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HOUSE BILL NO. 2697

Offered January 15, 2003

A BILL to amend and reenact § 33.1-206.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to roadside memorials to State Police officers killed in the line of duty.

Patrons—Nutter, Carrico, Griffith, Janis and Reese

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 33.1-206.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 33.1-206.1. Roadside memorials; installation, maintenance, and removal standards; installation of nonconforming memorial prohibited; penalty.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall establish regulations regarding size, distance from the roadway, and other safety concerns, to govern the installation, maintenance, and removal of roadside memorials, plaques, and other devices placed within the right-of-way that commemorate the memory of (i) persons killed in vehicle crashes within the right-of-way of any state highway and (ii) State Police officers killed in the line of duty.

Any person who installs any plaque, device, sign, object, material, or other memorial within the right-of-way of any highway controlled by the Department except in accordance with criteria established as provided in this section may be assessed a civil penalty of no more than \$100. Each occurrence shall be subject to a separate penalty. All civil penalties collected under this section shall be paid into the Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund.

Roadside memorials, plaques, and other devices to commemorate State Police officers killed in the line of duty shall be installed and maintained along highways in the interstate highway system as and when either private funds are donated for that purpose, or funds are appropriated therefor in the general appropriation act.