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SENATE BILL NO. 819

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 2, 2015

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

Patron—Favola

Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

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 (i) is not engaged in the use of illegal drugs and complies with, or has already complied with, all obligations imposed by the criminal court and the Department; (ii) is actively engaged in or has completed a substance abuse treatment program; and (iii) 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 effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed in 2015 by the General Assembly that becomes law.

INTRODUCED

SB819