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Date: Thu, Jun 23, 2022 at 7:42 AM  
Subject: Legislation that passed in the 2022 General Assembly  
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# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**DATE:** June 23, 2022

**TO:** Licensed Child-Placing Agencies

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

**SUBJECT:** 2022 Legislative Information

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of the legislation that passed in the 2022 General Assembly session that affects licensed child-placing agencies. This legislation becomes effective July 1, 2022.

### [Senate Bill 396](#)

For licensed child-placing agencies *who have custody of the child in foster care*, the juvenile and domestic relations district courts have the authority to review the child's status in foster care or review a foster care plan. This bill also requires the foster care plan to describe in writing an assessment of the stability of each placement, the services provided or plans for services to be provided to address placement instability or to prevent placement disruptions, and a description of other placements that were considered for the child.

### [Senate Bill 689](#)

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and stakeholders will develop recommendations for changes to the provisions governing criminal history background checks and barrier crimes for foster or adoptive parent applicants.

### [House Bill 869](#)

This bill allows the circuit court, upon consideration of a petition for adoption, to either enter an Interlocutory Order for a Report of Visitation or an Order of Reference for a Report of Investigation.

The timeline for completing the Report of Visitation is within 30 days after the completion of all required placement visits and the Report of Investigation is completed

within 60 days after the copy of the petition and all exhibits are forwarded. The circuit court, for good cause shown, is authorized to omit the requirement that supervisory visits be made over a six-month period, provided that not less than three visits were made.

Please contact your licensing inspector if you have any questions.