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27 28 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1226**

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-215.1, relating to the publication of procedure for changing special education placements.

Patron—McEachin

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-215.1 as follows:

§22.1-215.1. Publication of procedure for changing special education placements. Effective, July 1, 2000, the Board of Education shall publicize and disseminate widely information regarding the rights of parents to (i) reject and contest the special education placement committee's recommendation that a child be placed in a special education program, and (ii) withdraw the child from a special education program, whether or not the three-year-period prior to the evaluation of the child's placement has elapsed, and whenever it is determined by the parent that the child's placement in a special education program was unwarranted and grounds to continue such placement cannot be justified to the satisfaction of the parent.

- B. The Board of Education shall establish procedures within Board regulations governing special education programs that provide parents who reject or contest the placement of a child in a special education program, or who withdraw a child from a special education program as provided in subsection A, protection from improper or unethical persuasion, inducement, or influence to reconsider or reverse his position.
- 2. That the Board of Education shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.
- 3. That the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall apprise local school boards of the provisions of this act by Superintendent's Administrative Memorandum no later than 30 days after its enactment.