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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1659**

Offered January 12, 2011

Prefiled January 10, 2011

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to identification prior to cremation.*

Patron—Alexander

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

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

**1. That § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-2818.1. Prerequisites for cremation.

No dead human body shall be cremated without permission of the medical examiner as required by § 32.1-284 and visual identification of the deceased by the next-of-kin or his representative, who may be any person designated to make arrangements for the decedent's burial or the disposition of his remains pursuant to § 54.1-2825 or, an agent named in an advance directive pursuant to § 54.1-2984, *or a sheriff if no next-of-kin, designated person or agent is available*. When visual identification is not feasible, other positive identification of the deceased may be used as a prerequisite for cremation.

INTRODUCED

HB1659