

2008 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1474

Offered January 16, 2008

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-208.1, relating to the Secretary of Education; Citizenship Assistance Initiative Program.*

Patrons—Eisenberg, Brink, Ebbin, Englin, Howell, A.T., McClellan and Sickles

Referred to Committee on Rules

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-208.1 as follows:

§ 2.2-208.1. *Virginia Citizenship Assistance Initiative Program established.*

A. *There is hereby established the Virginia Citizenship Assistance Initiative Program (the Initiative) within the Office of the Secretary of Education to serve as a public resource for linking legal permanent residents directly to the information and services they need to successfully pursue citizenship. The Initiative shall be established as a nonprofit legal entity to (i) directly assist legal immigrants in Virginia become United States citizens; (ii) encourage legal immigrants to independently initiate their naturalization process; and (iii) help new citizens participate fully in civic life in Virginia.*

B. *The Secretary of Education shall develop or shall arrange for or contract with a nonprofit entity for the development and operation of the Initiative, which may consist of any nonprofit entity having the expertise or experience necessary to implement the goals of the Initiative. The Secretary shall ensure that all ethnic and racial groups and geographical areas of the Commonwealth are included in the outreach programs and activities of the Initiative.*

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