

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Governor to designate a liaison to address seafood industry workforce needs.*

3 [S 358]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

6 **1. § 1.** *The Governor shall designate the Secretary of Labor or his designee to serve as a liaison to*
7 *address seafood industry workforce needs. The duties of the liaison shall include (i) promoting and*
8 *protecting the interests of employees and employers in the seafood industry; (ii) assisting employees and*
9 *employers in understanding the rights and processes available to them, including rights and processes*
10 *available pursuant to the laws and regulations governing temporary worker visas; (iii) answering*
11 *inquiries by telephone and electronic mail; (iv) upon request, providing an employee or employer with*
12 *referrals to public and private agencies offering assistance in using the procedures and processes*
13 *available to such employee or employer from the federal government, including all appeal procedures;*
14 *and (v) reporting annually on the activities of the liaison to the House Committees on Commerce and*
15 *Energy and Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committees on Commerce*
16 *and Labor and Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by December 1.*

17 *The liaison shall carry out his duties with impartiality, shall not serve as an advocate for any*
18 *person, and shall not provide legal advice. All state agencies shall assist and cooperate with the liaison*
19 *in the performance of his duties under this section.*

20 *The liaison shall maintain the confidentiality of any employment or business records he reviews. All*
21 *memoranda, work product, and other material contained in the case files of the liaison shall be*
22 *confidential. Any communication between the liaison and a person receiving assistance under this*
23 *section made during or in connection with the provision of liaison services, including screening, intake,*
24 *and scheduling, shall be confidential. Confidential materials and records of communications described in*
25 *this section shall not be subject to disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700*
26 *et seq. of the Code of Virginia).*

27 *The liaison shall be immune from civil liability in performance of the duties specified in this section.*

28 **2.** *That neither the Governor nor the Secretary of Labor shall hire an employee to satisfy the*
29 *conditions of this act but shall instead utilize a person employed in the current executive branch*
30 *workforce.*