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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 185**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 A BILL to amend and reenact § 8.01-626 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by
5 adding a section numbered 8.01-670.3, relating to orders closing a proceeding or sealing a record;
6 petitions for review.

7 Patron—Mehta

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That § 8.01-626 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is
11 amended by adding a section numbered 8.01-670.3 as follows:**12 **§ 8.01-626. Review of injunction and certain orders; petitions for review.**13 When a circuit court (i) grants a preliminary injunction, (ii) refuses such an injunction, (iii) having granted
14 such an injunction, dissolves or refuses to enlarge it, or (iv) enters an order reviewable pursuant to
15 § 8.01-670.2 or 8.01-670.3, an aggrieved party may file a petition for review with the clerk of the Supreme
16 Court within 15 days of the circuit court's order.17 The clerk shall assign the petition to a three-justice panel of the Supreme Court. The aggrieved party shall
18 serve a copy of the petition for review on the counsel for the opposing party, which may file a response
19 within 15 days from the date of service unless otherwise determined by the court. The petition for review
20 shall be accompanied by a copy of the proceedings before the circuit court, including the original papers and
21 the circuit court's order respecting the injunction. The Supreme Court may take such action thereon as it
22 considers appropriate under the circumstances of the case.23 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the Supreme Court from resolving a petition for
24 review by an order joined by more than three justices.25 **§ 8.01-670.3. Review of order closing a proceeding or sealing a record.**26 When a circuit court (i) grants or denies a motion to close any proceeding or seal any record not
27 otherwise authorized to be closed or sealed, (ii) issues sua sponte an order closing any proceeding or sealing
28 any record not otherwise authorized to be closed or sealed, or (iii) affirms or reverses an order of any
29 general district court or juvenile and domestic relations district court closing any proceeding or sealing any
30 record not otherwise authorized to be closed or sealed, any such order is eligible for immediate appellate
31 review. Any person aggrieved by any such order may, within 15 days of the entry of such an order, file a
32 petition for review with the Supreme Court in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 8.01-626.