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SENATE BILL NO. 760

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to restrict the use of state funds appropriated for the provision of civil legal assistance to the indigent.

Patrons—Forbes, Hawkins, Miller, K.G., Mims, Puckett, Reynolds, Trumbo and Watkins; Delegates: Abbitt, Albo, Blevins, Dudley, Ingram, Katzen, Morgan, Sherwood and Weatherholtz

Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. State funds appropriated for the provision of civil legal assistance to the indigent shall be subject to the same restrictions placed on recipients of Legal Services Corporation funds as set forth in § 504 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134). In addition, any legal services program receiving state funds for the provision of civil legal assistance to the indigent shall disclose to the public, in written form, upon request, and to the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia in semiannual reports, the following information about each case filed by its attorneys in any court:

1. The name and full address of each party to the legal action unless such information is protected by an order of the court or by state or federal law or revealing such information would put the client of

the recipient of such state funds at risk of physical harm; 2. The cause of action in the case; and

3. The name and address of the court in which the case was filed and the case number assigned to the legal action.