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HOUSE BILL NO. 1712

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 12, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 51.5-89 of the Code of Virginia, relating to vending stands and other business enterprises operated in public buildings; vacancies for the blind.

Patron—Pogge

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 51.5-89 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 51.5-89. Placement of blind persons in vacancies by Department; vending stands in Capitol;

When any vending stand or other business enterprise operated in a public building becomes vacant or a vacancy is created through the construction or acquisition of new public buildings or renovation or expansion of existing public buildings, the existence of such vacancies shall be made known to the Department. The Department acting on behalf of the blind shall have first priority in assuming the operation of such vending stand or business enterprise through placement of a properly trained blind person in such vacancy. When no properly trained blind person is immediately available to be placed in such vacancy, the Department may operate the vending stand or other business enterprise until a properly trained blind person is available, the net proceeds from which shall accrue to the vending facility program. This section shall not apply to vending stands or other business enterprises operated in (i) local government buildings, (ii) the State Capitol, or (iii) the legislative office buildings that shall be subject to the control of the Rules Committee of the House of Delegates and the Rules Committee of the Senate. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any locality may, by ordinance or resolution, provide for the Department to have first priority in assuming the operation of any vending stand or business enterprise located in a local government building.