HOUSE BILL NO. 2851

Offered January 20, 2005

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-2002 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-2002.1, relating to the Department of Veterans Services; department personnel.

Patrons—Cox, Albo, Athey, Black, Bryant, Byron, Carrico, Cline, Cosgrove, Dillard, Dudley, Fralin, Frederick, Gear, Griffith, Hall, Hamilton, Hargrove, Hogan, Howell, W.J., Hugo, Ingram, Janis, Jones, S.C., Keister, Kilgore, Louderback, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., McDonnell, McDougle, McQuigg, Nutter, O'Bannon, Oder, Parrish, Putney, Rapp, Reese, Reid, Rust, Scott, E.T., Tata, Wardrup, Ware, O., Watts and Wright; Senators: Bell, Blevins, Bolling, Cuccinelli, Deeds, Devolites Davis, Edwards, Hanger, Lucas, Marsh, Martin, Puckett, Puller, Reynolds, Ruff, Stosch, Wagner, Wampler, Whipple and Williams

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-2002 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted, and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-2002.1 as follows:

§ 2.2-2002. Department offices.

The Commissioner shall maintain an office in the vicinity of the State Capitol in Richmond. He may maintain service offices in the Commonwealth in whatever locations he determines to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The Commissioner shall appoint the personnel of each service office. The compensation of the personnel of each service office is to be fixed by the Commissioner.

§ 2.2-2002.1. Department personnel.

The Commissioner shall be responsible for appointing the personnel assigned to each service office and determining the compensation to be paid to such personnel. In determining the number of personnel assigned to each service office, the Commissioner shall ensure the number of employees assigned to the processing of benefit claims is sufficient to maintain a ratio of one staff person for every 26,212 veterans residing in the Commonwealth. The Commissioner shall also ensure that the personnel assigned to processing benefit claims provide these services to veterans in locations other than the service office at least one day per week.