

From: Bruce Ullman [ullman@jlab.org](mailto:ullman@jlab.org)  
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2017 9:08 AM  
Subject: FYI: Group Home Legislation

Dear homeowners,

A bill is being introduced by Senator Norment in the Virginia Assembly regarding the location and operation of group homes. In summary, the legislation provides that "any entity intending to locate a public or private detention home, group home, or other residential care facility in a locality shall give the chief administrative officer of that locality and the president of any home owner's association for the neighborhood in which such public or private detention home, group home, or other residential care facility is to be located at least 90 days written notice prior to the issuance of the license."

The bill also states that "no initial license to operate a public or private detention home, group home, or other residential care facility shall be granted if (i) the facility is to be located within one-half mile of a public or private licensed day care center or a public or private K-12 school and (ii) the residents of such facility may include persons who, on the basis of a prior record of criminal charges involving harm to persons or property or a finding of not guilty by reason of insanity for crimes involving harm to persons or property, may constitute a clear and present threat to the health or safety of other individuals, except when such service is provided by a hospital licensed by the Board of Health or the Commissioner or is owned or operated by an agency of the Commonwealth."

Other provisions of the bill relate to the validity of "restrictive covenants that prohibit owners from using, or renting a dwelling for another entity to use, their premises to house a person or persons who, on the basis of a prior record of criminal convictions involving harm to persons or property or a finding of not guilty by reason of insanity involving harm to persons or property, may constitute a clear and present threat to the health or safety of other individuals in the neighborhood."

The members of the Community Liaison Committee (on which our association is represented) and the Board of Directors believe this is an important first step in addressing this issue. As promised, we are providing this to you for informational purposes. You are welcome to contact Sen. Norment with your personal opinion at [senator@senatornorment.com](mailto:senator@senatornorment.com).

Bruce Ullman  
Secretary, Yorkshire of Williamsburg Homeowners Association