

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2001 SESSION

CHAPTER 531

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.1-548.29:1, relating to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership; program to assist rural areas.

[S 1370]

Approved March 23, 2001

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.1-548.29:1 as follows:

§ 2.1-548.29:1. Special economic development services in rural communities.

In order to assist the rural communities of the Commonwealth, the Authority shall develop a program for reviewing existing economic development programs of rural communities, upon request. The program shall include (i) a review and evaluation of existing industrial sites and infrastructure, including existing streets, water and sewer systems, electricity, natural gas and communications facilities, (ii) an assessment of the existing workforce and the provision of information on state and federal programs such as tax incentives that may be available to local or prospective employers to assist in hiring and training in areas of high unemployment, (iii) assistance in identifying community resources and the type of industries that may benefit from locating in a community with such resources, and (iv) marketing assistance to help rural communities improve their visibility to expanding industries looking for new facilities.