


The 1924 Virginia Eugenics Laws

100th anniversary of the Racial Integrity and Sterilization Acts

An exhibit from Special Collections & University Archives

VIRGINIA

HEALTH  BULLETIN

The seal of the Virginia Department of Health is circular, featuring a central figure of a person standing on a rocky outcrop, holding a staff with a cross. The text 'DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH' is written around the top inner edge, 'VIRGINIA' is at the bottom, and 'SEMPER TYRANNIS' is at the very bottom.

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Extra No. 2.

The New Virginia Law To Preserve Racial Integrity

W. A. PLECKER, M. D., *State Registrar of Vital Statistics, Richmond, Va.*

Senate Bill 219, To preserve racial integrity, passed the House March 8, 1924, and is now a law of the State.

This bill aims at correcting a condition which only the more thoughtful people of Virginia know the existence of.

It is estimated that there are in the State from 10,000 to 20,000, possibly more, near white people, who are known to possess an intermixture of colored blood, in some cases to a slight extent it is true, but still enough to prevent them from being white.

In the past it has been possible for these people to declare themselves as white, or even to have the Court so declare them. They have demanded the admittance of their children to the same schools as the white children.

RELATED EVENT

The Deceit of the Racial
Integrity Act Symposium

March 16, 2024 - Goodall Room

More information:

<https://bit.ly/3OLVH10>



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