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**SENATE BILL NO. 552****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Favola)

Senate Amendments in [ ] - February 14, 2012

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 63.2-607.1, relating to TANF eligibility; drug-related felonies.*

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 63.2-607.1 as follows:**

*§ 63.2-607.1. Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies.*

*A person who is otherwise eligible to receive TANF assistance shall be exempt from the application of § 115(a)(1) 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 not engaged in the use of illegal drugs and he complies with, or has already complied with, all obligations imposed by the criminal court and the Department; is actively engaged in or has completed a substance abuse treatment program; and participates in drug screenings conducted at least once every three months, or more frequently if there is reason to believe the individual may be engaged in the use of illegal drugs.*

**[ 2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation of general funds effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriations act passed by the 2012 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law. ]**

ENGROSSED

SB552ES1