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HOUSE BILL NO. 54

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled November 30, 2015

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 18.2 a section numbered 18.2-177.1, relating to false representation of military status; stolen valor; penalty.*

Patrons—Lingamfelter, Anderson, Freitas, Peace and Poindexter

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 18.2 a section numbered 18.2-177.1 as follows:

§ 18.2-177.1. False representation of military status; penalty.

A. It is unlawful for any person, with the intent to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit, to falsely represent himself to be a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces, Armed Forces Reserves, or National Guard by wearing the uniform or any medal or insignia authorized for use by the members or veterans of the United States Armed Forces, Armed Forces Reserves, or National Guard by federal and state law or regulation and obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit through such false representation.

B. It is unlawful for any person, with the intent to obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit, to falsely represent himself as a recipient of any decoration or medal created by federal or state law or regulation to honor the members or veterans of the United States Armed Forces, Armed Forces Reserves, or National Guard and obtain money, property, or other tangible benefit through such false representation.

C. Any person who violates subsection A or B is guilty of larceny.

D. The provisions of this section shall not preclude prosecution under any other statute.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$0 for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities and \$0 for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.