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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2277**

House Amendments in [ ] - February 9, 2009

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2109.3, relating to the provision of natural gas distribution service within counties.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Bowling

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-2109.3 as follows:**

*§ 15.2-2109.3. Provision of natural gas distribution service within counties.*

*Any municipal corporation or public service authority created under the Virginia Water and Sewer Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5100 et seq.) shall have the authority:*

*1. To purchase natural gas for resale within an area as described in subdivision 2 from any public utility that is certificated to provide natural gas distribution service within the Commonwealth, on such terms and conditions as the parties to such sale may agree;*

*2. To provide natural gas distribution service within any [ underserved ] area or county that is adjacent to the boundaries of the municipal corporation or any political subdivision that is a member of the public service authority, as applicable, provided that the area is not within the certificated territory assigned to a public utility for the provision of natural gas service, upon notifying the State Corporation Commission of its commitment to provide such service in such areas. The municipality or public service authority shall not be required to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the State Corporation Commission as a condition to providing natural gas distribution service within any such area; and*

*3. Upon notifying the State Corporation Commission of its commitment to provide natural gas distribution service in such areas as described in subdivision 2, to exercise the same rights that a public service authority established pursuant to the Virginia Water and Sewer Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5100 et seq.) has to acquire, purchase, lease as lessee, construct, reconstruct, improve, extend, operate, and maintain any lines, pipelines, or other improvements necessary or appropriate for the provision of any stormwater control system or water or waste system or any combination of such systems under § 15.2-5114, except that such powers, including the powers to acquire by gift, purchase, or the exercise of the right of eminent domain lands or rights in land or water rights in connection therewith, except that such powers shall apply to the provision of natural gas distribution service, mutatis mutandis.*

ENGROSSED

HB2277E