

2000 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1080

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 53.1 a chapter numbered 12.1, consisting of sections numbered 53.1-231.1 and 53.1-231.2, relating to restoration of civil rights to certain persons.

Patrons—Jones, J.C., Baskerville, Christian, McEachin, Melvin, Moran, Robinson and Spruill; Senators: Marsh, Maxwell and Whipple

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 53.1 a chapter numbered 12.1, consisting of sections numbered 53.1-231.1 and 53.1-231.2, as follows:

CHAPTER 12.1.

RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

§ 53.1-231.1. Powers vested in Governor.

In accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 1 and Article V, Section 12 of the Constitution of Virginia, the Governor has the power to restore civil rights to a person who has lost his civil rights because of a felony conviction.

§ 53.1-231.2. Process for restoration of civil rights.

The Director of the Department of Corrections shall provide that any person convicted of a felony is notified of the loss of his civil rights and of the process to apply for restoration of civil rights. The notice shall be given at the time the person has completed service of his sentence, including any period of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

The Director shall assist the Secretary of the Commonwealth in the administration of the process established by the Governor for the review of applications for restoration of civil rights.

To promote the efficient processing of applications to the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall maintain a record of the number of applications for restoration of rights received, the dates such applications are received, and the dates they are either granted or denied by the Governor. The Secretary shall notify each applicant who has filed a complete application that the complete application has been received and shall notify the applicant of the date the complete application was forwarded by the Secretary to the Governor.

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