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30 31 32 **SENATE BILL NO. 375**

Offered January 9, 2002 Prefiled January 9, 2002

A BILL to amend and reenact § 12.1-6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to members of the State Corporation Commission.

Patrons—Norment, Maxwell, Potts and Williams

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 12.1-6 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 12.1-6. Election or appointment of members; terms.

The A. Prior to February 1, 2003, the Commission shall consist of three members. Commencing February 1, 2003, the Commission shall consist of five members.

- B. Members of the Commission shall be elected by the joint vote of the two houses of the General Assembly for regular staggered terms of six years- as follows:
- 1. At the regular session of the General Assembly convened in each even-numbered year prior to 2003, one commissioner shall be elected for a regular six-year term to begin on February 1 of such
- 2. At the regular session of the General Assembly convened in 2003, two commissioners shall be elected for regular six-year terms; and
- 3. At the regular session of the General Assembly convened in 2004 and thereafter, a number of commissioners equal to the number of commissioners whose regular terms were scheduled to expire during such session shall be elected for regular six-year terms.

The term of each commissioner shall begin on February 1 of the year of the commissioner's election.

- C. Whenever a vacancy in the Commission shall occur or exist when the General Assembly is in session, the General Assembly shall elect a successor for such unexpired term. If the General Assembly is not in session, the Governor shall forthwith appoint pro tempore a qualified person to fill the vacancy for a term ending thirty days after the commencement of the next regular session of the General Assembly, and the General Assembly shall elect a successor for such unexpired term.
- D. The Governor shall commission each of the members of the Commission who shall file his commission in the office of the clerk of the Commission.