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**HOUSE BILL NO. 627**

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-114.1, relating to the establishment of a directory of cultural heritage sites.*

Patron—Kilgore

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-114.1 as follows:**

*§ 10.1-114.1. Directory of cultural heritage sites.*

*A. The Director is authorized to develop a state directory of cultural heritage sites. The directory shall recognize commemorative and historic facilities and sites that interpret significant aspects of national, state, or regional cultural history. Sites included in the directory shall not be owned or operated by state agencies.*

*B. Owners or managers of a potential commemorative or historic facility desiring to be included in the directory of cultural heritage sites shall submit an application to the Department. To be eligible for inclusion in the directory, the application shall include a discussion of the cultural and historic significance of the facility or site; a description of how the facility or site is staffed and managed; information on any oversight or advisory boards, including their mission statements and goals; information confirming the availability of the facility or site to the public for tours and educational or recreational programs on a regular basis, letters of support from local governments, chambers of commerce, tourism bureaus, or other supporting entities; and other information as the Department determines to be necessary. The Department may develop additional qualification criteria and application materials that may be necessary to implement the registry program. Such criteria may be adopted by the Director after considering the recommendations of the Board of Conservation and Recreation.*

*C. The Director shall evaluate whether the facility or site qualifies for inclusion in the directory. In evaluating the facility or site, the Director shall consult with the Department of Historic Resources, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, and other state and federal agencies when such consultation would benefit the evaluation.*

*D. The Director shall present any findings to the Board for its recommendation. Upon the favorable recommendation of the Board, the Director may designate a facility or site for inclusion in the directory with the Governor's written consent.*

*E. The Department shall maintain the directory of commemorative or historic facilities and sites on its website and encourage promotion of those facilities or sites.*

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