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**HOUSE BILL NO. 3194**

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Ware, R.L.)

House Amendments in [ ] — February 5, 2007

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 8.01-226.12, relating to civil immunity for speech at certain public hearings.*

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 8.01-226.12 as follows:**

*§ 8.01-223.2. Civil immunity when speaking at certain public hearings.*

*Any citizen appearing at a public hearing before the governing body of a locality or other political subdivision, or the boards, commissions, agencies and authorities thereof, and other governing bodies of any local governmental entity, shall not be liable for any civil damages for suit brought for a claim for violation of § 18.2-499 or brought for a claim for tortious interference with a business or contractual expectancy arising from the citizen's exercise of his right to speak to matters properly before the governing body, board, commission agency [ ~~or authority~~ , or statements made in bad faith or with malicious intent ] .*

ENGROSSED

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