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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 459**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 12, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-11.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to crime victim's right to*
5 *nondisclosure of certain information; hate crimes.*

6 Patron—Cohen

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 19.2-11.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 19.2-11.2. Crime victim's right to nondisclosure of certain information; exceptions; testimonial
privilege.**11 Upon request of any witness in a criminal prosecution under § 18.2-46.2, 18.2-46.3, or 18.2-248 or of any
12 violent felony as defined by subsection C of § 17.1-805, or any crime victim, neither a law-enforcement
13 agency, the attorney for the Commonwealth, the counsel for a defendant, a court nor the Department of
14 Corrections, nor any employee of any of them, may disclose, except among themselves, the residential
15 address, any telephone number, email address, or place of employment of the witness or victim or a member
16 of the witness' or victim's family, except to the extent that disclosure is (i) of the site of the crime, (ii)
17 required by law or Rules of the Supreme Court, (iii) necessary for law-enforcement purposes or preparation
18 for court proceedings, or (iv) permitted by the court for good cause.19 Except with the written consent of the victim of *any hate crime as defined in § 52-8.5 or any crime*
20 involving any sexual assault, sexual abuse, or family abuse or the victim's next of kin if the victim is a minor
21 and the victim's death results from any crime, a law-enforcement agency may not disclose to the public
22 information that directly or indirectly identifies the victim of such crime except to the extent that disclosure is
23 (a) of the site of the crime, (b) required by law, (c) necessary for law-enforcement purposes, or (d) permitted
24 by the court for good cause. In addition, at the request of the victim to the Court of Appeals of Virginia or the
25 Supreme Court of Virginia hearing, on or after July 1, 2007, *in the case of a crime involving any sexual*
26 *assault or sexual abuse or on or after July 1, 2026, in the case of a hate crime*, no appellate decision shall
27 contain the first or last name of the victim.28 Nothing herein shall limit the right to examine witnesses in a court of law or otherwise affect the conduct
29 of any criminal proceeding.

INTRODUCED

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