

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2004 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1245

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:**    Griffith

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

**4. Title**    Virginia Fair Housing Law; evidence of unlawful discriminatory practices.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** The bill provides that the use of words or symbols associated with a particular religion, national origin, sex, or race may be evidence of an illegal preference under the Virginia Fair Housing Law. Current law mandates that the use of such words or symbols shall be prima facie evidence of an illegal preference. The bill also removes language preventing the use of a general disclaimer. The bill further provides that advertisements using the legal name of an entity that contain a religious reference or that contain a religious symbol, standing alone, may indicate a religious preference. However, if such advertisement includes a disclaimer, it shall not be construed to violate the Virginia Fair Housing Law.

**6. No Fiscal Impact.**

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** None.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/2/04 kbs

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cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade