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**SENATE BILL NO. 1238** 

Offered January 12, 2011 Prefiled January 12, 2011

A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.2-505.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies.

Patron—Ticer

Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 63.2-505.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 63.2-505.2. Eligibility for food stamps and TANF; drug-related felonies.

A person who is otherwise eligible to receive *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or* food stamp benefits shall be exempt from the application of section 115(a) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, and shall not be denied such assistance solely because he has been convicted of a felony offense of possession of a controlled substance in violation of § 18.2-250, provided such person is complying with, or has already complied with, all obligations imposed by the criminal court, is actively engaged in or has completed a substance abuse treatment program, participates in periodic drug screenings, and any other obligations as determined by the Department.