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Subject: Legislation that passed in 2023 General Assembly

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: May 11, 2023

TO: Licensed Child-Placing Agencies

FROM: Tara Ragland
Director, Division of Licensing Programs

SUBJECT: 2023 Legislative Information

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the legislation that passed in the 2023 General Assembly session that affects licensed child-placing agencies.

[Senate Bill 1508](#)

This bill amends and reenacts § 63.2-1707 of the Code of Virginia, to increase the maximum time an applicant may operate an assisted living facility, adult day care center, or child welfare agency under a provisional license from six months to twelve successive months. Out of over 800 licensed facilities, only five facilities currently have a provisional license.

This is effective on July 1, 2023.

[House Bill 1744](#)

This bill amends and reenacts §§ 63.2-900, 63.2-904, 63.2-1231, and 63.2-1734 of the Code of Virginia, to provide home studies and all related approval documentations, other than background checks, conducted by any local department of social services or licensed child placing agency for the purpose of placing a child in a foster home, independent living arrangement, or with an adoptive family shall be transferable between all local departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies within the Commonwealth at the request of the prospective foster parent or adoptive parent, subject to any time limitations or other requirements imposed by law or regulation.

All home studies conducted by the local departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies are required to use the Mutual Family Assessment home study template and any addenda developed by the Department of Social Services.

[House Bill 1744 \(continued\)](#)

These provisions of House Bill 1744 are effective January 1, 2024.

The bill also requires regulations be amended to establish market rates for home studies conducted by local departments of social services and licensed child-placing agencies for the purpose of foster care, independent living arrangements, and adoptive placements.

These requirements are not effective until the *regulation Standards for Licensed Child-Placing Agencies* is revised to add the market rate requirements. Notice and an effective date for the revised regulations will be given when the regulation changes are approved.

Please contact your licensing inspector if you have any questions.