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HOUSE BILL NO. 955

Offered January 11, 2006 Prefiled January 10, 2006

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-5214, 15.2-5343, 16.1-319 and 23-50.16:12 of the Code of Virginia, relating to eminent domain; religious corporations and unincorporated churches.

Patron—Joannou

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 15.2-5214, 15.2-5343, 16.1-319 and 23-50.16:12 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-5214. Eminent domain.

The commission shall have the right to acquire by eminent domain any real property, including fixtures and improvements, which it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter after it adopts a resolution declaring that the acquisition of the property described therein is in the public interest and necessary for public use. The commission may exercise the power of eminent domain pursuant to the provisions of any applicable statutory provisions now in force or hereafter enacted for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by any locality.

Property already devoted to a public use may be acquired; however, no property belonging to any locality, government, or religious *corporation*, *unincorporated church* or charitable corporation may be acquired without its consent.

§ 15.2-5343. Eminent domain.

The authority shall have the right to acquire by eminent domain any real property, including fixtures and improvements, which it may deem necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter after the adoption by it of a resolution declaring that the acquisition of the property described therein is in the public interest and necessary for public use. The authority may exercise the power of eminent domain pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2 (§ 25.1-200 et seq.) of Title 25.1 and any applicable statutory provisions in force or hereafter enacted for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by cities.

Property already devoted to a public use may be acquired. No property belonging to any locality, government, or religious *corporation*, *unincorporated church* or charitable corporation may be acquired without its consent.

§ 16.1-319. Acquisition of property by commission.

The commission shall have the right to acquire by eminent domain any real property, including fixtures and improvements, which it may deem necessary to carry out the purposes of this article, after the adoption by it of a resolution declaring that the acquisition of the property described therein is in the public interest and necessary for public use; provided, however, that no such real property shall be so acquired or such facility established within the territorial limits of such political subdivision without the approval, after public hearing, of the governing body of such political subdivision.

Subject to the provisions of § 25.1-102, property already devoted to a public use may be acquired, provided, that no property belonging to any county or city or to any, religious corporation, unincorporated church or charitable corporation may be acquired without its consent.

§ 23-50.16:12. Eminent domain.

The Authority may exercise the power of eminent domain pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2 (§ 25.1-200 et seq.) of Title 25.1 to acquire by condemnation any real property, including fixtures and improvements, which it may deem necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, upon its adoption of a resolution declaring that the acquisition of such property is in the public interest and necessary for public use and upon the approval of the Governor. The Authority may acquire property already devoted to a public use, provided that no property belonging to any city, town or county or to any religious corporation, unincorporated church or charitable corporation may be acquired without its consent.