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HOUSE BILL NO. 2527**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on General Laws
on February 4, 2001)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Phillips)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.1-548.29 of the Code of Virginia, relating to duties of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.1-548.29 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.1-548.29. Economic development services.

A. It shall be the duty of the Authority to encourage, stimulate, and support the development and expansion of the economy of the Commonwealth. The Authority is charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

1. To see that there are prepared and carried out effective economic development marketing and promotional programs;

2. To make available to prospective new businesses, in conjunction and cooperation with localities, chambers of commerce, industrial authorities, and other public and private groups, basic information and pertinent factors of interest and concern to such businesses;

3. To formulate, promulgate, and advance programs throughout the Commonwealth for encouraging the location of new businesses in the Commonwealth and the retention and growth of existing businesses;

4. To encourage and solicit private sector involvement, support, and funding for economic development in the Commonwealth;

5. To encourage the coordination of the economic development efforts of public institutions, regions, communities, and private industry and collect and maintain data on the development and utilization of economic development capabilities;

6. To establish such offices within and without the Commonwealth that are necessary to the expansion and development of industries and trade;

7. To encourage the export of products and services from the Commonwealth to international markets;

8. Upon request, to advise the State Board for Community Colleges in designating technical training programs in Virginia's comprehensive community colleges for the Community College Incentive Scholarship Program pursuant to § 23-220.4; and

9. Upon request, to advise the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in designating certain collegiate programs for the Virginia Undergraduate and Vocational Incentive Scholarship Program pursuant to Article 3 (§ 23-38.19:3 et seq.) of Chapter 4.1 of Title 23.

B. The Authority shall prepare a specific plan annually that shall serve as the basis for marketing high unemployment areas of Virginia. This plan shall be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly annually on or before November 1 of each year. The report shall contain the plan and activities conducted by the Authority to market these high unemployment areas. The annual report shall be part of the report required by § 2.1-548.40 and shall be distributed in accordance with § 2.1-467.