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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1116**

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 14, 2004

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-161 and 9.1-162 of the Code of Virginia, relating to crime prevention specialists.*

Patrons—Weatherholtz; Senator: Obenshain

Referred to Committee on General Laws

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 9.1-161 and 9.1-162 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 9.1-161. Crime prevention specialists; duties.

The Board shall adopt regulations establishing minimum standards for certification of crime prevention specialists. *Such regulations shall require that the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality wherein the person may serve shall approve the certification before a candidate for certification may serve as a crime prevention specialist.* A crime prevention specialist shall have the duty to:

1. Provide citizens living within his jurisdiction information concerning personal safety and the security of property, and other matters relating to the reduction of criminal opportunity;

2. Provide business establishments within his jurisdiction information concerning business and employee security, and other matters relating to reduction of criminal activity;

3. Provide citizens and businesses within his jurisdiction assistance in forming and maintaining neighborhood and business watch groups and other community-based crime prevention programs;

4. Provide assistance to other units of government within his jurisdiction in developing plans and procedures related to the reduction of criminal activity within government and the community; and

5. Promote the reduction and prevention of crime within his jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

§ 9.1-162. Eligibility for crime prevention specialists.

Any employee of a local, state or federal government agency who serves in a law-enforcement, crime prevention or criminal justice capacity is eligible to be trained and certified as a crime prevention specialist.

The chief executive of any local, state or federal government agency may designate one or more employees in his department or office, who serves in a law-enforcement, crime prevention or criminal justice capacity, to be trained and certified as a crime prevention specialist.

*No person who is a candidate for certification shall serve as a crime prevention specialist unless his certification is approved by the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality wherein the person may serve.*

INTRODUCED

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