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HOUSE BILL NO. 679

Offered January 21, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-1522 of the Code of Virginia, relating to oaths of office.

Patrons—Weatherholtz, Albo, Black, Broman, Harris, Landes, Louderback, O'Brien, Sherwood and Wardrup; Senators: Hanger, Miller, K.G., Newman and Schrock

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.2-1522 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-1522. When and how officers qualify.

Every elected county, city, town and district officer, unless otherwise provided by law, on or before the day on which his term of office begins, shall qualify by taking the oath prescribed by § 49-1 and give the bond, if any, required by law, before the circuit court for the county or city, having jurisdiction in the county, city, town or district for which he is elected or appointed, or before the clerk of the circuit court for such county, city, town or district. However, members of governing bodies and elected school boards may qualify up to and including the day of the initial meeting of the new governing body or elected school board.

Any such oath of town council members and town mayors may be taken before any officer authorized by law to administer oaths. Such oath shall be returned to the clerk of the council of the town, who shall enter the same record on the minute book of the council.

Whenever an officer required to give bond is included in a blanket surety bond authorized by § 2.1-526.9 B, such officer shall furnish an extract of the master blanket surety bond on file in the Comptroller's office, reflecting the name or position of the officer and the amount of the coverage, which shall be the equivalent of giving the bond for purposes of qualification.

An appointed officer as used in this article means a person appointed to temporarily fill an elected position. District officer as used in this article means a person elected by the people other than national and statewide officers and members of the General Assembly.

2. That any member or mayor of a town council who was elected to a term of office on or after December 1, 1997, and who qualified by taking the oath of office before any officer authorized by law to administer oaths on or before the day of the initial meeting of the town council, shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this section with regard to the taking of oaths.

INTRODUCED

HB679