not intended to abrogate the final authority of the Director of the  
 154 Department of Human Resource Management under subdivision A 44 16 of § 2.2-1201 to establish and  
 155 interpret personnel policy and procedures, such as the sick leave policy.

156 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, the Board may self-insure long-term disability  
 157 benefits in accordance with the standards set forth in § 51.1-124.30.