083124304 1 **SENATE BILL NO. 138** 2 3 4 Offered January 9, 2008 Prefiled January 4, 2008 A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2.1 of Chapter 2 of Title 53.1 a section 5 numbered 53.1-40.11, relating to medical and psychiatric benefits for prisoners. 6 Patron—Puller 7 8 Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services 9 10 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia: 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2.1 of Chapter 2 of Title 53.1 a 11 section numbered 53.1-40.11 as follows: 12 § 53.1-40.11. Medical and psychiatric benefits of prisoners. The Department shall take all reasonable steps to identify any medical or psychiatric benefits, 13 14 **15**

The Department shall take all reasonable steps to identify any medical or psychiatric benefits, including Social Security or Veterans Administration benefits, to which a prisoner may be entitled upon release and to assist the prisoner in securing such benefits. The obligations imposed by this section shall be carried out in such a manner and at such time as to ensure that any benefits identified as available to the prisoner are available at the time of release.

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