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SENATE BILL NO. 151

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled December 31, 2013

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 16.1-279.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to protective orders in cases of family abuse; allowable conditions.*

Patron—Stuart

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 16.1-279.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 16.1-279.1. Protective order in cases of family abuse.**

A. In cases of family abuse, including any case involving an incarcerated or recently incarcerated respondent against whom a preliminary protective order has been issued pursuant to § 16.1-253.1, the court may issue a protective order to protect the health and safety of the petitioner and family or household members of the petitioner. A protective order issued under this section may include any one or more of the following conditions to be imposed on the respondent:

1. Prohibiting acts of family abuse or criminal offenses that result in injury to person or property;
2. Prohibiting such contacts by the respondent with the petitioner or family or household members of the petitioner as the court deems necessary for the health or safety of such persons;

3. Granting the petitioner possession of the residence occupied by the parties to the exclusion of the respondent; however, no such grant of possession shall affect title to any real or personal property;

4. Enjoining the respondent from terminating any necessary utility service to the residence to which the petitioner was granted possession pursuant to subdivision 3 or, where appropriate, ordering the respondent to restore utility services to that residence, *or requiring respondent to maintain the utilities, mortgage payments, rent, insurance, and taxes on the residence as may be appropriate;*

5. Granting the petitioner temporary possession or use of a motor vehicle owned by the petitioner alone or jointly owned by the parties to the exclusion of the respondent *and enjoining the respondent from terminating any insurance, registration, or taxes on the motor vehicle and directing the respondent to maintain the insurance, registration, and taxes, as appropriate;* however, no such grant of possession or use shall affect title to the vehicle;

6. Requiring that the respondent provide suitable alternative housing for the petitioner and, if appropriate, any other family or household member and where appropriate, requiring the respondent to pay deposits to connect or restore necessary utility services in the alternative housing provided *and maintain utilities and rent as may be appropriate;*

7. Ordering the respondent to participate in treatment, counseling or other programs as the court deems appropriate; and

8. Any other relief necessary for the protection of the petitioner and family or household members of the petitioner, including a provision for temporary custody or visitation of a minor child.

A1. If a protective order is issued pursuant to subsection A, the court may also issue a temporary child support order for the support of any children of the petitioner whom the respondent has a legal obligation to support. Such order shall terminate upon the determination of support pursuant to § 20-108.1.

A2. *If a protective order is issued pursuant to subsection A, the court may also issue a temporary spousal support order, which shall terminate upon the determination of support pursuant to § 20-107.1.*

B. The protective order may be issued for a specified period of time up to a maximum of two years. The protective order shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on the last day specified or at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the two-year period if no date is specified. Prior to the expiration of the protective order, a petitioner may file a written motion requesting a hearing to extend the order. Proceedings to extend a protective order shall be given precedence on the docket of the court. If the petitioner was a member of the respondent's family or household at the time the initial protective order was issued, the court may extend the protective order for a period not longer than two years to protect the health and safety of the petitioner or persons who are family or household members of the petitioner at the time the request for an extension is made. The extension of the protective order shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on the last day specified or at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the two-year period if no date is specified. Nothing herein shall limit the number of extensions that may be requested or issued.

C. A copy of the protective order shall be served on the respondent and provided to the petitioner as soon as possible. The court, including a circuit court if the circuit court issued the order, shall forthwith,

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59 but in all cases no later than the end of the business day on which the order was issued, enter and
60 transfer electronically to the Virginia Criminal Information Network the respondent's identifying
61 information and the name, date of birth, sex, and race of each protected person provided to the court
62 and shall forthwith forward the attested copy of the protective order containing any such identifying
63 information to the primary law-enforcement agency responsible for service and entry of protective
64 orders. Upon receipt of the order by the primary law-enforcement agency, the agency shall forthwith
65 verify and enter any modification as necessary to the identifying information and other appropriate
66 information required by the Department of State Police into the Virginia Criminal Information Network
67 established and maintained by the Department pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ 52-12 et seq.) of Title 52 and
68 the order shall be served forthwith upon the respondent and due return made to the court. Upon service,
69 the agency making service shall enter the date and time of service and other appropriate information
70 required by the Department of State Police into the Virginia Criminal Information Network and make
71 due return to the court. If the order is later dissolved or modified, a copy of the dissolution or
72 modification order shall also be attested, forwarded forthwith to the primary law-enforcement agency
73 responsible for service and entry of protective orders, and upon receipt of the order by the primary
74 law-enforcement agency, the agency shall forthwith verify and enter any modification as necessary to the
75 identifying information and other appropriate information required by the Department of State Police
76 into the Virginia Criminal Information Network as described above and the order shall be served
77 forthwith and due return made to the court.

78 D. Except as otherwise provided in § 16.1-253.2, a violation of a protective order issued under this
79 section shall constitute contempt of court.

80 E. The court may assess costs and attorneys' fees against either party regardless of whether an order
81 of protection has been issued as a result of a full hearing.

82 F. Any judgment, order or decree, whether permanent or temporary, issued by a court of appropriate
83 jurisdiction in another state, the United States or any of its territories, possessions or Commonwealths,
84 the District of Columbia or by any tribal court of appropriate jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing
85 violent or threatening acts or harassment against or contact or communication with or physical proximity
86 to another person, including any of the conditions specified in subsection A, shall be accorded full faith
87 and credit and enforced in the Commonwealth as if it were an order of the Commonwealth, provided
88 reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard were given by the issuing jurisdiction to the person
89 against whom the order is sought to be enforced sufficient to protect such person's due process rights
90 and consistent with federal law. A person entitled to protection under such a foreign order may file the
91 order in any juvenile and domestic relations district court by filing with the court an attested or
92 exemplified copy of the order. Upon such a filing, the clerk shall forthwith forward an attested copy of
93 the order to the primary law-enforcement agency responsible for service and entry of protective orders
94 which shall, upon receipt, enter the name of the person subject to the order and other appropriate
95 information required by the Department of State Police into the Virginia Criminal Information Network
96 established and maintained by the Department pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ 52-12 et seq.) of Title 52. Where
97 practical, the court may transfer information electronically to the Virginia Criminal Information Network.

98 Upon inquiry by any law-enforcement agency of the Commonwealth, the clerk shall make a copy
99 available of any foreign order filed with that court. A law-enforcement officer may, in the performance
100 of his duties, rely upon a copy of a foreign protective order or other suitable evidence which has been
101 provided to him by any source and may also rely upon the statement of any person protected by the
102 order that the order remains in effect.

103 G. Either party may at any time file a written motion with the court requesting a hearing to dissolve
104 or modify the order. Proceedings to dissolve or modify a protective order shall be given precedence on
105 the docket of the court.

106 H. As used in this section:

107 "Copy" includes a facsimile copy; and

108 "Protective order" includes an initial, modified or extended protective order.

109 I. Neither a law-enforcement agency, the attorney for the Commonwealth, a court nor the clerk's
110 office, nor any employee of them, may disclose, except among themselves, the residential address,
111 telephone number, or place of employment of the person protected by the order or that of the family of
112 such person, except to the extent that disclosure is (i) required by law or the Rules of the Supreme
113 Court, (ii) necessary for law-enforcement purposes, or (iii) permitted by the court for good cause.

114 J. No fee shall be charged for filing or serving any petition or order pursuant to this section.