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HOUSE BILL NO. 1577

Offered January 9, 2013

Prefiled January 4, 2013

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 63.2 a section numbered 63.2-621, relating to TANF; restrictions on the use of cash assistance.*

Patrons—Wilt, Bell, Robert B., Garrett, Ingram, Bell, Richard P. and Marshall, R.G.

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 63.2 a section numbered 63.2-621 as follows:

§ 63.2-621. Restrictions on use of TANF cash assistance.

A. *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families paid to an eligible recipient pursuant to this chapter shall not be used (i) for the purchase of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, lottery tickets, or sexually explicit visual materials as defined in § 18.2-374.1; (ii) in any transaction in any (a) government store established for the sale of alcoholic beverages, (b) establishment in which pari-mutuel wagering or charitable gaming is conducted, or (c) establishment in which tattooing or body-piercing, as defined in § 54.1-700, is performed for hire or consideration; or (iii) in any establishment that provides adult-oriented entertainment in which performers or other individuals connected with the business appear nude or partially nude.*

B. *Any person found to have intentionally violated the provisions of this section shall be ineligible to participate in the TANF program (i) for a period of six months for the first offense, (ii) for a period of 12 months for the second offense, and (iii) permanently for the third offense.*

2. That the Department of Social Services shall develop and implement procedures to carry out the purposes of this act, which shall include provisions for (i) providing information and training about restrictions on the use of TANF benefits to benefit recipients and retail establishments; (ii) identifying retail establishments at which use of TANF benefits is prohibited and taking such actions as may be necessary to ensure that TANF benefits shall not be used in any transactions in such establishments; (iii) identifying completed transactions in which TANF benefits have been used for prohibited purchases; and (iv) terminating eligibility for TANF benefits upon a finding that a recipient has intentionally violated provisions of this act related to restrictions on the use of TANF benefits.

INTRODUCED

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