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HOUSE BILL NO. 2723

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations on February 14, 2025)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Herring)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3706 and 2.2-3706.1 and §§ 9.1-101, 9.1-128, 17.1-293.1, 17.1-502, 19.2-310.7, 19.2-392.2, 19.2-392.5 through 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11 through 19.2-392.14, 19.2-392.16, and 19.2-392.17, as they shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia and the third enactment of Chapter 554 and the third enactment of Chapter 555 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 19.2-392.6:1 and 19.2-392.12:1; and to repeal § 17.1-205.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to criminal records; expungement and sealing of records.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-3706 and 2.2-3706.1 and §§ 9.1-101, 9.1-128, 17.1-293.1, 17.1-502, 19.2-310.7, 19.2-392.2, 19.2-392.5 through 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11 through 19.2-392.14, 19.2-392.16, and 19.2-392.17, as they shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 19.2-392.6:1 and 19.2-392.12:1 as follows:

§ 2.2-3706. Disclosure of law-enforcement and criminal records; limitations.

A. Records required to be released. All public bodies engaged in criminal law-enforcement activities shall provide the following records when requested in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:

1. Adult arrestee photographs taken during the initial intake following the arrest and as part of the routine booking procedure, except when necessary to avoid jeopardizing an investigation in felony cases until such time as the release of the photograph will no longer jeopardize the investigation;

2. Information relative to the identity of any individual, other than a juvenile, who is arrested and charged, and the status of the charge or arrest; and

3. Records of completed unattended death investigations to the parent or spouse of the decedent or, if there is no living parent or spouse, to the most immediate family member of the decedent, provided the person is not a person of interest or a suspect. For the purposes of this subdivision, "unattended death" means a death determined to be a suicide, accidental or natural death where no criminal charges will be initiated, and "immediate family" means the decedent's personal representative or, if no personal representative has qualified, the decedent's next of kin in order of intestate succession as set forth in § 64.2-200.

B. Discretionary releases. The following records are excluded from the mandatory disclosure provisions of this chapter, but may be disclosed by the custodian, in his discretion, except where such disclosure is prohibited by law:

1. Criminal investigative files, defined as any documents and information, including complaints, court orders, memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, photographs, correspondence, reports, witness statements, and evidence, relating to a criminal investigation or prosecution not required to be disclosed in accordance with § 2.2-3706.1;

2. Reports submitted in confidence to (i) state and local law-enforcement agencies, (ii) investigators authorized pursuant to Chapter 3.2 (§ 2.2-307 et seq.), and (iii) campus police departments of public institutions of higher education established pursuant to Article 3 (§ 23.1-809 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 23.1;

3. Records of local law-enforcement agencies relating to neighborhood watch programs that include the names, addresses, and operating schedules of individual participants in the program that are provided to such agencies under a promise of anonymity;

4. All records of persons imprisoned in penal institutions in the Commonwealth provided such records relate to the imprisonment;

5. Records of law-enforcement agencies, to the extent that such records contain specific tactical plans, the disclosure of which would jeopardize the safety or security of law-enforcement personnel or the general public;

6. All records of adult persons under (i) investigation or supervision by a local pretrial services agency in accordance with Article 5 (§ 19.2-152.2 et seq.) of Chapter 9 of Title 19.2; (ii) investigation, probation supervision, or monitoring by a local community-based probation services agency in accordance with Article 9 (§ 9.1-173 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1; or (iii) investigation or supervision by state probation and parole services in accordance with Article 2 (§ 53.1-141 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 53.1;

7. Records of a law-enforcement agency to the extent that they disclose the telephone numbers for cellular telephones, pagers, or comparable portable communication devices provided to its personnel for use in the performance of their official duties;

8. Those portions of any records containing information related to undercover operations or protective details that would reveal the staffing, logistics, or tactical plans of such undercover operations or protective

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60 details. Nothing in this subdivision shall operate to allow the withholding of information concerning the  
61 overall costs or expenses associated with undercover operations or protective details;

62 9. Records of (i) background investigations of applicants for law-enforcement agency employment, (ii)  
63 administrative investigations relating to allegations of wrongdoing by employees of a law-enforcement  
64 agency, and (iii) other administrative investigations conducted by law-enforcement agencies that are made  
65 confidential by law;

66 10. The identity of any victim, witness, or undercover officer, or investigative techniques or procedures.  
67 However, the identity of any victim or witness shall be withheld if disclosure is prohibited or restricted under  
68 § 19.2-11.2; and

69 11. Records of the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry maintained by the Department of  
70 State Police pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1, including information obtained from state,  
71 local, and regional officials, except to the extent that information is required to be posted on the Internet  
72 pursuant to § 9.1-913.

73 C. Prohibited releases. *The following records shall not be disclosed under the provisions of this chapter:*

74 1. The identity of any individual providing information about a crime or criminal activity under a promise  
75 of anonymity ~~shall not be disclosed~~;

76 2. Any record that has been expunged pursuant to § 19.2-392.2, unless dissemination is authorized  
77 pursuant to § 19.2-392.3 or 19.2-392.3:1; and

78 3. Any record that has been sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1, 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.10,  
79 19.2-392.11, 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1, unless dissemination is authorized pursuant to § 19.2-392.13  
80 and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the procedures adopted pursuant to §  
81 9.1-134.

82 D. Noncriminal records. Public bodies (i) engaged in emergency medical services, (ii) engaged in fire  
83 protection services, (iii) engaged in criminal law-enforcement activities, or (iv) engaged in processing calls  
84 for service or other communications to an emergency 911 system or any other equivalent reporting system  
85 may withhold those portions of noncriminal incident or other noncriminal investigative reports or materials  
86 that contain identifying information of a personal, medical, or financial nature where the release of such  
87 information would jeopardize the safety or privacy of any person. Access to personnel records of persons  
88 employed by a public body engaged in emergency medical services or fire protection services, a  
89 law-enforcement agency, or an emergency 911 system or any other equivalent reporting system shall be  
90 governed by the provisions of subdivision B 9 and subdivision 1 of § 2.2-3705.1, as applicable.

91 E. Records of any call for service or other communication to an emergency 911 system or communicated  
92 with any other equivalent reporting system shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

93 F. Conflict resolution. In the event of conflict between this section as it relates to requests made under this  
94 section and other provisions of law, this section shall control.

95 **§ 2.2-3706.1. Disclosure of law-enforcement records; criminal incident information and certain**  
96 **criminal investigative files; limitations.**

97 A. For purposes of this section:

98 "Criminal investigative files" means any documents and information, including complaints, court orders,  
99 memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, photographs, correspondence, reports, witness statements, and evidence,  
100 relating to a criminal investigation or prosecution, other than criminal incident information subject to  
101 disclosure in accordance with subsection B.

102 "Family representative" means the decedent's personal representative or, if no personal representative as  
103 set forth in § 64.2-100 has qualified, the decedent's next of kin in order of intestate succession as set forth in §  
104 64.2-200.

105 "Immediate family members" means the decedent's family representative, spouse, child, sibling, parent,  
106 grandparent, or grandchild. "Immediate family members" include a stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, and  
107 adoptive relationships.

108 "Ongoing" refers to a case in which the prosecution has not been finally adjudicated, the investigation  
109 continues to gather evidence for a possible future criminal case, and such case would be jeopardized by the  
110 premature release of evidence.

111 B. All public bodies engaged in criminal law-enforcement activities shall provide records and information  
112 when requested in accordance with the provisions of this chapter regarding criminal incident information  
113 relating to felony offenses contained in any report, notes, electronic communication, or other document,  
114 including filings through an incident-based reporting system, which shall include:

115 1. A general description of the criminal activity reported;

116 2. The date and time the alleged crime was committed;

117 3. The general location where the alleged crime was committed;

118 4. The identity of the investigating officer or other point of contact; and

119 5. A description of any injuries suffered or property damaged or stolen.

120 A verbal response as agreed to by the requester and the public body is sufficient to satisfy the  
121 requirements of this subsection.

122 C. Criminal investigative files relating to an ongoing criminal investigation or proceeding are excluded  
 123 from the mandatory disclosure provisions of this chapter, but may be disclosed by the custodian, in his  
 124 discretion, except as provided in subsection E or where such disclosure is prohibited by law.

125 D. Criminal investigative files relating to a criminal investigation or proceeding that is not ongoing are  
 126 excluded from the mandatory disclosure provisions of this chapter but may be disclosed by the custodian, in  
 127 his discretion, except as provided in subsection E; however, such records shall be disclosed, by request, to the  
 128 following persons, regardless of whether any such person is a citizen of the Commonwealth:

129 1. The victim;

130 2. The victim's immediate family members, if the victim is deceased and the immediate family member to  
 131 which the records are to be disclosed is not a person of interest or a suspect in the criminal investigation or  
 132 proceeding;

133 3. The parent or guardian of the victim, if the victim is a minor and the parent or guardian is not a person  
 134 of interest or a suspect in the criminal investigation or proceeding;

135 4. An attorney representing a petitioner in a petition for a writ of habeas corpus or writ of actual innocence  
 136 pursuant to Chapter 19.2 (§ 19.2-327.2 et seq.) of Title 19.2 or any other federal or state post-conviction  
 137 proceeding or pardon; and

138 5. For the sole purpose of inspection at the location where such records are maintained by the public body  
 139 that is the custodian of the records, (i) an attorney or his agent when such attorney is considering representing  
 140 a petitioner in a post-conviction proceeding or pardon, (ii) an attorney who provides a sworn declaration that  
 141 the attorney has been retained by an individual for purposes of pursuing a civil or criminal action and has a  
 142 good faith basis to believe that the records being requested are material to such action, or (iii) a person who is  
 143 proceeding pro se in a petition for a writ of habeas corpus or writ of actual innocence pursuant to Chapter  
 144 19.2 (§ 19.2-327.2 et seq.) of Title 19.2 or any other federal or state post-conviction proceeding or pardon,  
 145 who provides a sworn affidavit that the records being requested are material to such action.

146 An attorney or his agent who is in receipt of criminal investigative files or has inspected criminal  
 147 investigative files pursuant to subdivision 4 or 5 shall not release such criminal investigative files or any  
 148 information contained therein except as necessary to provide adequate legal advice or representation to a  
 149 person whom the attorney either represents or is considering representing in a post-conviction proceeding or  
 150 pardon or represents in a civil or criminal action.

151 An attorney who is in receipt of criminal investigative files pursuant to subdivision 4 shall return the  
 152 criminal investigative files to the public body that is the custodian of such records within 90 days of a final  
 153 determination of any writ of habeas corpus, writ of actual innocence, or other federal or state post-conviction  
 154 proceeding or pardon or, if no petition for such writ or post-conviction proceeding or pardon was filed, within  
 155 six months of the attorney's receipt of the records.

156 No disclosure for the purpose of inspection pursuant to clause (iii) of subdivision 5 shall be made unless  
 157 an appropriate circuit court has reviewed the affidavit provided and determined the records requested are  
 158 material to the action being pursued. The court shall order the person not to disclose or otherwise release any  
 159 information contained in a criminal investigative file except as necessary for the pending action and may  
 160 include other conditions as appropriate.

161 E. The provisions of subsections C and D shall not apply if the release of such information:

162 1. Would interfere with a particular ongoing criminal investigation or proceeding in a particularly  
 163 identifiable manner;

164 2. Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

165 3. Would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

166 4. Would disclose (i) the identity of a confidential source or (ii) in the case of a record compiled by a law-  
 167 enforcement agency in the course of a criminal investigation, information furnished only by a confidential  
 168 source;

169 5. Would disclose law-enforcement investigative techniques and procedures, if such disclosure could  
 170 reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

171 6. Would endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

172 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the withholding of those portions of such  
 173 information that are unlikely to cause any effect listed herein.

174 F. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection C or D, no criminal investigative file or portion thereof,  
 175 except disclosure of records under subdivision D 4 or clause (i) of subdivision D 5, shall be disclosed to any  
 176 requester pursuant to this section, unless the public body has made reasonable efforts to notify (i) the victim;  
 177 (ii) the victim's immediate family members, if the victim is deceased and the immediate family member to be  
 178 notified is not a person of interest or a suspect in the criminal investigation or proceeding; or (iii) the victim's  
 179 parent or guardian, if the victim is a minor and the parent or guardian to be notified is not a person of interest  
 180 or a suspect in the criminal investigation or proceeding.

181 Upon receipt of notice that a public body has received a request for criminal investigative files pursuant to  
 182 this section, an individual listed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) shall have 14 days to file in an appropriate court a  
 183 petition for an injunction to prevent the disclosure of the records as set forth in § 8.01-622.2. The public body

184 shall not respond to the request until at least 14 days has passed from the time notice was received by an  
 185 individual listed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) unless such individual has waived the 14-day period or at the  
 186 request of the victim's insurance company or attorney. The period within which the public body shall respond  
 187 to the underlying request pursuant to § 2.2-3704 shall be tolled pending the notification process and any  
 188 subsequent disposition by the court.

189 G. No photographic, audio, video, or other record depicting a victim or allowing for a victim to be readily  
 190 identified shall be released pursuant to subsection C or D to anyone except (i) the victim; (ii) the victim's  
 191 family representative, if the victim is deceased and the family representative to which the records are to be  
 192 disclosed is not a person of interest or a suspect in the criminal investigation or proceeding; (iii) the victim's  
 193 parent or guardian, if the victim is a minor and the parent or guardian is not a person of interest or a suspect  
 194 in the criminal investigation or proceeding; or (iv) the victim's insurance company or attorney.

195 H. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the disclosure of current anonymized, aggregate location and  
 196 demographic data collected pursuant to § 52-30.2 or similar data documenting law-enforcement officer  
 197 encounters with members of the public.

198 I. In the event of a conflict between this section as it relates to requests made under this section and other  
 199 provisions of law, the other provisions of law, ~~including court sealing orders~~, that restrict disclosure of  
 200 criminal investigative files shall control.

201 *J. The following records shall not be released under the provisions of this section:*

202 1. Any record that has been expunged pursuant to § 19.2-392.2, unless dissemination is authorized  
 203 pursuant to § 19.2-392.3 or 19.2-392.3:1; and

204 2. Any record that has been sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1, 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.10,  
 205 19.2-392.11, 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1, unless dissemination is authorized pursuant to § 19.2-392.13  
 206 and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the procedures adopted pursuant to §  
 207 9.1-134.

208 **§ 9.1-101. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Definitions.**

209 As used in this chapter or in Chapter 23 (§ 19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2, unless the context requires a  
 210 different meaning:

211 "Administration of criminal justice" means performance of any activity directly involving the detection,  
 212 apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional  
 213 supervision, or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders or the collection, storage, and  
 214 dissemination of criminal history record information.

215 "Board" means the Criminal Justice Services Board.

216 "Conviction data" means information in the custody of any criminal justice agency relating to a judgment  
 217 of conviction, and the consequences arising therefrom, in any court.

218 "Correctional status information" means records and data concerning each condition of a convicted  
 219 person's custodial status, including probation, confinement, work release, study release, escape, or  
 220 termination of custody through expiration of sentence, parole, pardon, or court decision.

221 "Criminal history record information" means records and data collected by criminal justice agencies on  
 222 adult individuals consisting of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments,  
 223 informations, or other formal charges, and any disposition arising therefrom. The term shall not include  
 224 juvenile record information which is controlled by Chapter 11 (§ 16.1-226 et seq.) of Title 16.1, criminal  
 225 justice intelligence information, criminal justice investigative information, or correctional status information.

226 "Criminal justice agency" means (i) a court or any other governmental agency or subunit thereof which as  
 227 its principal function performs the administration of criminal justice and any other agency or subunit thereof  
 228 which performs criminal justice activities, but only to the extent that it does so; (ii) for the purposes of  
 229 Chapter 23 (§ 19.2-387 et seq.) of Title 19.2, any private corporation or agency which, within the context of  
 230 its criminal justice activities, employs special conservators of the peace appointed under Chapter 2 (§ 19.2-12  
 231 et seq.) of Title 19.2, provided that (a) such private corporation or agency requires its officers or special  
 232 conservators to meet compulsory training standards established by the Criminal Justice Services Board and  
 233 submits reports of compliance with the training standards and (b) the private corporation or agency complies  
 234 with the provisions of Article 3 (§ 9.1-126 et seq.), but only to the extent that the private corporation or  
 235 agency so designated as a criminal justice agency performs criminal justice activities; and (iii) the Office of  
 236 the Attorney General, for all criminal justice activities otherwise permitted under clause (i) and for the  
 237 purpose of performing duties required by the Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators Act (§  
 238 37.2-900 et seq.).

239 "Criminal justice agency" includes any program certified by the Commission on VASAP pursuant to §  
 240 18.2-271.2.

241 "Criminal justice agency" includes the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

242 "Criminal justice agency" includes the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission.

243 "Criminal justice agency" includes the Virginia State Crime Commission.

244 "Criminal justice information system" means a system including the equipment, facilities, procedures,  
 245 agreements, and organizations thereof, for the collection, processing, preservation, or dissemination of

246 criminal history record information. The operations of the system may be performed manually or by using  
247 electronic computers or other automated data processing equipment.

248 "Department" means the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

249 "Dissemination" means any transfer of information, whether orally, in writing, or by electronic means.  
250 The term shall not include access to the information by officers or employees of a criminal justice agency  
251 maintaining the information who have both a need and right to know the information.

252 "Law-enforcement officer" means any full-time or part-time employee of a police department or sheriff's  
253 office which is a part of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, or any  
254 full-time or part-time employee of a private police department, and who is responsible for the prevention and  
255 detection of crime and the enforcement of the penal, traffic or highway laws of the Commonwealth, and shall  
256 include any (i) special agent of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority; (ii) police agent  
257 appointed under the provisions of § 56-353; (iii) officer of the Virginia Marine Police; (iv) conservation  
258 police officer who is a full-time sworn member of the enforcement division of the Department of Wildlife  
259 Resources; (v) investigator who is a sworn member of the security division of the Virginia Lottery; (vi)  
260 conservation officer of the Department of Conservation and Recreation commissioned pursuant to §  
261 10.1-115; (vii) full-time sworn member of the enforcement division of the Department of Motor Vehicles  
262 appointed pursuant to § 46.2-217; (viii) animal protection police officer employed under § 15.2-632 or  
263 15.2-836.1; (ix) campus police officer appointed under Article 3 (§ 23.1-809 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title  
264 23.1; (x) member of the investigations unit designated by the State Inspector General pursuant to § 2.2-311 to  
265 investigate allegations of criminal behavior affecting the operations of a state or nonstate agency; (xi)  
266 employee with internal investigations authority designated by the Department of Corrections pursuant to  
267 subdivision 11 of § 53.1-10 or by the Department of Juvenile Justice pursuant to subdivision A 7 of § 66-3;  
268 (xii) private police officer employed by a private police department; or (xiii) person designated as a sworn  
269 unit investigator by the Attorney General pursuant to subsection A of § 32.1-320.1. Part-time employees are  
270 those compensated officers who are not full-time employees as defined by the employing police department,  
271 sheriff's office, or private police department.

272 "Private police department" means any police department, other than a department that employs police  
273 agents under the provisions of § 56-353, that employs private police officers operated by an entity authorized  
274 by statute or an act of assembly to establish a private police department or such entity's successor in interest,  
275 provided it complies with the requirements set forth herein. No entity is authorized to operate a private police  
276 department or represent that it is a private police department unless such entity has been authorized by statute  
277 or an act of assembly or such entity is the successor in interest of an entity that has been authorized pursuant  
278 to this section, provided it complies with the requirements set forth herein. The authority of a private police  
279 department shall be limited to real property owned, leased, or controlled by the entity and, if approved by the  
280 local chief of police or sheriff, any contiguous property; such authority shall not supersede the authority,  
281 duties, or jurisdiction vested by law with the local police department or sheriff's office including as provided  
282 in §§ 15.2-1609 and 15.2-1704. The chief of police or sheriff who is the chief local law-enforcement officer  
283 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the private police department that addresses the duties  
284 and responsibilities of the private police department and the chief law-enforcement officer in the conduct of  
285 criminal investigations. Private police departments and private police officers shall be subject to and comply  
286 with the Constitution of the United States; the Constitution of Virginia; the laws governing municipal police  
287 departments, including the provisions of §§ 9.1-600, 15.2-1705 through 15.2-1708, 15.2-1719, 15.2-1721,  
288 15.2-1721.1, and 15.2-1722; and any regulations adopted by the Board that the Department designates as  
289 applicable to private police departments. Any person employed as a private police officer pursuant to this  
290 section shall meet all requirements, including the minimum compulsory training requirements, for  
291 law-enforcement officers pursuant to this chapter. A private police officer is not entitled to benefits under the  
292 Line of Duty Act (§ 9.1-400 et seq.) or under the Virginia Retirement System, is not a "qualified law  
293 enforcement officer" or "qualified retired law enforcement officer" within the meaning of the federal Law  
294 Enforcement Officers Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. § 926B et seq., and shall not be deemed an employee of the  
295 Commonwealth or any locality. An authorized private police department may use the word "police" to  
296 describe its sworn officers and may join a regional criminal justice academy created pursuant to Article 5 (§  
297 15.2-1747 et seq.) of Chapter 17 of Title 15.2. Any private police department in existence on January 1, 2013,  
298 that was not otherwise established by statute or an act of assembly and whose status as a private police  
299 department was recognized by the Department at that time is hereby validated and may continue to operate as  
300 a private police department as may such entity's successor in interest, provided it complies with the  
301 requirements set forth herein.

302 "School resource officer" means a certified law-enforcement officer hired by the local law-enforcement  
303 agency to provide law-enforcement and security services to Virginia public elementary and secondary  
304 schools.

305 "School security officer" means an individual who is employed by the local school board or a private or  
306 religious school for the singular purpose of maintaining order and discipline, preventing crime, investigating  
307 violations of the policies of the school board or the private or religious school, and detaining students

308 violating the law or the policies of the school board or the private or religious school on school property,  
 309 school buses, or at school-sponsored events and who is responsible solely for ensuring the safety, security,  
 310 and welfare of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors in the assigned school.

311 "Sealing" means *to prohibit public access to records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction,*  
 312 *including any ancillary matter ordered to be sealed, in the possession of* (i) ~~restricting dissemination of~~  
 313 ~~criminal history record information contained in the Central Criminal Records Exchange, including any~~  
 314 ~~records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction, in accordance with the purposes set forth in § 19.2-392.13~~  
 315 ~~and pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the procedures adopted pursuant~~  
 316 ~~to § 9.1-134 and;~~ (ii) ~~prohibiting dissemination of any court records related to an arrest, charge, or~~  
 317 ~~conviction;~~ (iii) *any police department, sheriff's office, or campus police department; or (iv) the Department*  
 318 *of Motor Vehicles unless such dissemination is authorized by a court order for one or more of the purposes set*  
 319 *forth in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the*  
 320 *procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.*

321 "Unapplied criminal history record information" means information pertaining to criminal offenses  
 322 submitted to the Central Criminal Records Exchange that cannot be applied to the criminal history record of  
 323 an arrested or convicted person (i) because such information is not supported by fingerprints or other  
 324 accepted means of positive identification or (ii) due to an inconsistency, error, or omission within the content  
 325 of the submitted information.

326 **§ 9.1-128. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Dissemination of**  
 327 **criminal history record information; Board to adopt regulations and procedures.**

328 A. Criminal history record information shall be disseminated, whether directly or through an intermediary,  
 329 only in accordance with § 19.2-389.

330 B. The Board shall adopt regulations and procedures for the interstate dissemination of criminal history  
 331 record information by which criminal justice agencies of the Commonwealth shall ensure that the limitations  
 332 on dissemination of criminal history record information set forth in § 19.2-389 are accepted by recipients and  
 333 will remain operative in the event of further dissemination.

334 C. The Board shall adopt regulations and procedures for the validation of an interstate recipient's right to  
 335 obtain criminal history record information from criminal justice agencies of the Commonwealth.

336 D. The Board shall adopt regulations and procedures for the dissemination of sealed criminal history  
 337 record information, including any (i) records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction *and (ii) ancillary*  
 338 *matter ordered to be sealed,* by which the criminal justice agencies of the Commonwealth and other persons,  
 339 agencies, and employers can access such sealed records and shall ensure that access to and dissemination of  
 340 such sealed records are made in accordance with the limitations on dissemination and use set forth in §§  
 341 19.2-389; and 19.2-392.13.

342 **§ 17.1-293.1. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524, 542) Online case**  
 343 **information system; exceptions.**

344 A. The Executive Secretary shall make available a publicly viewable online case information system of  
 345 certain nonconfidential information entered into the case management system for criminal cases in the circuit  
 346 courts participating in the Executive Secretary's case management system and in the general district courts.  
 347 Such system shall be searchable by defendant name across all participating courts, and search results shall be  
 348 viewable free of charge.

349 B. Upon entry of a sealing order pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, *or*  
 350 *19.2-392.12:1,* the Executive Secretary shall not make any offense that was ordered to be sealed available for  
 351 online public viewing in an appellate court, circuit court, or district court case management system  
 352 maintained by the Executive Secretary. *Any offense that was sealed without a court order pursuant to §*  
 353 *19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17 shall not be available for online public viewing in any such system.*

354 C. Upon entry of a sealing order pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, *or*  
 355 *19.2-392.12:1,* any circuit court clerk who maintains a viewable online case management or case information  
 356 system shall not make any offense that was ordered to be sealed available for online public viewing. *Any*  
 357 *offense that was sealed without a court order pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17 shall not be*  
 358 *available for online public viewing in any such system.*

359 **§ 17.1-502. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Administrator**  
 360 **of circuit court system.**

361 A. The Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court shall be the administrator of the circuit court system,  
 362 which includes the operation and maintenance of a case management system and financial management  
 363 system and related technology improvements.

364 B. Any circuit court clerk may establish and maintain his own case management system, financial  
 365 management system, or other independent technology using automation or technology improvements  
 366 provided by a private vendor or the locality. Any data from the clerk's independent system may be provided  
 367 directly from such clerk to designated state agencies. The data from the clerk's independent system may also  
 368 be provided to designated state agencies through an interface with the technology systems operated by the  
 369 Executive Secretary.

370 B1. If the data from a case management system established under subsection B is not provided to the  
 371 Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court through an interface, such data shall be provided to the  
 372 Department of State Police through an interface for purposes of complying with §§ 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8,  
 373 19.2-392.10, 19.2-392.11, and 19.2-392.12, and 19.2-392.12:1. The parameters of such interface shall be  
 374 determined by the Department of State Police. The costs of designing, implementing, and maintaining such  
 375 interface shall be the responsibility of the circuit court clerk.

376 C. The Executive Secretary shall provide an electronic interface with his case management system,  
 377 financial management system, or other technology improvements upon written request of any circuit court  
 378 clerk. The circuit court clerk and the clerk's designated application service provider shall comply with the  
 379 security and data standards established by the Executive Secretary for any such electronic interface. The  
 380 Executive Secretary shall establish security and data standards for such electronic interfaces on or before June  
 381 30, 2013, and such standards shall be consistent with the policies, standards, and guidelines established  
 382 pursuant to § 2.2-2009.

383 D. The costs of designing, implementing, and maintaining any such interface with the systems of the  
 384 Executive Secretary shall be the responsibility of the circuit court clerk. Prior to incurring any costs, the  
 385 Office of the Executive Secretary shall provide the circuit court clerk a written explanation of the options for  
 386 providing such interfaces and provide the clerk with a proposal for such costs and enter into a written contract  
 387 with the clerk to provide such services.

388 E. The Executive Secretary shall assist the chief judges in the performance of their administrative duties.  
 389 He may employ such staff and other assistants, from state funds appropriated to him for the purpose, as may  
 390 be necessary to carry out his duties, and may secure such office space as may be requisite, to be located in an  
 391 appropriate place to be selected by the Executive Secretary.

392 **§ 19.2-310.7. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Expungement**  
 393 **when DNA taken for a conviction.**

394 A. A person whose DNA profile has been included in the data bank pursuant to § 19.2-310.2 may request  
 395 expungement on the grounds that the conviction on which the authority for including his DNA profile was  
 396 based has been reversed and the case dismissed. Provided that the person's DNA profile is not otherwise  
 397 required to be included in the data bank pursuant to § 9.1-903, 16.1-299.1, 19.2-310.2, or 19.2-310.2:1, the  
 398 Department of Forensic Science shall purge all records and identifiable information in the data bank  
 399 pertaining to the person and destroy all samples from the person upon receipt of (i) a written request for  
 400 expungement pursuant to this section and (ii) a certified copy of the court order reversing and dismissing the  
 401 conviction.

402 B. Entry of a sealing order pursuant to § 19.2-392.7 ~~or~~, 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1 shall not serve as  
 403 grounds for expungement of a person's DNA profile or any records in the data bank relating to that DNA  
 404 profile.

405 **§ 19.2-392.2. (Effective pursuant to Acts 2023, cc. 554 and 555, cl. 4) Expungement of police and**  
 406 **court records.**

407 A. If a person is charged with the commission of a crime, a civil offense, or any offense defined in Title  
 408 18.2, and

409 1. Is acquitted, or

410 2. A nolle prosequi is taken or the charge is otherwise dismissed, including dismissal by accord and  
 411 satisfaction pursuant to § 19.2-151, he may file a petition setting forth the relevant facts and requesting  
 412 expungement of the police records and the court records relating to the charge. *A person shall not be required*  
 413 *to pay any court fees or costs for filing a petition under this subsection.*

414 B. If any person whose name or other identification has been used without his consent or authorization by  
 415 another person who has been charged or arrested using such name or identification, he may file a petition  
 416 with the court disposing of the charge for relief pursuant to this section. ~~Such~~ A person shall not be required  
 417 to pay any *court fees or costs* for ~~the~~ filing of a petition under this subsection. A petition filed under this  
 418 subsection shall include one complete set of the petitioner's fingerprints obtained from a law-enforcement  
 419 agency.

420 C. The petition with a copy of the warrant, summons, or indictment if reasonably available shall be filed  
 421 in the circuit court of the county or city in which the case was disposed of by acquittal or being otherwise  
 422 dismissed and shall contain, except when not reasonably available, the date of arrest and the name of the  
 423 arresting agency. When this information is not reasonably available, the petition shall state the reason for  
 424 such unavailability. The petition shall further state the specific criminal charge or civil offense to be  
 425 expunged, the date of final disposition of the charge as set forth in the petition, the petitioner's date of birth,  
 426 and the full name used by the petitioner at the time of arrest. If the petition is filed under this subsection, the  
 427 petitioner shall request that the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) electronically forward a copy of  
 428 the petitioner's Virginia criminal history record to the circuit court in which the petition was filed. Upon  
 429 receiving such request, the CCRE shall electronically forward such record to the circuit court; however, if the  
 430 circuit court is unable to receive an electronic transmission, the CCRE shall forward a copy of such record to  
 431 the circuit court which shall be maintained under seal by the clerk unless otherwise ordered by the court.

432 D. A copy of the petition shall be served on the attorney for the Commonwealth of the city or county in  
433 which the petition is filed. The attorney for the Commonwealth may file an objection or answer to the petition  
434 or may give written notice to the court that he does not object to the petition within 21 days after it is served  
435 on him.

436 E. If the petition is filed under subsection B, the petitioner shall obtain from a law-enforcement agency  
437 one complete set of the petitioner's fingerprints and shall provide that agency with a copy of the petition for  
438 expungement. The law-enforcement agency shall submit the set of fingerprints to the CCRE with a copy of the  
439 petition for expungement attached. The CCRE shall forward under seal to the court a copy of the  
440 petitioner's criminal history and the set of fingerprints. Upon completion of the hearing, the court shall return  
441 the fingerprint card to the petitioner. If no hearing was conducted, upon the entry of an order of expungement  
442 or an order denying the petition for expungement, the court shall cause the fingerprint card to be destroyed  
443 unless, within 30 days of the date of the entry of the order, the petitioner requests the return of the fingerprint  
444 card in person from the clerk of the court or provides the clerk of the court a self-addressed, stamped  
445 envelope for the return of the fingerprint card.

446 F. After receiving the criminal history record information, the court shall conduct a hearing on the  
447 petition. If the court finds that the continued existence and possible dissemination of information relating to  
448 the arrest of the petitioner causes or may cause circumstances which constitute a manifest injustice to the  
449 petitioner, it shall enter an order requiring the expungement of the police and court records, including  
450 electronic records, relating to the charge. Otherwise, it shall deny the petition. However, if the petitioner has  
451 no prior criminal record and the arrest was for a misdemeanor violation or the charge was for a civil offense,  
452 the petitioner shall be entitled, in the absence of good cause shown to the contrary by the Commonwealth, to  
453 expungement of the police and court records relating to the charge, and the court shall enter an order of  
454 expungement. If the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which the petition is filed (i)  
455 gives written notice to the court pursuant to subsection D that he does not object to the petition and (ii) when  
456 the charge to be expunged is a felony, stipulates in such written notice that the continued existence and  
457 possible dissemination of information relating to the arrest of the petitioner causes or may cause  
458 circumstances which constitute a manifest injustice to the petitioner, the court may enter an order of  
459 expungement without conducting a hearing.

460 G. The Commonwealth shall be made party defendant to the proceeding. Any party aggrieved by the  
461 decision of the court may appeal, as provided by law in civil cases.

462 H. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, when the charge is dismissed because the court  
463 finds that the person arrested or charged is not the person named in the summons, warrant, indictment or  
464 presentment, the court dismissing the charge shall, upon motion of the person improperly arrested or charged,  
465 enter an order requiring expungement of the police and court records relating to the charge. Such order shall  
466 contain a statement that the dismissal and expungement are ordered pursuant to this subsection and shall be  
467 accompanied by the complete set of the petitioner's fingerprints filed with his petition. Upon the entry of such  
468 order, it shall be treated as provided in subsection K.

469 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, upon receiving a copy pursuant to § 2.2-402 of an  
470 absolute pardon for the commission of a crime that a person did not commit, the court shall enter an order  
471 requiring expungement of the police and court records relating to the charge and conviction. Such order shall  
472 contain a statement that the expungement is ordered pursuant to this subsection. Upon the entry of such order,  
473 it shall be treated as provided in subsection K.

474 J. Upon receiving a copy of a writ vacating a conviction pursuant to § 19.2-327.5 or 19.2-327.13, the court  
475 shall enter an order requiring expungement of the police and court records relating to the charge and  
476 conviction. Such order shall contain a statement that the expungement is ordered pursuant to this subsection.  
477 Upon the entry of the order, it shall be treated as provided in subsection K.

478 K. Upon the entry of an order of expungement, the clerk of the court shall cause a copy of such order to be  
479 forwarded to the Department of State Police, which shall, pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant  
480 to § 9.1-134, direct the manner by which the appropriate expungement or removal of such records shall be  
481 effected.

482 L. ~~Costs shall be as provided by § 17.1-275, but shall not be recoverable against the Commonwealth. If~~  
483 ~~the court enters an order of expungement, the clerk of the court shall refund to the petitioner such costs paid~~  
484 ~~by the petitioner.~~

485 ~~M.~~ Any order entered where (i) the court or parties failed to strictly comply with the procedures set forth  
486 in this section or (ii) the court enters an order of expungement contrary to law, shall be voidable upon motion  
487 and notice made within three years of the entry of such order.

488 ~~N.~~ ~~M.~~ A petition filed under this section and any responsive pleadings filed by the attorney for the  
489 Commonwealth shall be maintained under seal by the clerk unless otherwise ordered by the court. Any order  
490 to expunge issued pursuant to this section shall be sealed and may only be disseminated for the purposes set  
491 forth in § 19.2-392.3 pursuant to regulations and procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and procedures  
492 adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.

493 **§ 19.2-392.5. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Sealing**



494 **defined; effect of sealing.**

495 A. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning, "sealing":

496 "Ancillary matter" means any (i) violation or alleged violation of the terms and conditions of a suspended  
497 sentence, probation, or parole; (ii) violation or alleged violation of contempt of court; (iii) charge or  
498 conviction for failure to appear; or (iv) appeal from a bail, bond, or recognizance order.

499 "Records related to an arrest, charge, or conviction" means (i) the record of any specific arrest, charge,  
500 or conviction that has been sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1, 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.10,  
501 19.2-392.11, 19.2-392.12, 19.2-392.12:1, or 19.2-392.17 or (ii) any ancillary matter that was sealed  
502 pursuant to § 19.2-392.12 or 19.2-392.12:1.

503 "Sealing" means to prohibit public access to records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction,  
504 including any ancillary matter ordered to be sealed, in the possession of (i) ~~restricting dissemination of~~  
505 ~~criminal history record information contained in~~ the Central Criminal Records Exchange; ~~including any~~  
506 ~~records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction, in accordance with the purposes set forth in § 19.2-392.13~~  
507 ~~and pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the procedures adopted pursuant~~  
508 ~~to § 9.1-134 and;~~ (ii) ~~prohibiting dissemination of any court records related to an arrest, charge, or~~  
509 ~~conviction;~~ (iii) any police department, sheriff's office, or campus police department; or (iv) the Department  
510 of Motor Vehicles unless such dissemination is authorized by a court order for one or more of the purposes set  
511 forth in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the  
512 procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134. "Sealing" may be required either by the issuance of a court order  
513 following the filing of a petition or automatically by operation of law under the processes set forth in this  
514 chapter. "Sealing" does not prohibit or limit dissemination of records within or between any department,  
515 division, board, bureau, commission, branch, authority or other agency created by the Commonwealth, or to  
516 which the Commonwealth is a party or any political subdivision thereof, or with any federal agency, for the  
517 purpose of administering any duties or functions required by state or federal law.

518 B. The provisions of this chapter shall only apply to adults who were arrested, charged, or convicted of a  
519 criminal offense and to juveniles who were tried in circuit court pursuant to § 16.1-269.1.

520 C. Records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction that have been sealed may be disseminated only for  
521 purposes set forth in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and  
522 procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134. ~~The court, except as provided in subsection B of § 19.2-392.14,~~  
523 ~~and any~~ Any law-enforcement agency shall reply to any inquiry that no record exists with respect to an arrest,  
524 charge, or conviction that has been sealed, unless such information is permitted to be disclosed pursuant to §  
525 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and procedures adopted  
526 pursuant to § 9.1-134. *As provided in subsection B of § 19.2-392.14, a clerk of any court shall reply to any*  
527 *inquiry requesting access to a sealed court record that such court record has been sealed and can only be*  
528 *accessed pursuant to a court order.* A clerk of any court and the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court  
529 shall be immune from any cause of action arising from the production of sealed court records, including  
530 electronic records, absent gross negligence or willful misconduct. This subsection shall not be construed to  
531 limit, withdraw, or overturn any defense or immunity already existing in statutory or common law or to affect  
532 any cause of action accruing prior to the effective date of this section.

533 D. Except as otherwise provided in this section, upon entry of an order for sealing, the person who was  
534 arrested, charged, or convicted of the offense that was ordered to be sealed may deny or not disclose to any  
535 state or local government agency or to any private employer in the Commonwealth that such an arrest,  
536 charge, or conviction occurred. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person as to whom an order  
537 for sealing has been entered shall be held thereafter under any provision of law to be guilty of perjury or  
538 otherwise giving a false statement by reason of that person's denial or failure to disclose any information  
539 concerning an arrest, charge, or conviction that has been sealed.

540 E. A person who is the subject of the order of sealing entered pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8,  
541 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1, or the sealing of an offense without the entry of an order  
542 pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17, may not deny or fail to disclose information to any employer or  
543 prospective employer about an offense that has been ordered to be sealed if:

544 1. The person is applying for full-time employment or part-time employment with, or to be a volunteer  
545 with, the State Police or a police department or sheriff's office that is a part of or administered by the  
546 Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof;

547 2. This Code requires the employer to make such an inquiry;

548 3. Federal law requires the employer to make such an inquiry;

549 4. The position, or access to the premises in or upon which any part of the duties of such position is  
550 performed or is to be performed, is subject to any requirement imposed in the interest of the national security  
551 of the United States under any security program in effect pursuant to or administered under any contract with,  
552 or statute or regulation of, the United States or any Executive Order of the President; or

553 5. The rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134  
554 allow the employer to access such sealed records.

555 Failure to disclose such sealed arrest, charge, or conviction, if such failure to disclose was knowing or

556 willful, shall be a ground for prosecution of perjury as provided for in § 18.2-434.

557 F. An order to seal an arrest, charge, or conviction entered pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8,  
558 19.2-392.11, ~~or 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1, or the sealing of an offense without the entry of an order~~  
559 *pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17*, shall not relieve the person who was arrested, charged, or  
560 convicted of any obligation to pay all fines, costs, forfeitures, penalties, or restitution in relation to the offense  
561 that was ordered to be sealed. *Additionally, no order to seal an arrest, charge, or conviction pursuant to §*  
562 *19.2-392.12 shall be entered unless such person has fully paid his restitution in relation to the offense to be*  
563 *sealed.*

564 G. Any arrest, charge, or conviction sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~  
565 19.2-392.12, *or 19.2-392.12:1, or sealed without the entry of an order pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or*  
566 *19.2-392.17*, may be admissible and considered in proceedings relating to the care and custody of a child. A  
567 person as to whom an order for sealing has been entered may be required to disclose a sealed arrest, charge,  
568 or conviction as part of such proceedings. Failure to disclose such sealed arrest, charge, or conviction, if such  
569 failure to disclose was knowing or willful, shall be a ground for prosecution of perjury as provided for in §  
570 18.2-434.

571 H. Any arrest, charge, or conviction sealed pursuant to § *19.2-392.6:1*, 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8,  
572 19.2-392.11, ~~or 19.2-392.12, 19.2-392.12:1, or 19.2-392.17~~ shall ~~not~~ be (i) disclosed in any *pretrial or*  
573 *sentencing report, including any discretionary sentencing guidelines*; (ii) considered when ascertaining the  
574 punishment of a defendant; or (iii) considered in any hearing on the issue of bail, release, or detention of a  
575 defendant.

576 I. Any arrest, charge, or conviction sealed pursuant to § *19.2-392.6:1*, 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8,  
577 19.2-392.11, ~~or 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1~~ shall not constitute a barrier crime as defined in § 19.2-392.02,  
578 except as otherwise required under federal law.

579 J. A person shall be required to disclose any felony conviction sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.12 for  
580 purposes of determining that person's eligibility to be empaneled as a member of a jury. Failure to disclose  
581 such conviction, if such failure to disclose was knowing or willful, shall be a ground for prosecution of  
582 perjury as provided for in § 18.2-434.

583 K. *An order to seal a charge or conviction entered pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.12, or*  
584 *19.2-392.12:1, or the sealing of an offense without the entry of an order pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1, shall not*  
585 *serve to restore a person's civil rights or a person's right to possess, transport, or carry a firearm,*  
586 *ammunition for a firearm, or a stun weapon.*

587 **§ 19.2-392.6. (For effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Automatic sealing of**  
588 **offenses resulting in conviction.**

589 A. If a person was convicted of a violation of any of the following sections *with an offense date on or*  
590 *after January 1, 1986*, such conviction, including any records relating to such conviction, shall be ordered to  
591 be automatically sealed in the manner set forth in § 19.2-392.7, subject to the provisions of subsections B and  
592 C: *a misdemeanor violation of § 18.2-96; or 18.2-103; § 18.2-119, 18.2-120, or 18.2-134; a misdemeanor*  
593 *violation of § 18.2-248.1; or § 18.2-415.*

594 B. Subject to the provisions of subsection C, any conviction listed under subsection A shall be ordered to  
595 be automatically sealed if seven years have passed since the date of the conviction and the person convicted  
596 of such offense has not been convicted of violating any law of the Commonwealth that requires a report to the  
597 Central Criminal Records Exchange under subsection A of § 19.2-390 or any other state, the District of  
598 Columbia, or the United States or any territory thereof, excluding traffic infractions under Title 46.2, during  
599 that time period.

600 C. No conviction listed under subsection A shall be automatically sealed if, on the date of the conviction,  
601 the person was convicted of another offense that is not eligible for automatic sealing under subsection A.

602 D. ~~If a person was charged with any criminal offense and such offense concluded with any final~~  
603 ~~disposition as a violation of former § 18.2-250.1, such offense shall be ordered to be automatically sealed in~~  
604 ~~the manner set forth in § 19.2-392.7.~~

605 ~~E.~~ This section shall not be construed as prohibiting a person from seeking sealing in the circuit court  
606 pursuant to the provisions of § 19.2-392.12 *or 19.2-392.12:1.*

607 **§ 19.2-392.6:1. Sealing of former possession of marijuana offenses without entry of a court order.**

608 A. *Any criminal or civil offense that concluded with any final disposition as a charge or conviction of*  
609 *former § 18.2-250.1 shall be sealed without the entry of a court order. The Central Criminal Records*  
610 *Exchange, any court, any law-enforcement agency, and the Department of Motor Vehicles shall identify and*  
611 *seal the records of any such offense in its possession.*

612 B. *The Department of Motor Vehicles shall not seal any charge or conviction under subsection A in*  
613 *violation of (i) federal regulatory record retention requirements or (ii) federal program requirements if the*  
614 *Department of Motor Vehicles is required to suspend a person's driving privileges as a result of the charge or*  
615 *conviction to be sealed.*

616 **§ 19.2-392.7. (For effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Process for automatic**  
617 **sealing of offenses resulting in a conviction or deferred disposition.**

618 A. ~~Except as provided in subsection A1, on~~ On at least a monthly basis, the Department of State Police  
 619 shall *electronically* determine which offenses *with an offense date on or after January 1, 1986*, in the Central  
 620 Criminal Records Exchange meet the criteria for automatic sealing set forth in subsections A, B, and C of §  
 621 19.2-392.6.

622 ~~A1. No later than July 1, 2025, the Department of State Police shall determine which offenses in the~~  
 623 ~~Central Criminal Records Exchange meet the criteria for automatic sealing set forth in subsection D of §~~  
 624 ~~19.2-392.6.~~

625 B. After reviewing the offenses under ~~subsections~~ *subsection A and A1*, the Department of State Police  
 626 shall provide an electronic list of all offenses that meet the criteria for automatic sealing set forth in §  
 627 19.2-392.6 to the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court and to any circuit court clerk who maintains a  
 628 case management system that interfaces with the Department of State Police under subsection B1 of §  
 629 17.1-502. *The Department of State Police shall not be required to include an offense on such list if (i) it*  
 630 *cannot be determined by an electronic review whether the offense is eligible for automatic sealing or (ii) an*  
 631 *electronic review of the person's criminal history record indicates that the person was charged with violating*  
 632 *the law of any other state, the District of Columbia, the United States or any territory thereof, excluding*  
 633 *traffic infractions under Title 46.2, during the seven-year time period set forth in subsection B of §*  
 634 *19.2-392.6.*

635 C. Upon receipt of the electronic list from the Department of State Police provided under subsection B, on  
 636 at least a monthly basis the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court shall provide an electronic list of all  
 637 offenses that meet the criteria for automatic sealing set forth in § 19.2-392.6 to the clerk of each circuit court  
 638 in the jurisdiction where the case was finalized, if such circuit court clerk participates in the case management  
 639 system maintained by the Executive Secretary.

640 D. Upon receipt of the electronic list provided under subsection B or C, on at least a monthly basis the  
 641 clerk of each circuit court shall prepare an order and the chief judge *or presiding judge* of that circuit court  
 642 shall enter such order directing that the offenses that meet the criteria for automatic sealing set forth in §  
 643 19.2-392.6 be automatically sealed under the process described in § 19.2-392.13. Such order shall contain the  
 644 names of the persons charged with or convicted of such offenses. The clerk of each circuit court shall  
 645 maintain a copy of all orders entered pursuant to this subsection under seal.

646 E. The clerk of each circuit court shall provide an electronic notification of any order entered under  
 647 subsection D to the Department of State Police on at least a monthly basis. Upon receipt of such electronic  
 648 notification, the Department of State Police shall proceed as set forth in § 19.2-392.13.

649 F. Any order to seal issued pursuant to this section shall be sealed and may only be disseminated for the  
 650 purposes set forth in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and  
 651 procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.

652 G. If an offense is automatically sealed contrary to law, the automatic sealing of that particular offense  
 653 shall be voidable upon motion and notice made within two years of the entry of the order to automatically  
 654 seal such offense.

655 **§ 19.2-392.8. (For contingent effective date see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Automatic**  
 656 **sealing of offenses resulting in acquittal or dismissal.**

657 A. If a person is charged with the commission of a misdemeanor offense, excluding traffic infractions  
 658 under Title 46.2, and ~~(i) the person is acquitted; (ii) a nolle prosequi is entered; or (iii) the charge is otherwise~~  
 659 ~~dismissed, excluding any charge that is deferred and dismissed after a finding of facts sufficient to justify a~~  
 660 ~~finding of guilt against him is dismissed with prejudice, the court disposing of the matter shall; at the time the~~  
 661 ~~acquittal, nolle prosequi, or dismissal is entered; order that the charge be automatically sealed under the~~  
 662 ~~process described in § 19.2-392.13, unless the attorney for the Commonwealth or any other person advises~~  
 663 ~~the court at the time the acquittal, nolle prosequi, or dismissal is entered that:~~

664 1. The charge is ancillary to another charge that resulted in a conviction or a finding of facts sufficient to  
 665 justify a finding of guilt;

666 2. A nolle prosequi is entered or the charge is dismissed as part of a plea agreement;

667 3. Another charge arising out of the same facts and circumstances is pending against the person;

668 4. The Commonwealth intends to reinstitute the charge or any other charge arising out of the same facts  
 669 and circumstances within three months;

670 5. Good cause exists, as established by the Commonwealth by a preponderance of the evidence; that such  
 671 charge should not be automatically sealed; or

672 6. The person charged with the offense objects to such automatic sealing.

673 B. If a person is charged with the commission of a felony offense and is acquitted, or the charge against  
 674 him is dismissed with prejudice, he may immediately upon the acquittal or dismissal orally request that the  
 675 records relating to the charge be sealed. Upon such request and with the concurrence of the attorney for the  
 676 Commonwealth, the court shall order the automatic sealing of records relating to the arrest or charge under  
 677 the process described in § 19.2-392.13.

678 C. If the court enters an order of sealing pursuant to subsection A or B, the court shall advise the person  
 679 that the offense has been ordered to be automatically sealed.

680 D. Any denial by the court to enter a sealing order under subsection A or B shall be without prejudice, and  
681 the person may seek expungement in the circuit court pursuant to the provisions of § 19.2-392.2. Entry of a  
682 sealing order under subsection A or B shall not prohibit the person from seeking expungement in the circuit  
683 court pursuant to the provisions of § 19.2-392.2.

684 E. Any order to seal issued pursuant to this section shall be sealed and may only be disseminated for the  
685 purposes set forth in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and  
686 procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.

687 F. If an offense is automatically sealed contrary to law, the automatic sealing of that particular offense  
688 shall be voidable upon motion and notice made within two years of the entry of the order to automatically  
689 seal such offense.

690 **§ 19.2-392.11. (For effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Automatic sealing of**  
691 **misdemeanor offenses resulting in acquittal, nolle prosequi, or dismissal for persons with no**  
692 **convictions or deferred and dismissed offenses on their criminal history record.**

693 A. On at least an annual basis, the Department of State Police shall *electronically* review the Central  
694 Criminal Records Exchange and identify all persons with finalized misdemeanor case dispositions *with an*  
695 *offense date on or after January 1, 1986*, that resulted in (i) an acquittal, (ii) a nolle prosequi, or (iii) a  
696 dismissal, excluding any charge that was deferred and dismissed after a finding of facts sufficient to justify a  
697 finding of guilt, where the criminal history record of such person contains no convictions for any criminal  
698 offense for a violation of any law of the Commonwealth that requires a report to the Central Criminal  
699 Records Exchange under subsection A of § 19.2-390 and where such criminal history record contains no  
700 arrests or charges for a violation of any law of the Commonwealth that requires a report to the Central  
701 Criminal Records Exchange under subsection A of § 19.2-390 in the past three years, excluding traffic  
702 infractions under Title 46.2. For purposes of this subsection, any offense on the person's criminal history  
703 record that has previously been ordered to be sealed shall not be deemed a conviction.

704 B. Upon identification of the finalized case dispositions under subsection A, the Department of State  
705 Police shall provide an electronic list of such offenses to the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court and to  
706 any circuit court clerk who maintains a case management system that interfaces with the Department of State  
707 Police under subsection B1 of § 17.1-502. *The Department of State Police shall not be required to include an*  
708 *offense on such list if it cannot be determined by an electronic review whether the offense is eligible for*  
709 *automatic sealing.*

710 C. Upon receipt of the electronic list from the Department of State Police provided under subsection B, on  
711 at least an annual basis the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court shall provide an electronic list of such  
712 offenses to the clerk of each circuit court in the jurisdiction where the case was finalized, if such circuit court  
713 clerk participates in the case management system maintained by the Executive Secretary.

714 D. Upon receipt of the electronic list provided under subsection B or C, on at least an annual basis the  
715 clerk of each circuit court shall prepare an order and the chief judge *or presiding judge* of that circuit court  
716 shall enter such order directing that the offenses be automatically sealed under the process described in §  
717 19.2-392.13. Such order shall contain the names of the persons charged with such offenses. The clerk of each  
718 circuit court shall maintain a copy of all orders entered pursuant to this subsection under seal.

719 E. The clerk of each circuit court shall provide an electronic notification of any order entered under  
720 subsection D to the Department of State Police on at least an annual basis. Upon receipt of such electronic  
721 notification, the Department of State Police shall proceed as set forth in § 19.2-392.13.

722 F. Any order to seal issued pursuant to this section shall be sealed and may only be disseminated for the  
723 purposes set forth in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and  
724 procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.

725 G. This section shall not be construed as prohibiting a person from seeking expungement in the circuit  
726 court pursuant to the provisions of § 19.2-392.2. Entry of a sealing order pursuant to this section shall not  
727 prohibit a person from seeking expungement in the circuit court pursuant to the provisions of § 19.2-392.2.

728 H. If an offense is automatically sealed contrary to law, the automatic sealing of that particular offense  
729 shall be voidable upon motion and notice made within two years of the entry of the order to automatically  
730 seal such offense.

731 I. ~~If an offense is automatically sealed pursuant to the procedure set forth in this section and such offense~~  
732 ~~was not ordered to be automatically sealed at the time of acquittal, nolle prosequi, or dismissal for one or~~  
733 ~~more of the reasons set forth in § 19.2-392.8, the automatic sealing of such offense shall be voidable upon~~  
734 ~~motion and notice made within two years of the entry of the order to automatically seal such offense.~~

735 **§ 19.2-392.12. (For effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Sealing of offenses**  
736 **resulting in a deferred and dismissed disposition or conviction by petition.**

737 A. Except for a conviction or deferral and dismissal of a violation of § 18.2-36.1, 18.2-36.2, 18.2-51.4,  
738 18.2-51.5, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-266, or 46.2-341.24 *as provided in subsection L*, a person who has been convicted  
739 of or had a charge deferred and dismissed for a (i) misdemeanor ~~offense~~, (ii) Class 5 or 6 felony, or (iii)  
740 violation of § 18.2-95 or any other felony offense in which the defendant is deemed guilty of larceny and  
741 punished as provided in § 18.2-95, *where the offense date for such misdemeanor or felony was on or after*

742 *January 1, 1986, may file a petition setting forth the relevant facts and requesting sealing of the criminal*  
 743 *history record information and court records relating related to the charge or conviction; provided that such*  
 744 *person has (a) never been convicted of a Class 1 or 2 felony or any other felony punishable by imprisonment*  
 745 *for life, (b) not been convicted of a Class 3 or 4 felony within the past 20 years, and (c) not been convicted of*  
 746 *any other felony within the past 10 years of his petition. In addition to requesting the sealing of a charge or*  
 747 *conviction, such petition may also request the sealing of any specifically identified ancillary matter related to*  
 748 *such charge or conviction.*

749 B. A person shall not be required to pay any court fees or costs for filing a petition pursuant to this section  
 750 if such person files a petition to proceed without the payment of fees and costs, and the court with which such  
 751 person files his petition finds such person to be indigent pursuant to § 19.2-159.

752 C. The petition with a copy of the warrant, summons, or indictment, if reasonably available, shall be filed  
 753 in the circuit court of the county or city in which the case was disposed of and shall contain, except when not  
 754 reasonably available, the date of arrest, the name of the arresting agency, and the date of conviction or  
 755 deferred dismissal, and the case number associated with each court record that is the subject of the petition.  
 756 When this information is not reasonably available, the petition shall state the reason for such unavailability.  
 757 The petition shall further state the charge or conviction and any ancillary matters to be sealed; the date of  
 758 final disposition of the charge or conviction and any ancillary matters as set forth in the petition; the  
 759 petitioner's date of birth, sex, race, and social security number, if available; and the full name used by the  
 760 petitioner at the time of arrest or summons. A petition may request the sealing of the criminal history record  
 761 information and court records for multiple charges or convictions and ancillary matters as set forth in  
 762 subsection A provided that all such charges and convictions arose out of the same transaction or occurrence  
 763 and all such charges and convictions are eligible for sealing. A petition may not request the sealing of the  
 764 criminal history record information and court records for multiple charges or convictions that arose out of  
 765 different transactions or occurrences, except that ancillary matters shall not be treated as separate  
 766 transactions or occurrences. A petitioner may only have two petitions granted pursuant to this section within  
 767 his lifetime. Any petition that is granted (i) solely to seal a violation of subsection A of § 18.2-265.3 as it  
 768 relates to marijuana, (ii) solely to seal a violation of § 4.1-305, or (iii) to seal a violation of both subsection A  
 769 of § 18.2-265.3 as it relates to marijuana and § 4.1-305 arising out of the same transaction or occurrence shall  
 770 not count against the petitioner's lifetime maximum.

771 D. The Commonwealth shall be made party to the proceeding. The petitioner shall provide a copy of the  
 772 petition by delivery or by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the city  
 773 or county in which the petition is filed. The attorney for the Commonwealth may file an objection or answer  
 774 to the petition or may give written notice to the court that he does not object to the petition within 24 30 days  
 775 after it is delivered to him or received in the mail.

776 E. In addition to the filing of the petition under subsection C, the petitioner shall request that the Central  
 777 Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) electronically forward a copy of the petitioner's Virginia and national  
 778 criminal history record to the circuit court in which the petition was filed. Upon receiving such request, the  
 779 CCRE shall electronically forward such record to the circuit court; however, if the circuit court is unable to  
 780 receive an electronic transmission, the CCRE shall forward a copy of such record to the circuit court which  
 781 shall be maintained under seal by the clerk unless otherwise ordered by the court. Upon completion of the  
 782 hearing, the court shall cause the criminal history record to be destroyed unless, within 30 days of the date of  
 783 the entry of the final order in the matter, the petitioner or the attorney for the Commonwealth notes an appeal  
 784 to the Supreme Court of Virginia as provided by law in civil cases.

785 F. After receiving the criminal history record of the petitioner, the court may conduct a hearing on the  
 786 petition. The court shall enter an order requiring the sealing of the criminal history record information and  
 787 court records, including electronic records, relating related to the charge or conviction, only if the court finds  
 788 that all criteria in subdivisions 1 through 4 6 are met, as follows:

789 1. *The petitioner has (i) never been convicted of a Class 1 or 2 felony or any other felony punishable by*  
 790 *imprisonment for life, (ii) not been convicted of a Class 3 or 4 felony within the past 20 years, and (iii) not*  
 791 *been convicted of any other felony within the past 10 years from the date the petition was filed.*

792 2. During a period after the date of (i) dismissal of a deferred charge, (ii) conviction, or (iii) release from  
 793 incarceration or on the charge or conviction set forth in the petition, (iv) a finding that the person was in  
 794 violation of a suspended sentence, probation, or parole related to the charge or conviction set forth in the  
 795 petition, or (v) release from incarceration following a finding that the person was in violation of a suspended  
 796 sentence, probation, or parole related to the charge or conviction set forth in the petition, whichever date  
 797 occurred later, the person petitioner has not been convicted of violating any law of the Commonwealth that  
 798 requires a report to the Central Criminal Records Exchange under subsection A of § 19.2-390 or any other  
 799 state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or any territory thereof, excluding traffic infractions  
 800 under Title 46.2, for:

801 a. Seven years for any misdemeanor offense; or

802 b. Ten years for any felony offense;

803 2. 3. If the records relating to the offense indicate that the occurrence leading to the deferral or conviction

804 involved the use or dependence upon alcohol or any narcotic drug or any other self-administered intoxicant or  
 805 drug of whatsoever nature, the petitioner has demonstrated his rehabilitation;

806 ~~3.~~ 4. If the petitioner was ordered by a court to pay restitution as a condition of any charge, conviction, or  
 807 ancillary matter that is the subject of the petition, such restitution has been paid in full;

808 5. The petitioner has not previously obtained the sealing of two other deferrals or convictions arising out  
 809 of different sentencing events *under this section*; and

810 ~~4.~~ 6. The continued existence and possible dissemination of information relating to the charge or  
 811 conviction of the petitioner causes or may cause circumstances that constitute a manifest injustice to the  
 812 petitioner.

813 G. If the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which the petition is filed (i) gives  
 814 written notice to the court pursuant to subsection D that he does not object to the petition and (ii) stipulates in  
 815 such written notice that the petitioner is eligible to have such offense sealed, and the continued existence and  
 816 possible dissemination of information relating to the charge or conviction of the petitioner causes or may  
 817 cause circumstances that constitute a manifest injustice to the petitioner, the court may enter an order of  
 818 sealing without conducting a hearing.

819 H. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the court may appeal, as provided by law in civil cases.

820 I. Upon the entry of an order of sealing, the clerk of the court shall maintain a copy of such order under  
 821 seal and shall cause an electronic notification of such order to be forwarded to the Department of State Police.  
 822 Such electronic notification shall contain the petitioner's full name, date of birth, sex, race, and social security  
 823 number, if available, and the full name used by the petitioner at the time of arrest or summons, as well as the  
 824 petitioner's state identification number from the criminal history record, the court case number of the charge  
 825 ~~or~~, conviction, *or ancillary matter* to be sealed, if available, and the document control number, if available.  
 826 Upon receipt of such electronic notification, the Department of State Police shall seal such records in  
 827 accordance with § 19.2-392.13. When sealing such charge ~~or~~, conviction, *or ancillary matter*, the Department  
 828 of State Police shall include a notation on the criminal history record that such offense was sealed pursuant to  
 829 this section. The Department of State Police shall also electronically notify the Office of the Executive  
 830 Secretary of the Supreme Court and any other agencies and individuals known to maintain or to have  
 831 obtained such a record that such record has been ordered to be sealed and may only be disseminated in  
 832 accordance with § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and  
 833 the procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.

834 J. ~~Costs shall be as provided by § 17.1-275 but shall not be recoverable against the Commonwealth. Any~~  
 835 ~~costs collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Sealing Fee Fund created pursuant to §~~  
 836 ~~17.1-205.1.~~

837 ~~K.~~ Any order entered where (i) the court or parties failed to strictly comply with the procedures set forth  
 838 in this section or (ii) the court enters an order for the sealing of records contrary to law shall be voidable upon  
 839 motion and notice made within two years of the entry of such order.

840 ~~L.~~ If a petitioner qualifies to file a petition for sealing of records without the payment of fees and costs  
 841 pursuant to subsection B and has requested court-appointed counsel, the court shall then appoint counsel to  
 842 file the petition for sealing of records and represent the petitioner in the sealed records proceedings. Counsel  
 843 appointed to represent such a petitioner shall be compensated for his services subject to guidelines issued by  
 844 the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, in a total amount not to exceed \$120, as  
 845 determined by the court, and such compensation shall be paid from the Sealing Fee Fund as provided in §  
 846 ~~17.1-205.1.~~

847 ~~M.~~ K. A petition filed under this section and any responsive pleadings filed by the attorney for the  
 848 Commonwealth shall be maintained under seal by the clerk unless otherwise ordered by the court. Any order  
 849 to seal issued pursuant to this section shall be sealed and may only be disseminated for the purposes set forth  
 850 in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and procedures adopted  
 851 pursuant to § 9.1-134.

852 ~~N.~~ A conviction or deferral and dismissal of § 18.2-36.1, 18.2-36.2, 18.2-51.4, 18.2-51.5, 18.2-57.2,  
 853 ~~18.2-266, or 46.2-341.24 is L. The following offenses are ineligible for the sealing of records under this~~  
 854 section:

855 1. Sections 4.1-309.1, 5.1-13, 18.2-36, 18.2-36.1, 18.2-36.2, and 18.2-47; subsection A of § 18.2-49.1; §§  
 856 18.2-51.5, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-57.3, 18.2-59.1, 18.2-60, 18.2-60.3, 18.2-60.5, 18.2-130, 18.2-130.1, 18.2-144,  
 857 18.2-144.1, 18.2-154, 18.2-266, 18.2-266.1, 18.2-268.3, 18.2-282.1, and 18.2-324.2; former subsection B of  
 858 18.2-346; and §§ 18.2-405, 18.2-406, 18.2-472.1, 19.2-62, 29.1-738, 29.1-738.02, 29.1-738.2, 37.2-912,  
 859 40.1-100.2, 40.1-103, 46.2-341.24, and 46.2-341.26.3;

860 2. Any violation of any offense under § 9.1-902 for which registration with the Sex Offender and Crimes  
 861 Against Minors Registry is required;

862 3. Any violation of any violent felony offense listed under subsection C of § 17.1-805;

863 4. Any violation of any felony offense not listed as a violent felony under subsection C of § 17.1-805 where  
 864 the person utilized a firearm, as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2, as part of the transaction or occurrence in the  
 865 underlying offense to be sealed, unless such person's right to possess, transport, or carry a firearm,

ammunition for a firearm, or a stun weapon has been restored pursuant to § 18.2-308.2;

5. Any violation of an emergency, preliminary, or permanent protective order issued pursuant to Article 4 (§ 16.1-246 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1 or Chapter 9.1 (§ 19.2-152.7:1 et seq.) or any family abuse protective order issued pursuant to Article 9 (§ 16.1-278 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1;

6. Any violation of any hate crime as defined in § 52-8.5;

7. Any violation of Article 9 (§ 3.2-6570 et seq.) of Chapter 65 of Title 3.2;

8. Any violation of Title 24.2 (§ 24.2-100 et seq.);

9. Any violation involving the possession and distribution of flunitrazepam pursuant to § 18.2-251.2 or the possession of Gamma hydroxybutyric acid (some other names include GHB; gamma hydroxybutyrate; 4-hydroxybutyrate; 4-hydroxybutanoic acid; sodium oxybate; sodium oxybutyrate) pursuant to § 18.2-250;

10. Any violation where a person was found not guilty by reason of insanity;

11. Any conspiracy, attempt, or solicitation, and any principal in the second degree, accessory before the fact, or accessory after the fact, or any similar ordinance of any county, city or town, for any offense deemed ineligible under this subsection;

12. Any conspiracy, attempt, or solicitation, and any principal in the second degree, accessory before the fact, or accessory after the fact where the completed substantive offense would be punishable as a Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 felony or by a term of imprisonment of more than 10 years, with the exception of a violation of § 18.2-95 or any other felony offense in which the defendant is deemed guilty of larceny and punished as provided in § 18.2-95;

13. Any violation of any offense where the person was prohibited by the court from possessing or owning a companion animal as a result of the transaction or occurrence in the underlying offense to be sealed, while such prohibition remains in effect;

14. Any violation of Article 6 (§ 3.2-6537 et seq.) of Chapter 65 of Title 3.2 that involved a dangerous or vicious dog as a part of the transaction or occurrence in the underlying offense to be sealed, while the person continues to own or possess such dog;

15. Any violation of Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2;

16. Any violation of Article 3 (§ 18.2-346 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, with the exception of § 18.2-346, former subsection A of § 18.2-346, and § 18.2-347;

17. Any violation of Article 4 (§ 18.2-362 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, with the exception of §§ 18.2-365, 18.2-371.2, 18.2-371.3, and 18.2-371.4;

18. Any violation of Article 5 (§ 18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, with the exception of § 18.2-388; and

19. Any offense where the victim of the crime to be sealed was a family or household member, as defined in § 16.1-228, of the person.

⊖. *M.* Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the circuit court from entering an order to seal a charge ⊖, conviction, or ancillary matter under this section when such charge ⊖, conviction, or ancillary matter is eligible for sealing under some other section of this chapter.

**§ 19.2-392.12:1. Sealing of charges and convictions related to automatic sealing; petition.**

A. A person who has been convicted of or had a charge deferred and dismissed for a violation of § 4.1-305; a misdemeanor violation of § 18.2-96 or 18.2-103; a violation of § 18.2-119, 18.2-120, or 18.2-134; a misdemeanor violation of § 18.2-248.1; a violation of subsection A of § 18.2-265.3; or a violation of § 18.2-415, where the offense date for any such offense was on or after January 1, 1986, may file a petition setting forth the relevant facts and requesting the sealing of the criminal history record information and court records relating to the charge or conviction. In addition to requesting the sealing of a charge or conviction, such petition may also request the sealing of any specifically identified ancillary matter related to such charge or conviction.

B. A person who had a conviction or offense automatically sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.7 or 19.2-392.11 where the offense date for such conviction or offense was on or after January 1, 1986, or who had an offense sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 regardless of the date of the offense, may file a petition setting forth the relevant facts and requesting sealing of the criminal history record information and court records of any specifically identified ancillary matter related to that charge or conviction.

C. A person shall not be required to pay any court fees or costs for filing a petition pursuant to this section.

D. The petition under subsection A or B, with a copy of the warrant, summons, or indictment, if reasonably available, shall be filed in the circuit court of the county or city in which the case was disposed of and shall contain, except when not reasonably available, (i) the date of arrest; (ii) the name of the arresting agency; (iii) the date of conviction, deferred dismissal, or final disposition of any ancillary matter; and (iv) the case number associated with each court record that is the subject of the petition. When this information is not reasonably available, the petition shall state the reason for such unavailability. The petition shall further state (a) the charge, conviction, or ancillary matter to be sealed; (b) the date of final disposition of the charge, conviction, or ancillary matter as set forth in the petition; (c) the petitioner's date of birth, sex, race, and social security number, if available; and (d) the full name used by the petitioner at the time of arrest or



928 *summons. A petition may request the sealing of the criminal history record information and court records for*  
929 *multiple charges, convictions, or ancillary matters as set forth in subsections A and B, provided that all such*  
930 *charges, convictions, and ancillary matters are eligible for sealing under this section. A petition may not*  
931 *request the sealing of the criminal history record information and court records where the charge,*  
932 *conviction, or ancillary matter was finalized on the same date as a conviction or deferred dismissal that is*  
933 *not eligible for sealing under this section.*

934 *E. A petitioner is not limited in the number of petitions that may be granted pursuant to this section within*  
935 *his lifetime. Any petition granted pursuant to this section shall not be counted toward the lifetime maximum*  
936 *of two petitions set forth in § 19.2-392.12.*

937 *F. The Commonwealth shall be made party to the proceeding. The petitioner shall provide a copy of the*  
938 *petition under subsection A or B by delivery or by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the attorney for the*  
939 *Commonwealth of the county or city in which the petition is filed. The attorney for the Commonwealth may*  
940 *file an objection or answer to the petition or may give written notice to the court that he does not object to the*  
941 *petition within 30 days after it is delivered to him or received in the mail.*

942 *G. In addition to the filing of the petition under subsection D, the petitioner shall request that the Central*  
943 *Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) electronically forward a copy of the petitioner's Virginia and national*  
944 *criminal history record to the circuit court in which the petition was filed. Upon receiving such request, the*  
945 *CCRE shall electronically forward such record to the circuit court; however, if the circuit court is unable to*  
946 *receive an electronic transmission, the CCRE shall forward a copy of such record to the circuit court which*  
947 *shall be maintained under seal by the clerk unless otherwise ordered by the court. Upon completion of the*  
948 *hearing, the court shall cause the criminal history record to be destroyed unless, within 30 days of the date of*  
949 *the entry of the final order in the matter, the petitioner or the attorney for the Commonwealth notes an appeal*  
950 *as provided by law in civil cases.*

951 *H. After receiving the criminal history record of the petitioner, the court may conduct a hearing on the*  
952 *petition.*

953 *I. For a petition filed pursuant to subsection A, the court shall enter an order requiring the sealing of the*  
954 *records related to the charge, conviction, or ancillary matter if the court finds that seven years have passed*  
955 *since the date of conviction or of dismissal of the deferred charge listed in subsection A and the petitioner has*  
956 *not been convicted of violating any law of the Commonwealth that requires a report to the Central Criminal*  
957 *Records Exchange under subsection A of § 19.2-390 or any other state, the District of Columbia, or the*  
958 *United States or any territory thereof, excluding traffic infractions under Title 46.2, during that time period.*

959 *J. For a petition filed pursuant to subsection B, the court shall enter an order to seal the ancillary matter*  
960 *if the charge or conviction identified in the petition has been sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1, 19.2-392.7,*  
961 *or 19.2-392.11.*

962 *K. If the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which the petition is filed (i) gives written*  
963 *notice to the court pursuant to subsection F that he does not object to the petition and (ii) stipulates in such*  
964 *written notice that the petitioner is eligible to have such charge, conviction, or ancillary matter sealed, the*  
965 *court may enter an order of sealing without conducting a hearing.*

966 *L. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the court may appeal, as provided by law in civil cases.*

967 *M. Upon the entry of an order of sealing, the clerk of the court shall maintain a copy of such order under*  
968 *seal and shall cause an electronic notification of such order to be forwarded to the Department of State*  
969 *Police. Such electronic notification shall contain (i) the petitioner's full name, date of birth, sex, race, and*  
970 *social security number, if available; (ii) the full name used by the petitioner at the time of arrest or summons;*  
971 *(iii) the petitioner's state identification number from the criminal history record; (iv) the court case number*  
972 *of the charge, conviction, or ancillary matter to be sealed, if available; and (v) the document control number,*  
973 *if available. Upon receipt of such electronic notification, the Department of State Police shall seal such*  
974 *records in accordance with § 19.2-392.13. The Department of State Police shall also electronically notify the*  
975 *Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court and any other agencies and individuals known to*  
976 *maintain or to have obtained such a record that such record has been ordered to be sealed and may only be*  
977 *disseminated in accordance with § 19.2-392.13.*

978 *N. Any order entered where (i) the court or parties failed to strictly comply with the procedures set forth*  
979 *in this section or (ii) the court entered an order for the sealing of records contrary to law shall be voidable*  
980 *upon motion and notice made within two years of the entry of such order.*

981 *O. A petition filed under this section and any responsive pleadings filed by the attorney for the*  
982 *Commonwealth shall be maintained under seal by the clerk unless otherwise ordered by the court. Any order*  
983 *to seal issued pursuant to this section shall be sealed and may only be disseminated for the purposes set forth*  
984 *in § 19.2-392.13.*

985 *P. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the circuit court from entering an order to seal a charge,*  
986 *conviction, or ancillary matter under this section when such charge, conviction, or ancillary matter is*  
987 *eligible for sealing under some other section of this chapter.*

988 **§ 19.2-392.13. (For effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Disposition of records**  
989 **when an offense is sealed; permitted uses of sealed records.**



990 A. Upon electronic notification that a court order for sealing has been entered pursuant to § 19.2-392.7,  
 991 ~~19.2-392.8~~ 19.2-392.10, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1, or upon the sealing of an offense  
 992 without a court order pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17, the Department of State Police shall not  
 993 disseminate any criminal history record information contained in the Central Criminal Records Exchange,  
 994 including any records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction, that was ordered to be sealed, except for  
 995 purposes set forth in this section and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and  
 996 procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134. Upon receipt of such electronic notification, the Department of  
 997 State Police shall electronically notify those agencies and individuals known to maintain or to have obtained  
 998 such a record that such record has been ordered to be sealed and may only be disseminated for purposes set  
 999 forth in this section and pursuant to rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and procedures  
 1000 adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134. Any records maintained electronically that are transformed or transferred by  
 1001 whatever means to an offline system or to a confidential and secure area inaccessible from normal use within  
 1002 the system in which the record is maintained shall be considered sealed, provided that such records are  
 1003 accessible only to the manager of the records or their designee.

1004 B. Upon entry of a court order for sealing pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~  
 1005 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1, or upon the sealing of an offense without a court order pursuant to §  
 1006 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17, the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court and any circuit court clerk who  
 1007 maintains a case management system that interfaces with the Department of State Police under subsection B1  
 1008 of § 17.1-502 shall ensure that the court record of such arrest, charge, or conviction is not available for public  
 1009 online viewing as directed by subsections B and C of § 17.1-293.1. Additionally, upon entry of such an order  
 1010 for sealing, the clerk of the court shall not disseminate any court record of such arrest, charge, or conviction,  
 1011 except as provided in subsections D and E.

1012 C. Records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction that was ordered to be sealed pursuant to §  
 1013 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, 19.2-392.12:1, or upon the sealing of an offense without  
 1014 a court order pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17, shall not be open for public inspection or otherwise  
 1015 disclosed, provided that such records may be disseminated and used for the following purposes: (i) to make  
 1016 the determination as provided in § 18.2-308.2:2 or through the National Instant Criminal Background Check  
 1017 System of eligibility to possess or purchase a firearm; (ii) for fingerprint comparison utilizing the fingerprints  
 1018 maintained in the Automated Fingerprint Information System; (iii) to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing  
 1019 Commission, the Virginia State Crime Commission, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission  
 1020 for research purposes; (iv) to any full-time or part-time employee of the State Police or a police department or  
 1021 sheriff's office that is a part of or administered by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof for  
 1022 the purpose of screening any person for full-time employment or part-time employment with, or to be a  
 1023 volunteer with, the State Police or a police department or sheriff's office that is a part of or administered by  
 1024 the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof; (v) to the State Health Commissioner or his designee  
 1025 for the purpose of screening any person who applies to be a volunteer with or an employee of an emergency  
 1026 medical services agency as provided in § 32.1-111.5; (vi) to any full-time or part-time employee of the  
 1027 Department of Forensic Science for the purpose of screening any person for full-time or part-time  
 1028 employment with the Department of Forensic Science; (vii) to the chief law-enforcement officer of a locality,  
 1029 or his designee who shall be an individual employed as a public safety official of the locality, that has  
 1030 adopted an ordinance in accordance with §§ 15.2-1503.1 and 19.2-389 for the purpose of screening any  
 1031 person who applies to be a volunteer with or an employee of an emergency medical services agency as  
 1032 provided in § 32.1-111.5; (viii) to any full-time or part-time employee of the Department of Motor Vehicles,  
 1033 any employer as defined in § 46.2-341.4, or any medical examiner as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 390.5 for the  
 1034 purpose of complying with the regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; (ix) to any  
 1035 employer or prospective employer or its designee where federal law requires the employer to inquire about  
 1036 prior criminal charges or convictions; (x) to any employer or prospective employer or its designee where the  
 1037 position that a person is applying for, or where access to the premises in or upon which any part of the duties  
 1038 of such position is performed or is to be performed, is subject to any requirement imposed in the interest of  
 1039 the national security of the United States under any security program in effect pursuant to or administered  
 1040 under any contract with, or statute or regulation of, the United States or any Executive Order of the President;  
 1041 (xi) to any person authorized to engage in the collection of court costs, fines, or restitution under subsection C  
 1042 of § 19.2-349 for purposes of collecting such court costs, fines, or restitution; (xii) to administer and utilize  
 1043 the DNA Analysis and Data Bank set forth in Article 1.1 (§ 19.2-310.2 et seq.) of Chapter 18; (xiii) to publish  
 1044 decisions of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or any circuit court; (xiv) to any full-time or part-time  
 1045 employee of a court, the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Division of Legislative Services, or the Chairs  
 1046 of the House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice for the purpose of screening any person for  
 1047 full-time or part-time employment as a clerk, magistrate, or judge with a court or the Office of the Executive  
 1048 Secretary; (xv) to any employer or prospective employer or its designee where this Code or a local ordinance  
 1049 requires the employer to inquire about prior criminal charges or convictions; (xvi) to any employer or  
 1050 prospective employer or its designee that is allowed access to such sealed records in accordance with the  
 1051 rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134; (xvii) to

1052 any business screening service for purposes of complying with § 19.2-392.16; (xviii) to any attorney for the  
 1053 Commonwealth and any person accused of a violation of law, or counsel for the accused, in order to comply  
 1054 with any constitutional and statutory duties to provide exculpatory, mitigating, and impeachment evidence to  
 1055 an accused; (xix) to any party in a criminal or civil proceeding for use as authorized by law in such  
 1056 proceeding; (xx) to any party for use in a protective order hearing as authorized by law; (xxi) to the  
 1057 Department of Social Services or any local department of social services for purposes of performing any  
 1058 statutory duties as required under Title 63.2; (xxii) to any party in a proceeding relating to the care and  
 1059 custody of a child for use as authorized by law in such proceeding; (xxiii) to the attorney for the  
 1060 Commonwealth and the court for purposes of determining eligibility for sealing pursuant to the provisions of  
 1061 § 19.2-392.12, whether the court or parties failed to strictly comply with sealing procedures, or whether an  
 1062 order for sealing was entered contrary to law; (xxiv) to determine a person's eligibility to be empaneled as a  
 1063 juror; ~~and~~ (xxv) to the Auditor of Public Accounts for audit purposes; (xxvi) to the Department of Behavioral  
 1064 Health and Developmental Services and any entity defined under § 37.2-100 for purposes of providing any  
 1065 services or functions as defined in such section; (xxvii) to the attorney for the Commonwealth, the defendant  
 1066 or his counsel, any magistrate, any local community-based probation services agency or pretrial services  
 1067 agency, the Department of State Police, any police department, any sheriff's office, any campus police  
 1068 department, the Department of Corrections, any court, and the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission for  
 1069 the purposes set forth in subsection H of § 19.2-392.5; and (xxviii) to the person arrested, charged, or  
 1070 convicted of the offense that was sealed.

1071 *C1. In addition to the purposes set forth in subsection C, a sealed record may be disseminated without a*  
 1072 *court order within or between any department, division, board, bureau, commission, branch, authority or*  
 1073 *other agency created by the Commonwealth, or to which the Commission is a party or any political*  
 1074 *subdivision thereof, or with any federal agency, for the purpose of administering any duties or functions*  
 1075 *required by state or federal law. Nothing in this subsection shall authorize a business screening service to*  
 1076 *allow dissemination of a sealed record due to its continued existence in any such record.*

1077 D. Upon request from any person to access a paper or a digital image of a court record, the clerk of *the*  
 1078 court shall determine whether such record is open to public access and inspection. If the clerk of *the* court  
 1079 determines that the court record has been sealed, such record shall not be provided to the requestor without an  
 1080 order from the court that entered the order to seal the court record *or from the court in which the final*  
 1081 *disposition was entered if the offense was sealed without the entry of a court order.* Any order from a court  
 1082 that allows access to a paper or a digital image of a court record that has been sealed shall only be issued for  
 1083 one or more of the purposes set forth in subsection C. Such order to access a paper or a digital image of a  
 1084 court record that has been sealed shall allow the requestor to photocopy such court record. No fee shall be  
 1085 charged to any person filing a motion to access a paper or a digital image of a court record that has been  
 1086 sealed if the person filing such motion is the same person who was arrested, charged, or convicted of the  
 1087 offense that was sealed.

1088 E. No access shall be provided to electronic records in an appellate court, circuit court, or district court  
 1089 case management system *or other system containing electronic case information* maintained by the Executive  
 1090 Secretary of the Supreme Court or in a case management system maintained by a clerk of the circuit court for  
 1091 any arrest, charge, or conviction that was ordered to be sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8,  
 1092 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, 19.2-392.12:1, *or upon the sealing of an offense without a court order pursuant*  
 1093 *to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17, except to (i) the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, the Virginia*  
 1094 *State Crime Commission, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission for research purposes; (ii)*  
 1095 *the Auditor of Public Accounts for audit purposes; (iii) any person authorized to engage in the collection of*  
 1096 *court costs, fines, or restitution under subsection C of § 19.2-349 for the purposes of collection of such court*  
 1097 *costs, fines, or restitution; and (iv) any person authorized to submit a request for payment to the Office of the*  
 1098 *Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court for services provided in a criminal case. Such electronic*  
 1099 *Electronic records may be disseminated to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, the Virginia State*  
 1100 *Crime Commission, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission as authorized in this subsection*  
 1101 *without a court order.*

1102 F. If a pleading or case document in a court record that was sealed is included among other court records  
 1103 that have not been ordered to be sealed, the clerk of *the* court shall not be required to prohibit dissemination  
 1104 of that record. ~~The Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and any~~ *If an appellate court record contains court*  
 1105 *records that have been sealed, with or without a court order, and court records that have not been sealed, the*  
 1106 *clerk of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal shall not be required to prohibit dissemination of such*  
 1107 *appellate record. Any circuit court shall not be required to prohibit dissemination of any published or*  
 1108 *unpublished opinion relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction that was ordered to be sealed. The Supreme*  
 1109 *Court and Court of Appeals shall not be required to prohibit dissemination of any (i) published or*  
 1110 *unpublished opinion, order, or summary of a case; (ii) court records for matters in which the Supreme Court*  
 1111 *or Court of Appeals has original jurisdiction; or (iii) appellate court record of a traffic infraction under Title*  
 1112 *46.2 that is not punishable as a criminal offense relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction that was sealed.*  
 1113 *A clerk of the court shall not be required to redact information pertaining to a court record that has been*

1114 sealed in any reports or electronic transmissions of case information that are required by statute or prepared  
 1115 and distributed to a state or local government entity in the normal course of business. Nothing in this  
 1116 subsection shall authorize a business screening service to allow dissemination of a sealed record due to its  
 1117 continued existence in any appellate record.

1118 G. The clerk of any circuit court shall not be required to redact any sealed record contained in (i) an  
 1119 order book or order book index; (ii) a land record, as defined in subsection B of § 17.1-292; or (iii) on  
 1120 microfilm or microfiche. The clerk of any circuit court shall not be required to redact or seal any paper  
 1121 record for an offense that has been sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17. The clerk of any circuit  
 1122 court who physically removes the paper record of the primary case file for any other charge or conviction  
 1123 that has been sealed and maintains that file in a physically secure location that is not accessible to the public  
 1124 shall be in compliance with the requirement to seal the paper record. For the purposes of this subsection, the  
 1125 primary case file includes the indictment or warrant and any other papers relating to any proceedings on  
 1126 such indictment or warrant. Nothing in this subsection shall authorize a business screening service to allow  
 1127 dissemination of a sealed record due to its continued existence in any such record.

1128 H. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall not seal any conviction or any charge that was deferred and  
 1129 dismissed after a finding of facts sufficient to justify a finding of guilt (i) in violation of federal regulatory  
 1130 record retention requirements or (ii) in violation of federal program requirements if the Department of Motor  
 1131 Vehicles is required to suspend a person's driving privileges as a result of a conviction or deferral and  
 1132 dismissal ordered to be sealed. Upon receipt of an *electronic notification* of an order directing that an offense  
 1133 be sealed, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall seal all records if the federal regulatory record retention  
 1134 period has run and all federal program requirements associated with a suspension have been satisfied.  
 1135 However, if the Department of Motor Vehicles cannot seal an offense pursuant to this subsection at the time  
 1136 it is ordered, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall (a) notify the Department of State Police of the reason  
 1137 the record cannot be sealed and cite the authority prohibiting sealing at the time it is ordered; (b) notify the  
 1138 Department of State Police of the date, if known at the time when the sealing is ordered, on which such  
 1139 record can be sealed; (c) seal such record on that date; and (d) notify the Department of State Police when  
 1140 such record has been sealed within the Department of Motor Vehicles' records.

1141 I. The Library of Virginia shall not be required to seal any court records in its possession, provided that  
 1142 such records are not accessible or disseminated to the public.

1143 ~~H.~~ J. No arrest, charge, or conviction that has been sealed may be used to impeach the credibility of a  
 1144 testifying witness at any hearing or trial unless (i) its probative value, supported by specific facts and  
 1145 circumstances, substantially outweighs its prejudicial effect and (ii) the proponent gives an adverse party  
 1146 reasonable written notice of the intent to use it so that the party has a fair opportunity to contest its use.

1147 ~~I.~~ K. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the disclosure of sealed criminal history record  
 1148 information or any information from such records among law-enforcement officers and attorneys when such  
 1149 disclosures are made by such officers or attorneys while engaged in the performance of their duties for  
 1150 purposes solely relating to the disclosure or use of exculpatory, mitigating, and impeachment evidence or  
 1151 between attorneys for the Commonwealth when related to the prosecution of a separate crime.

1152 **§ 19.2-392.14. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Disclosure of**  
 1153 **sealed records; penalty.**

1154 A. It is unlawful for any ~~person~~ employee of any department, division, board, bureau, commission,  
 1155 branch, authority, or other agency created by the Commonwealth, or to which the Commonwealth is a party  
 1156 or any political subdivision thereof, having or acquiring access to sealed criminal history record information  
 1157 or a court record, including any records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction, that was ordered to be  
 1158 sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.10, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, or 19.2-392.12:1, or  
 1159 that was sealed without entry of a court order pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1 or 19.2-392.17, to disclose such  
 1160 record or any information from such record to another person, except in accordance with the purposes set  
 1161 forth in § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the  
 1162 procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.

1163 B. A clerk of the court shall not be in violation of this section if such clerk informs a person requesting  
 1164 access to a sealed court record that such court record has been sealed and can only be accessed pursuant to a  
 1165 court order.

1166 C. Any person who ~~willfully~~ knowingly and intentionally violates this section is guilty of a Class 1  
 1167 misdemeanor. ~~Any person who maliciously and intentionally violates this section is guilty of a Class 6~~  
 1168 ~~felony.~~

1169 **§ 19.2-392.16. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542)**  
 1170 **Dissemination of criminal history records and traffic history records by business screening services.**

1171 A. For the purposes of this section:

1172 "Business screening service" means a person engaged in the business of collecting, assembling,  
 1173 evaluating, or disseminating Virginia criminal history records or traffic history records on individuals.

1174 "Business screening service" does not include any government entity or the news media.

1175 "Criminal history record" means any information collected by a business screening service on individuals

1176 containing any personal identifying information, photograph, or other identifiable descriptions pertaining to  
 1177 an individual and any information regarding arrests, detentions, indictments, or other formal criminal charges,  
 1178 and any disposition arising therefrom, including acquittal, sentencing, correctional supervision, or release.

1179 "Delete" means that a criminal history record *or a traffic history record* shall not be disseminated in any  
 1180 manner, except to any entity authorized to receive and use such information pursuant to § 19.2-392.13 and  
 1181 pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the procedures adopted pursuant to §  
 1182 9.1-134, but may be retained in order to resolve any disputes relating to this section, the accuracy of the  
 1183 record consistent with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq., or the  
 1184 Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq.

1185 "*Sealed possession of marijuana record*" means any criminal or civil offense that concluded with any final  
 1186 disposition as a charge or conviction of former § 18.2-250.1 which has been sealed without the entry of a  
 1187 court order pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1.

1188 "Sealed record" means a Virginia criminal history record or a traffic history record that has been sealed  
 1189 pursuant to § 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.10, 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, 19.2-392.12:1, or  
 1190 19.2-392.17.

1191 "Traffic history record" means any information collected by a business screening service on individuals  
 1192 containing any personal identifying information, photograph, or other identifiable descriptions pertaining to  
 1193 an individual and any information regarding arrests, detentions, indictments, or other formal traffic infraction  
 1194 charges, and any disposition arising therefrom.

1195 B. If a business screening service knows that a criminal history record or a traffic history record ~~has been~~  
 1196 *is a sealed record or a sealed possession of marijuana record, regardless of the source of the record*, the  
 1197 business screening service shall promptly delete the record.

1198 C. A business screening service shall register with the Department of State Police to electronically receive  
 1199 ~~copies~~ *notifications* of orders of sealing provided to the Department of State Police pursuant to §§ 19.2-392.7,  
 1200 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.10, 19.2-392.11, ~~and~~ 19.2-392.12, *and 19.2-392.12:1*. The Department of State Police  
 1201 may charge an annual licensing fee to the business screening service for accessing such information, with a  
 1202 ~~portion of~~ such fee to be used to cover the cost of providing such records ~~and the remainder of such fee to be~~  
 1203 ~~deposited into the Sealing Fee Fund pursuant to § 47-1-205.4~~. The contract between the Department of State  
 1204 Police and the business screening service shall prohibit dissemination *of the electronic notifications* of the  
 1205 orders of sealing and shall require compliance by the business screening service with the provisions of  
 1206 subsections D, E, and F. The *electronic notifications of the orders of sealing* received by the business  
 1207 screening service *and all information contained therein* shall remain confidential and shall not be  
 1208 disseminated or resold. The *electronic notifications of the orders of sealing* shall be used for the sole purpose  
 1209 of deleting criminal history records that have been sealed. The business screening service shall ~~destroy~~ *delete*  
 1210 ~~the copies~~ *electronic notifications* of the orders of sealing after deleting the information contained in such  
 1211 orders from sealed records. The Department of State Police shall require that the business screening service  
 1212 seeking access to the information identify themselves, certify the purposes for which the information is  
 1213 sought, and certify that the information will be used for no other purpose. The Department of State Police  
 1214 shall further require that a business screening service acknowledge receipt of all electronic ~~copies~~  
 1215 *notifications* of orders of sealing provided by the Department of State Police. The Department of State Police  
 1216 shall maintain *and publicly post a public list within* on its website identifying the business screening services  
 1217 that are licensed to receive such records.

1218 D. A business screening service that disseminates a criminal history record or a traffic history record on or  
 1219 after the effective date of this section shall include the date when the record was collected by the business  
 1220 screening service and a notice that the information may include records that have been sealed since that date.

1221 E. A business screening service shall implement and follow reasonable procedures to assure that it does  
 1222 not maintain or sell criminal history records or traffic history records that are inaccurate or incomplete. If the  
 1223 completeness or accuracy of a criminal history record or traffic history record maintained by a business  
 1224 screening service is disputed by the individual who is the subject of the record, the business screening service  
 1225 shall, without charge, investigate the disputed record. If, upon investigation, the business screening service  
 1226 determines that the record does not accurately reflect the content of the official record, the business screening  
 1227 service shall correct the disputed record so as to accurately reflect the content of the official record. If the  
 1228 disputed record is found to have been sealed pursuant to § 19.2-392.6:1, 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.10,  
 1229 19.2-392.11, ~~or~~ 19.2-392.12, 19.2-392.12:1, or 19.2-392.17, the business screening service shall promptly  
 1230 delete the record. A business screening service may terminate an investigation of a disputed record if the  
 1231 business screening service reasonably determines that the dispute is frivolous, which may be based on the  
 1232 failure of the subject of the record to provide sufficient information to investigate the disputed record. Upon  
 1233 making a determination that the dispute is frivolous, the business screening service shall inform the subject of  
 1234 the record of the specific reasons why it has determined that the dispute is frivolous and shall provide a  
 1235 description of any information required to investigate the disputed record. The business screening service  
 1236 shall notify the subject of the disputed record of the correction or deletion of the record or of the termination  
 1237 or completion of the investigation related to the record within 30 days of the date when the business

1238 screening service receives notice of the dispute from the subject of the record.

1239 F. A business screening service shall implement procedures for individuals to submit a request to obtain  
1240 their own criminal history record and traffic history record information maintained by the business screening  
1241 service and any other information that may be sold to another entity by the business screening service  
1242 regarding the individual.

1243 G. A business screening service that violates this section is liable to the person who is the subject of the  
1244 criminal history record or traffic history record for a penalty of \$1,000 or actual damages caused by the  
1245 violation, whichever is greater, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. Within 10 days of service of any suit  
1246 by an individual, the business screening service may make a cure offer in writing to the individual claiming to  
1247 have suffered a loss as a result of a violation of this section. Such offer shall be in writing and include one or  
1248 more things of value, including the payment of money. A cure offer shall be reasonably calculated to remedy  
1249 a loss claimed by the individual, as well as any attorney fees or other fees, expenses, or other costs of any  
1250 kind that such individual may incur in relation to such loss. No cure offer shall be admissible in any  
1251 proceeding initiated under this section, unless the cure offer is delivered by the business screening service to  
1252 the individual claiming loss or to any attorney representing such individual prior to the filing of the business  
1253 screening service's initial responsive pleading in such proceeding. The business screening service shall not be  
1254 liable for such individual's attorney fees and court costs incurred following delivery of the cure offer unless  
1255 the actual damages found to have been sustained and awarded, without consideration of attorney fees and  
1256 court costs, exceed the value of the cure offer.

1257 H. The Attorney General may file a civil action to enforce this section. If the court finds that a business  
1258 screening service has willfully engaged in an act or practice in violation of this section, the Attorney General  
1259 may recover for the Literary Fund, upon petition to the court, a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500 per  
1260 violation. For the purposes of this section, prima facie evidence of a willful violation may be shown when the  
1261 Attorney General notifies the alleged violator by certified mail that an act or practice is a violation of this  
1262 section and the alleged violator, after receipt of said notice, continues to engage in the act or practice. In any  
1263 civil action pursuant to this subsection, in addition to any civil penalty awarded, the Attorney General may  
1264 also recover any costs and reasonable expenses incurred by the state in investigating and preparing the case,  
1265 not to exceed \$1,000 per violation, and attorney fees. Such additional costs and expenses shall be paid into  
1266 the general fund of the Commonwealth.

1267 I. A business screening service that disseminates criminal history records or traffic history records in the  
1268 Commonwealth is deemed to have consented to service of process in the Commonwealth and to the  
1269 jurisdiction of courts of the Commonwealth for actions involving a violation of this section or for the  
1270 recovery of remedies under this section.

1271 J. A business screening service that is a consumer reporting agency and that is in compliance with the  
1272 applicable provisions of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq., or the Gramm-  
1273 Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq., is considered to be in compliance with the comparable provisions  
1274 of this section. A business screening service is subject to the state remedies under this section if its actions  
1275 would violate this section and federal law.

1276 K. Any business screening service or person who engages in the conduct of a business screening service,  
1277 as set forth in this section, that fails to register with the Department of State Police as required by  
1278 subsection C and that disseminates criminal history records or traffic history records in the Commonwealth  
1279 may be subject to (i) suit by any person injured by such dissemination and (ii) enforcement actions by the  
1280 Attorney General as set forth in subsection H.

1281 *L. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the prosecution of any person who willfully violates the provisions*  
1282 *of § 19.2-392.14.*

1283 **§ 19.2-392.17. (For contingent effective date, see Acts 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. 524 and 542) Traffic**  
1284 **infractions deemed sealed.**

1285 A. ~~Any~~ Except as provided in subsection F of § 19.2-392.13, any record of a traffic infraction under Title  
1286 46.2 with an offense date on or after January 1, 1986, that is not punishable as a criminal offense shall be  
1287 deemed to be sealed after 11 years from the date of final disposition of the offense, unless such sealing is  
1288 prohibited under federal or state law. *The Central Criminal Records Exchange, any court, any police*  
1289 *department, sheriff's office, or campus police department, and the Department of Motor Vehicles shall*  
1290 *identify and seal the records of any such infraction in its possession.* No record of any such traffic infraction  
1291 shall be disseminated, unless such dissemination is authorized pursuant to § 19.2-392.13 and pursuant to the  
1292 rules and regulations adopted pursuant to § 9.1-128 and the procedures adopted pursuant to § 9.1-134.

1293 B. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall not seal any traffic infraction under Title 46.2 (i) in violation  
1294 of federal regulatory record retention requirements or (ii) in violation of federal program requirements if the  
1295 Department of Motor Vehicles is required to suspend a person's driving privileges as a result of the traffic  
1296 infraction that was ~~ordered to be deemed sealed pursuant to subsection A.~~ Upon receipt of an order directing  
1297 ~~that a traffic infraction be sealed,~~ the Department of Motor Vehicles shall seal all records *deemed to be*  
1298 *sealed pursuant to subsection A* if the federal regulatory record retention period has run and all federal  
1299 program requirements associated with a suspension have been satisfied. ~~However, if the Department of Motor~~

1300 Vehicles cannot seal a traffic infraction pursuant to this subsection at the time it is ordered, the Department of  
1301 Motor Vehicles shall (a) notify the Department of State Police of the reason the record cannot be sealed and  
1302 cite the authority prohibiting sealing at the time it is ordered; (b) notify the Department of State Police of the  
1303 date, if known at the time when the sealing is ordered, on which such record can be sealed; (c) seal such  
1304 record on that date; and (d) notify the Department of State Police when such record has been sealed within  
1305 the Department of Motor Vehicles' records.

1306 C. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall not seal a record of a traffic infraction if a customer is subject  
1307 to an administrative suspension order issued pursuant to Driver Improvement Program requirements under §  
1308 46.2-498, 46.2-499, or 46.2-506, issued in part or in whole, as a result of an accumulation of traffic  
1309 infractions, and less than two years has passed since the date that the suspension order was complied with.

1310 **2. That the Department of State Police shall develop a secure portal for the purpose of allowing**  
1311 **government agencies to determine whether a record has been sealed prior to responding to a request**  
1312 **under § 2.2-3706 or 2.2-3706.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, by October 1, 2026.**

1313 **3. That the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission shall (i) educate and provide support to public**  
1314 **defenders and certified court-appointed counsel on expungement and sealing, (ii) conduct trainings on**  
1315 **expungement and sealing across the Commonwealth, (iii) develop a library of resources on**  
1316 **expungement and sealing for use by public defenders and certified court-appointed counsel, and (iv)**  
1317 **post information regarding expungement and sealing for use by the public on its website.**

1318 **4. That § 17.1-205.1 of the Code of Virginia is repealed, and that any money in the Sealing Fee Fund**  
1319 **created in such section shall revert to the general fund.**

1320 **5. That the provisions of §§ 2.2-3706 and 2.2-3706.1 and §§ 9.1-101, 9.1-128, 17.1-293.1, 17.1-502,**  
1321 **19.2-310.7, 19.2-392.2, 19.2-392.5 through 19.2-392.8, 19.2-392.11 through 19.2-392.14, 19.2-392.16, and**  
1322 **19.2-392.17, as they shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, as amended by the first enactment**  
1323 **of this act, and §§ 19.2-392.6:1 and 19.2-392.12:1 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall**  
1324 **become effective July 1, 2026.**

1325 **6. That the fourth enactment of Chapter 524 and the fourth enactment of Chapter 542 of the Acts of**  
1326 **Assembly of 2021, Special Session I, are amended and reenacted as follows:**

1327 **4. That the provisions of §§ 9.1-101, 9.1-128, 9.1-134, 17.1-293.1, 17.1-502, and 19.2-310.7, and**  
1328 **19.2-389.3 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, and Chapter 23.2 (§ 19.2-392.5 et seq.) of**  
1329 **Title 19.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall become effective on the earlier of (i) the**  
1330 **first day of the fourth month following notification of the Chair of the Virginia Code Commission and**  
1331 **the Chairs of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee for Courts of Justice by the**  
1332 **Superintendent of State Police, the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the**  
1333 **Department of State Police, and any circuit court clerk who maintains a case management system that**  
1334 **interfaces with the Department of State Police under subsection B1 of § 17.1-502 of the Code of**  
1335 **Virginia, as amended by this act, have automated systems to exchange information as required by §§**  
1336 **19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.10, 19.2-392.11, and 19.2-392.12 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, or**  
1337 **(ii) July 1, 2025 2026.**

1338 **7. That the third enactment of Chapter 554 and the third enactment of Chapter 555 of the Acts of**  
1339 **Assembly of 2023 are amended and reenacted as follows:**

1340 **3. That § 19.2-389.3 of the Code of Virginia is repealed effective July 1, 2025 2026.**

1341 **8. That the fifth enactment of Chapter 524 and the fifth enactment of Chapter 542 of the Acts of**  
1342 **Assembly of 2021, Special Session I, are amended and reenacted as follows:**

1343 **5. That the Department of State Police shall first transmit the list required under subsection B of §**  
1344 **19.2-392.7 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, not later than the earlier of (i) the first day of**  
1345 **the third month following the effective date of this act as provided in clause (i) of the fourth enactment**  
1346 **of this act or (ii) October 1, 2025 2026.**

1347 **9. That the sixth enactment of Chapter 524 and the sixth enactment of Chapter 542 of the Acts of**  
1348 **Assembly of 2021, Special Session I, are amended and reenacted as follows:**

1349 **6. That the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Department of State Police,**  
1350 **and any circuit court clerk who maintains a case management system that interfaces with the**  
1351 **Department of State Police under subsection B1 of § 17.1-502 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by**  
1352 **this act, shall automate systems to exchange information as required by §§ 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.10,**  
1353 **19.2-392.11, and 19.2-392.12 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, not later than July 1, 2025**  
1354 **2026.**

1355 **10. That the seventh enactment of Chapter 524 and the seventh enactment of Chapter 542 of the Acts**  
1356 **of Assembly of 2021, Special Session I, are amended and reenacted as follows:**

1357 **7. That the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia shall develop a form for**  
1358 **requesting and authorizing access to a sealed court record as set forth in section D of § 19.2-392.13 of**  
1359 **the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, not later than July 1, 2025 2026.**

1360 **11. That the third enactment of Chapter 554 and the third enactment of Chapter 555 of the Acts of**  
1361 **Assembly of 2023 are amended and reenacted as follows:**

1362 3. That § 19.2-389.3 of the Code of Virginia is repealed effective on the earlier of (i) the date on  
1363 which the processes to seal criminal history record information and court records pursuant to  
1364 Chapters 524 and 542 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021, Special Session I, become effective or (ii) July 1,  
1365 2025 2026.

1366 12. That the fourth enactment of Chapter 554 and the fourth enactment of Chapter 555 of the Acts of  
1367 Assembly of 2023 are amended and reenacted as follows:

1368 4. That the provisions of § 19.2-392.3 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall become  
1369 effective on July 1, 2025 and that the provisions of §§ 9.1-128, 19.2-392.2, ~~19.2-392.3~~, 19.2-392.6,  
1370 19.2-392.7, 19.2-392.10, 19.2-392.11, 19.2-392.12, and 19.2-392.13 of the Code of Virginia, as amended  
1371 by this act, shall become effective on the earlier of (i) the date on which the processes to seal criminal  
1372 history record information and court records pursuant to Chapters 524 and 542 of the Acts of  
1373 Assembly of 2021, Special Session I, become effective or (ii) July 1, 2025 2026.

1374 13. That the fifth enactment of Chapter 554 and the fifth enactment of Chapter 555 of the Acts of  
1375 Assembly of 2023 are amended and reenacted as follows:

1376 5. That the Department of State Police shall first transmit the lists required under subsection B of §  
1377 19.2-392.7 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, not later than the earlier of (i) the first day  
1378 of the third month following the date on which the processes to seal criminal history record  
1379 information and court records pursuant to Chapters 524 and 542 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021,  
1380 Special Session I, become effective or (ii) October 1, 2025 2026.

1381 14. That the Department of State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of the Executive  
1382 Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and clerk of any circuit court shall provide data and  
1383 information on sealing upon request of the Virginia State Crime Commission for purposes of  
1384 monitoring and evaluating the implementation and impact of the sealing processes.

1385 15. That the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia shall collect data  
1386 related to petitions filed pursuant to § 19.2-392.12 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, and  
1387 § 19.2-392.12:1 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, by July 1, 2026. Such data shall include  
1388 the number of sealing petitions filed; whether such petitions were filed pursuant to § 19.2-392.12 or  
1389 19.2-392.12:1 of the Code of Virginia; the number of petitions in which a hearing was held; the number  
1390 of charges ordered sealed or denied to be sealed; the number of petitioners represented by counsel; the  
1391 date of birth, sex, and race of petitioners; and, to the extent available, data relating to the specifically  
1392 identified charges, convictions, and ancillary matters for which sealing was granted or denied. The  
1393 Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia shall report such data to the  
1394 Virginia State Crime Commission by October 1 of each year, beginning October 1, 2027.

1395 16. That the Virginia State Crime Commission, in consultation with the Senate Committee on Finance  
1396 and Appropriations, House Committee on Appropriations, Department of State Police, Department of  
1397 Motor Vehicles, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Compensation  
1398 Board, Virginia Court Clerks Association, and Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys,  
1399 shall analyze data and information collected on automatic and petition sealing to identify the  
1400 workloads required to perform such sealing, including the sufficiency of staffing and resources of state  
1401 agencies, branches, and constitutional officers, and shall report its findings by the first day of the 2026  
1402 Regular Session of the General Assembly and for the following three years thereafter. The Virginia  
1403 State Crime Commission shall share this data with the Senate Committee on Finance and  
1404 Appropriations, House Committee on Appropriations, Department of State Police, Department of  
1405 Motor Vehicles, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Compensation  
1406 Board, Virginia Court Clerks Association, and Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys as  
1407 necessary for the purpose of determining staffing and workload needs.

1408 17. That the Virginia State Crime Commission shall continue its study on the sealing of criminal  
1409 records and shall (i) identify methods to educate the public on sealing eligibility requirements and  
1410 processes; (ii) consult with the Virginia State Bar and other stakeholders to identify methods to provide  
1411 information, resources, and pro bono legal consultations and assistance with sealing to the public; (iii)  
1412 to the extent possible, conduct trainings on sealing for stakeholders upon request; (iv) review any other  
1413 relevant matters that arise during the course of the study; and, (v) report on its work on the study by  
1414 the first day of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly.