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**SENATE BILL NO. 543**

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 11, 2006

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 8.01-375 of the Code of Virginia, relating to witnesses in civil cases.*

Patron—Stosch

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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

**1. That § 8.01-375 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 8.01-375. Exclusion of witnesses in civil cases.

The court trying any civil case may upon its own motion and shall upon the motion of any party, require the exclusion of every witness. However, each named party who is an individual, one officer or agent of each party which is a corporation or association and an attorney alleged in a habeas corpus proceeding to have acted ineffectively shall be exempt from the rule of this section as a matter of right.

Where expert witnesses are to testify in the case, the court may, at the request of all parties, allow one expert witness for each party to remain in the courtroom, ~~provided that~~ ; however, in cases pertaining to the distribution of marital property pursuant to § 20-107.3 or the determination of child or spousal support pursuant to § 20-108.1, the court may, upon motion of any party, allow one expert witness for each party to remain in the courtroom throughout the hearing.

INTRODUCED

SB543