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18 19 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1649** 

Offered January 14, 2009 Prefiled December 12, 2008

A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-463 of the Code of Virginia, relating to contracts by telegraph and telephone companies for rights-of-way.

Patron—Ware, R.L.

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 56-463 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 56-463. Company may contract for right-of-way, etc.

Every such telegraph or telephone company may contract with any person or corporation, the owner of lands, or of any interest, franchise, privilege, or easement therein or in respect thereto, over which such line is proposed to be constructed, for the right-of-way for erecting, repairing, and preserving its poles and other structures necessary for operating its line, and for sufficient land for the erection and occupation of offices at suitable distances along its line for the public accommodation. No such company may be required by the Commission or other entity to accept any such interest, franchise, privilege, or easement that restricts the services that may legally be offered by the company.