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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2166**

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 11, 2005

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-213.1 relating to a long-term health care public information campaign.*

Patrons—Reese and Rust

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Whereas, long-term health care consists of a variety of services that includes medical and nonmedical care to people who have chronic illnesses or disabilities; and

Whereas, approximately nine million Americans currently need some form of long-term care; and Whereas, the population of individuals over the age of 85 is expected to triple by 2040; and

Whereas, a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicates that people who reach the age of 65 will likely have a 40 percent chance of entering a nursing home; now, therefore,

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-213.1 as follows:**

§ 2.2-213.1. Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Commissioner of Insurance to develop long-term care public information campaign.

A. In order to respond to the burgeoning population of seniors in the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Commissioner of Insurance shall develop a public information campaign to inform the citizens of the Commonwealth of (i) the impending crisis in long-term care, (ii) the effect of the impending crisis on the Virginia Medicaid program and on the finances of families and their estates, (iii) innovative alternatives and combinations of institutional and community-based long-term care services, and (iv) the requirements for long-term care insurance certificates and policies and the meaning of terminology used in such certificates and policies.

B. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Commissioner of Insurance shall enlist the assistance of the Board of Health and the Commissioner of Health, in the exercise of their responsibilities set forth in Title 32.1 to protect, implement, and preserve the public health, in disseminating the information concerning long-term care to the public.

INTRODUCED

HB2166