090689616 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1639** 1 2 3 4 5 Offered January 14, 2009 Prefiled December 10, 2008 A BILL to extend the constitutionally guaranteed right to enjoyment of life to preborn human beings from the moment of fertilization. 6 Patrons—Marshall, R.G. and Gilbert 7 8 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 9 10 Whereas, the Constitution of Virginia provides in Article 1, Section 1, that all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of 11 society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and 12 13 liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and 14 safety; now, therefore, 15 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia: 1. § 1. That life begins at the moment of fertilization and the right to enjoyment of life guaranteed by 16 Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia is vested in each born and preborn human being 17 from the moment of fertilization.