

From: **Williams, Edwina** <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov>  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM  
Subject: Legislation that passed in the 2021 General Assembly  
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From: **Williams, Edwina** <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov>  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 6:51 PM  
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# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**DATE:** June 15, 2021

**TO:** Licensed Child Placing Agencies

**FROM:** Tara Ragland,  
Director Division of Licensing Programs

**SUBJECT:** 2021 Legislative Information

This memo is to inform you of the legislation that passed in the 2021 Special Session I of the General Assembly that affects licensed child placing agencies in the Commonwealth. This legislation becomes effective July 1, 2021.

### [Senate Bill 1321](#)

SB 1321 provides that a person with a legitimate interest as defined in [§ 20-124.1](#), who is not the birth parent of a child, may file a joint petition with the birth or adoptive parent in the appropriate circuit court. The joint petition of the birth or adoptive parent and parents' spouse or other person with a legitimate interest shall unite in the petition indicating consent.

### [House Bill 1957](#)

HB 1957 removes the requirement of an investigation and report for an adult adoption, unless required by the circuit court. If an investigation is required by the circuit court, the court must forward a copy of the petition and exhibits to the local department director and provisions of [§ 63.2-1208](#) apply.

### [House Bill 1962](#)

HB 1962 requires a local board of social services or child-placing agency to include relatives and fictive kin in the development of the foster care plan and modified the requirement to involve children in the development of their foster care plan from children who are 14 years of age to children who are 12 years of age. Requirements from HB 1962 will be updated in 22VAC40-131, *Standards for Licensed Child-Placing Agencies*.

Please contact your licensing inspector if you have any questions.