

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-279.6:1, relating to private*  
3 *elementary and secondary schools; student codes of conduct; policies relating to bullying and*  
4 *cyberbullying prevention and parental notification; requirements.*

5 [H 894]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-279.6:1 as follows:**9 **§ 22.1-279.6:1. *Private elementary and secondary schools; codes of student conduct; bullying***  
10 ***prevention and intervention; requirements.***11 *A. Each principal, headmaster, or other chief administrator of each private elementary or secondary*  
12 *school in the Commonwealth shall include in such school's policies for codes of student conduct procedures*  
13 *for addressing and handling instances of bullying and cyberbullying. Such policies and procedures shall (i)*  
14 *be consistent with applicable state, federal, and case laws; (ii) include policies and procedures relating to*  
15 *ensuring school personnel are trained in or informed of the appropriate management of student conduct and*  
16 *student offenses that violate school policies; and (iii) include policies designed to reduce bias and*  
17 *harassment in the enforcement of any code of student conduct. Such policies may be developed in accordance*  
18 *with the guidelines and model policies established by the Board pursuant to subsection A of § 22.1-279.6.*19 *B. Each principal, headmaster, or other chief administrator of each private elementary or secondary*  
20 *school in the Commonwealth shall include in such school's code of student conduct policies and procedures*  
21 *that include a prohibition against bullying. Such policies and procedures shall, at a minimum, (i) require*  
22 *notification to the parent of any student involved in a confirmed incident of bullying within 24 hours of*  
23 *confirming the incident of bullying; (ii) include prohibitions against and procedures for addressing instances*  
24 *of cyberbullying that occur between students enrolled in such school; (iii) provide protections designed to*  
25 *ensure that any student who is a victim of or a witness to bullying or cyberbullying is not deterred from*  
26 *reporting or seeking support by fear of retaliation; and (iv) include prohibitions against hazing, as that term*  
27 *is defined in § 18.2-56. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude a private elementary or*  
28 *secondary school in the Commonwealth from adopting policies and procedures that are more comprehensive*  
29 *than the policies and procedures required pursuant to this section.*