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SUPPORT - STUDY IMPACT OF RECESSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

SUPPORT SJ 26 Study; effects of economic recession on public schools and families.

Chief Patron: Henry L. Marsh III

Summary as introduced:

Study; establishing a joint subcommittee to study the effects of the economic recession on public schools and families in Virginia. Establishes a joint subcommittee to study the effects of the economic recession on public schools and families in Virginia. In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall (i) evaluate the effects of the economic crisis on public schools in Virginia; (ii) determine the number of school-age children affected by recent home foreclosures with the decline of the housing industry, the unemployment of a parent, and homelessness, and, if possible, correlate these events in the lives of school children to academic performance; (iii) determine whether the economic crisis has contributed to an increase in family dysfunction, unemployment, crime, familial breakdown, divorce and separation, substance abuse, mental health problems, school and college dropout rates, and domestic violence; (iv) ascertain how and which educational programs and services have been reduced or eliminated by public schools as a result of funding reductions due to the economic crisis; (v) determine whether there has been an increase in the number of homeless students in Virginia public schools, and the fiscal and programmatic effect of such increase; (vi) determine ways to assist public schools, children, and their families in coping with the economic crisis so as to minimize adverse consequences to them and governmental agencies; and (vii) consider such other matters as the joint subcommittee deems pertinent to carrying out the objectives of the study. In the course of its deliberations, the joint subcommittee shall provide opportunities for the participation of professional and



community organizations, the corporate and faith communities, and other persons with expertise and interest in public and higher education, and the welfare of children and their families. The joint subcommittee must submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2010 and 2011 Sessions of the General Assembly.

Status:

01/07/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10103099D
01/07/10 Senate: Referred to Committee on Rules
01/18/10 Senate: Assigned Rules sub: Studies

SUPPORT - INCREASING RESOURCES FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE

SUPPORT SB 616 Department of Housing and Community Development; rental assistance pilot project.

Chief Patron: Mamie E. Locke

Summary as introduced:

Department of Housing and Community Development; rental assistance pilot project. Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a three-year rental assistance pilot project and to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Housing Commission.

Status:

01/15/10 Senate: Presented and ordered printed 10103945D
01/15/10 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology
01/27/10 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology (15-Y 0-N)
01/27/10 Senate: Rereferred to Finance

SUPPORT HB 451 Rental assistance pilot project; established, report.

Chief Patron: Charniele L. Herring

Summary as introduced:

Department of Housing and Community Development; rental assistance pilot project. Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a three-year rental assistance pilot project and to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Housing Commission.

Status:

01/12/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10101361D
01/12/10 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws
01/19/10 House: Assigned GL sub: #1 Housing

SUPPORT - PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

SUPPORT HB 718 Children; Governor and DSS to develop and implement plan to reduce number in foster care.

Chief Patron: Christopher K. Peace

Summary as introduced:

Foster care; plan to reduce. Requires the Governor and the General Assembly to develop and implement a plan to reduce the number of children in foster care by 25 percent within 10 years.

Status:



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01/12/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10100572D
01/12/10 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
01/20/10 House: Assigned HWI sub: #2
01/26/10 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendment(s) (7-Y 0-N)
01/28/10 House: Reported from Health, Welfare and Institutions with substitute (22-Y 0-N)
01/28/10 House: Committee substitute printed 10104546D-H1
01/29/10 House: Read first time
02/01/10 House: Read second time
02/01/10 House: Committee substitute agreed to 10104546D-H1
02/01/10 House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB718H1
02/02/10 House: Read third time and passed House (91-Y 6-N)
02/02/10 House: VOTE: --- PASSAGE (91-Y 6-N)

SUPPORT SB 415 Foster care and independent living services.

Chief Patron: Jill Holtzman Vogel

Summary as introduced:

Foster care and independent living services. Requires local departments and child-placing agencies to provide independent living services to any person between 18 and 21 years of age who requests such services and is in the process of transitioning from foster care to self-sufficiency. The bill also extends the time period during which a person between the ages of 18 and 21 may request restoration of independent living services if they previously terminated such services. Local departments are required to provide a person who chooses to leave foster care or terminate independent living services written notice of their right to restore independent living services.

Status:

01/13/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10100421D
01/13/10 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
01/14/10 Senate: Assigned Courts sub: Civil
02/01/10 Senate: Rereferred from Courts of Justice (14-Y 0-N)
02/01/10 Senate: Rereferred to Rehabilitation and Social Services

SUPPORT - REDUCING BARRIERS FOR EX-OFFENDERS

SUPPORT HB 1316 Residential community programs; DOC to give nonviolent prisoners opportunity to participate.

Chief Patron: Mamy E. BaCote

Summary as introduced:

Corrections; residential community programs. Directs the Department of Corrections, where appropriate and when resources are available, to give nonviolent prisoners who have not been convicted of specific offenses or sentenced to one or more life terms the opportunity to participate in a residential community program, work release, or a community-based program. Current law requires that the prisoner not be convicted of any violent crime and be sentenced to at least three years. The bill allows for up to 30 percent of the prisoner's gross earnings to be withheld to offset the cost of the prisoner's keep. The Secretary of Public Safety is required to prescribe guidelines for the program that emphasize training and education related to job skills, literacy, money management, and other life skills.



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Status:

01/22/10 House: Presented and ordered printed 10104223D
01/22/10 House: Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety
01/28/10 House: Assigned MPPS sub: #2

SUPPORT SB 70 Criminal conviction record; person convicted of certain offenses to petition for expungement.

Chief Patron: A. Donald McEachin

Summary as introduced:

Expungement of criminal conviction record. Allows a person convicted of certain criminal offenses to petition to have his conviction expunged after a five-year period has expired following the conviction, upon a showing that his opportunities for employment, education, or professional licensure are prejudiced by the existence of the criminal record. Expungement would not be available for someone convicted of a violent felony, a DUI-related offense, an offense for which registration on the sex offender registry is required, or domestic violence.

Status:

01/04/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10103277D
01/04/10 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
01/12/10 Senate: Assigned Courts sub: Criminal

SUPPORT HB 183 Expungement of criminal record; allows a person to have his conviction expunged after 10 years.

Chief Patron: Joseph D. Morrissey

Summary as introduced:

Expungement of criminal conviction record. Allows a person convicted of a criminal offense to have his conviction expunged after 10 years have passed following the conviction, upon a showing that his opportunities for employment, education, or professional licensure are prejudiced by the existence of the criminal record.

Expungement would not be available for someone convicted of a violent felony, a DUI-related offense, an offense for which registration on the sex offender registry is required, or domestic violence.

Status:

01/07/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10101730D
01/07/10 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
01/13/10 House: Assigned Courts sub: Criminal
01/20/10 House: Subcommittee recommends passing by indefinitely by voice vote

SUPPORT SB 576 Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies.

Chief Patron: Patricia S. Ticer

Summary as introduced:

Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies. Requires persons otherwise eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits to not be denied benefits solely due to a previous conviction of a felony drug offense pursuant to § 18.2-250. The otherwise eligible person must comply with all obligations imposed by the criminal court and be actively engaged in or have completed a substance abuse treatment program. The bill mirrors the authorized federal exemption already granted for food stamp applicants.



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Status:

01/13/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10101315D
01/13/10 Senate: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services
01/22/10 Senate: Reported from Rehabilitation and Social Services (11-Y 4-N)
01/22/10 Senate: Rereferred to Finance

SUPPORT HB 226 TANF; eligibility of assistance when convicted of drug-related felonies.

Chief Patron: Vivian E. Watts

Summary as introduced:

Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies. Provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive TANF assistance shall not be denied assistance solely because he has been convicted of a felony offense of possession of a controlled substance provided he complies with all obligations imposed by the court, has completed substance abuse treatment, and participates in drug screenings.

Status:

01/11/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10101954D
01/11/10 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
01/18/10 House: Assigned HWI sub: #2
01/21/10 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2011 by voice vote
01/21/10 House: Continued to 2011 in Health, Welfare and Institutions by voice vote

SUPPORT HB 1123 Second Chance Act.

Chief Patron: Mark L. Keam

Summary as introduced:

Second Chance Act. Directs the Secretaries of Public Safety and Health and Human Resources to study and make recommendations related to implementation of the Second Chance Act.

Status:

01/13/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10103650D
01/13/10 House: Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety
01/21/10 House: Assigned MPPS sub: #2

SUPPORT - PREVENT HOMELESSNESS AND INCARCERATION FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING MENTAL ILLNESS

SUPPORT SB 158 Mental health courts; establishes specialized court dockets within existing structure of system.

Chief Patron: John S. Edwards

Summary as introduced:

Mental health courts. Allows the establishment of mental health courts as specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's court system, offering judicial monitoring of the treatment and supervision of individuals with mental illness who have pending criminal charges. Localities intending to establish mental health courts are required to establish advisory committees. The Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court is required to apply for any federal grants or other funding available to establish mental health courts.



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Status:

01/11/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10100305D
01/11/10 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
01/18/10 Senate: Assigned Courts sub: Mental Health

SUPPORT HJ 154 Study; costs and benefits of establishing mental health courts; report

Chief Patron: G. Manoli Loupassi

Summary as introduced:

Study; costs and benefits of establishing mental health courts; report. Directs the Virginia State Crime Commission to study the costs and benefits associated with establishing mental health courts designed to divert nonviolent offenders with mental illnesses from local jails and state prisons and place them into judicially monitored treatment programs.

Status:

01/14/10 House: Presented and ordered printed 10103854D
01/14/10 House: Referred to Committee on Rules
01/19/10 House: Assigned Rules sub: #3 Studies
01/21/10 House: Subcommittee recommends laying on the table by voice vote

SUPPORT SB 592 Veterans' mental health courts.

Chief Patron: John C. Miller

Summary as introduced:

Veterans' mental health courts. Allows, in Hampton Roads, the establishment of veterans' mental health courts as specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's court system, offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and supervision of offenders who are affected by mental illness, an alcohol or substance use disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, or traumatic brain injury, any of which appear to be related to military service, including, without limitation, any readjustment to civilian life that is necessary after service in the armed services. A state veterans' mental health court advisory committee is established and localities intending to establish veterans' mental health courts are required to establish local advisory committees. The Supreme Court of Virginia is given administrative oversight for the implementation of the act.

Status:

01/13/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10103674D
01/13/10 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
02/01/10 Senate: Assigned Courts sub: Mental Health

SUPPORT - INCREASING OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SUPPORT SB 410 State aging services; blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older

Chief Patron: Jill Holtzman Vogel

Summary as introduced:



State aging services; blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities. Provides for the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to coordinate the development of a blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities. In addition, the bill amends provisions relating to the development by the Department for the Aging of a four-year plan for aging services. The bill also repeals the authority for Campbell County to contract with the Area Agency on Aging designated to serve the County to provide certain services specified by federal law.

Status:

01/13/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10103541D
01/13/10 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology
01/20/10 Senate: Reported from General Laws and Technology with amendments (15-Y 0-N)
01/22/10 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (39-Y 0-N)
01/25/10 Senate: Read second time
01/25/10 Senate: Reading of amendments waived
01/25/10 Senate: Committee amendments agreed to
01/25/10 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended SB410E
01/25/10 Senate: Printed as engrossed 10103541D-E
01/26/10 Senate: Read third time and passed Senate (40-Y 0-N)

SUPPORT HB 514 State aging services; blueprint for livable communities and long-term services.

Chief Patron: Thomas Davis Rust

Summary as introduced:

State aging services; blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities. Provides for the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to coordinate the development of a blueprint for livable communities and long-term services and supports for older Virginians and people with disabilities. In addition, the bill amends provisions relating to the development by the Department for the Aging of a four-year plan for aging services. The bill also repeals the authority for Campbell County to contract with the Area Agency on Aging designated to serve the County to provide certain services specified by federal law.

Status:

01/12/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10103664D
01/12/10 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
01/21/10 House: Reported from Health, Welfare and Institutions with amendments (21-Y 0-N)
01/22/10 House: Read first time
01/25/10 House: Read second time
01/25/10 House: Committee amendments agreed to
01/25/10 House: Engrossed by House as amended HB514E
01/25/10 House: Printed as engrossed 10103664D-E
01/26/10 House: Read third time and passed House BLOCK VOTE (99-Y 0-N)
01/26/10 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (99-Y 0-N)
01/27/10 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
01/27/10 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

SUPPORT - PREVENTING HATE CRIMES

SUPPORT HB 844 Homeless persons; may file an action for damages for harassment, etc.



Patrick A. Hope

Summary as introduced:

Hate crimes; homeless persons; penalty. Adds homeless persons to the categories of persons who may seek injunctive relief or file an action for damages for harassment, etc., based on their status. The bill also adds homeless persons to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a "hate crime" involving assault or trespass amplifies the Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony penalty. The bill also adds homeless persons to the definition of "hate crime" for purposes of a central repository of information regarding hate crimes maintained by the State Police.

Status:

01/13/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10100770D
01/13/10 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

SUPPORT - LOCAL HOUSING FUNDS, NIMBY AND SECTION 8 VOUCHERS
SUPPORT HB 1280 Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices.

Chief Patron: Jennifer L. McClellan

Summary as introduced:

Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices. Provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory housing practice for any political jurisdiction or its employees or appointed commissions to discriminate in the application of local land use ordinances or guidelines, or in the permitting of housing developments, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status, handicap, or because the housing development contains or is expected to contain affordable housing units occupied or intended for occupancy by families or individuals with incomes at or below 80 percent of the median income of the area where the housing development is located or is proposed to be located. The bill also requires the Fair Housing Board, after consultation with the Attorney General, instead of issuing a charge for a violation, to immediately refer the matter to the Attorney General for civil action in the appropriate circuit court for appropriate relief.

Status:

01/20/10 House: Presented and ordered printed 10103730D
01/20/10 House: Referred to Committee on General Laws

SUPPORT HB 960 Local housing fund; locality may establish to assist for-profit or nonprofit housing developer, etc.

Chief Patron: Riley E. Ingram

Summary as introduced:

Local housing fund. Provides that any locality may establish by resolution a housing fund, the purpose of which will be to assist for-profit or nonprofit housing developers or organizations to develop or preserve affordable housing for low and moderate income persons.

Status:

01/13/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10102796D
01/13/10 House: Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns
01/21/10 House: Assigned CC & T sub: #2



SUPPORT - ENCOURAGE LANDLORDS TO ACCEPT SECTION 8 VOUCHERS

SUPPORT HB 764 Income tax credits; landlords participating in housing choice voucher programs.

Chief Patron: Jennifer L. McClellan

Summary as introduced:

Income tax credits; landlords participating in housing choice voucher programs. Establishes an individual and corporate income tax credit beginning with the 2010 taxable year for landlords who participate in a housing choice voucher program. Eligible landlords would receive a tax credit equal to 10 percent of the fair market value of the rent for each qualified housing unit. Qualified housing units would be dwelling units located in the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area that are included in a housing choice voucher program.

The Department of Housing and Community Development would administer the tax credit. The Department would not be allowed to issue more than \$400,000 in tax credits in any fiscal year. Tax credits would be allowed only for that portion of the taxable year in which a dwelling unit was included in a housing choice voucher program. The bill provides a five-year carryforward period for unused tax credits.

Status:

01/12/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10103923D

01/12/10 House: Referred to Committee on Finance

01/25/10 House: Assigned Finance sub: #3

SUPPORT SB 458 Income tax credits; landlords participating in housing choice voucher programs.

Chief Patron: A. Donald McEachin

Summary as introduced:

Income tax credits; landlords participating in housing choice voucher programs. Establishes an individual and corporate income tax credit beginning with the 2010 taxable year for landlords who participate in a housing choice voucher program. Eligible landlords would receive a tax credit equal to 10 percent of the fair market value of the rent for each qualified housing unit. Qualified housing units would be dwelling units located in the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area that are included in a housing choice voucher program.

The Department of Housing and Community Development would administer the tax credit. The Department would not be allowed to issue more than \$400,000 in tax credits in any fiscal year. Tax credits would be allowed only for that portion of the taxable year in which a dwelling unit was included in a housing choice voucher program. The bill provides a five-year carryforward period for unused tax credits.

Status:

01/13/10 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10

01/13/10 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance

OPPOSE - INCREASING BARRIERS TO SERVICES

OPPOSE HB 925 Substance abuse screening and assessment of public assistance applicants and recipients.

Chief Patron: Robert B. Bell

Summary as introduced:

Substance abuse screening and assessment of public assistance applicants and recipients. Requires local departments of social services to screen each VIEW program participant to determine whether probable cause exists to believe the participant is engaged in the use of illegal drugs. This bill provides that, when a



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screening indicates reasonable cause to believe a participant is using illegal drugs, the Department shall require a formal substance abuse assessment of the participant, which may include drug testing. Any person who fails or refuses to participate in a screening or assessment without good cause or who tests positive for the use of illegal drugs shall be ineligible to receive TANF payments for a period of one year.

Status:

01/13/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/13/10 10102963D

01/13/10 House: Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

01/20/10 House: Assigned HWI sub: #3

01/26/10 House: Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2011 by voice vote

01/28/10 House: Continued to 2011 in Health, Welfare and Institutions by voice vote