

2019 Foster Care Bill Summary

BILL AND STATUS	WHAT IT DOES
SB 1339 (Reeves) Foster Care Omnibus <i>Status:</i> Passed into law	Incorporates many of the JLARC report recommendations. Tightens state oversight of local social services department's foster care activities. Creates a new state position to oversee foster care health and safety.
HB 2014 / SB 1678 and SB 1679 (Peace and Mason) Family First Prevention Services Act <i>Status:</i> Passed into law	Aligns the Code of Virginia with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. The new law increases the standards for congregate care settings.
HB 1730 / SB 1253 (Brewer and Reeves) Credit Freeze for Children in Foster Care <i>Status:</i> Passed into law	Requires local departments of social services to request the placement of a security freeze on the credit report or record of any child who has been in foster care for at least six months in order to prevent cases of identity theft.
HB 2108 (Bell) Dispute Resolution for Foster Parents <i>Status:</i> Passed into law	Establishes a dispute resolution process through which a foster parent may contest an alleged violation of regulations.
HB 1728 / SB 1139 (Reid and Favola) Post-Adoption Contact & Communication Agreements <i>Status:</i> Passed into law	Encourages post-adoption contact and communication with birth parents. A local board may inform birth parents and shall inform adoptive parents that they may enter into such an agreement.
HB 2758 / SB 1720 (Carroll-Foy and Mason) Kinship Foster Care; Notice to Relatives <i>Status:</i> Passed into law	Requires local departments to take all reasonable steps in a foster care placement to determine whether a child has any relatives who may be eligible to become a kinship foster parent, provide notice to those relatives, and explain to them the opportunities they may have to become a kin foster home.
HB 2350 (Miyares) Four-year College Tuition and Fees for Foster Care Youth <i>Status:</i> Passed into law	Allows foster youth who meet certain requirements to receive tuition grants to attend four-year colleges. Current law guarantees such grants only at two-year colleges.

BILL AND STATUS

WHAT IT DOES

HB 1883 (Keam)

Motor Vehicle Insurance Policies for Foster Parents and Children

Status: Passed into law

Prohibits an insurer from refusing to issue or failing to renew a motor vehicle insurance policy solely because of the status of the applicant or policyholder as a foster care provider or a person in foster care. This was a recommendation of the Commission on Youth.

HB 2542 (Byron)

Temporary Placement of Children

Status: Passed into law

Established the Safe Families foster care diversion model in Virginia. Allows a parent or legal custodian of a minor to delegate to another person by a properly executed power of attorney any powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor for a period not exceeding 180 days. This action must be done with the support of a licensed child-placing agency.

SB 1135 (Favola)

Foster Care Child With a Developmental Disability

Status: Passed into law

Directs local departments to notify the appropriate community services board (CSB) as soon as it is known that a child in foster care has a developmental disability so that the CSB may screen the child for placement on the statewide developmental disability waiver waiting list.

HB 2234 / SB 1581 (Robinson and Suetterlein) **Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) Parental Leave Benefits**

Status: Passed into law

Requires that parental leave be available following the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child under age 18 and be available to both parents of such child if both are state employees.

HB 2622 (Austin)

Removal of a child; Names and contact information of relatives

Status: Passed into law

In any proceeding in which a child is removed from his home, the court may order the parents or guardians of such child to provide the names and contact information for all persons with a legitimate interest to the local department of social services.

HB 2381 (Hurst)

Office of the Children's Ombudsman

Status: Left in Appropriations

Creates the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to provide ombudsman services, including investigation of complaints, advocacy, and information for children, parents, and citizens involved with child-serving agencies, including foster care.