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HOUSE BILL NO. 542

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 9, 2016

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 7 of Chapter 6 of Title 18.2 a section numbered 18.2-213.3, relating to unlawful inducement; contracts; payments for goods or services; penalty.*

Patron—Watts

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 7 of Chapter 6 of Title 18.2 a section numbered 18.2-213.3 as follows:

§ 18.2-213.3. Unlawful inducement; contracts; payments for goods or services; penalty.

A. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly, through the use of force, fraud, deceit, duress, or other form of constraint, induce or solicit any adult (i) to enter into a contract or agreement or (ii) for payment for goods or services. A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. Any violation of subsection A also constitutes a prohibited practice in accordance with § 59.1-200, provided that the violation involves a consumer transaction as defined in the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (§ 59.1-196 et seq.), and is subject to any and all of the enforcement provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

C. The provisions of this section shall not preclude the applicability of any other provision of the criminal law of the Commonwealth which may apply to any course of conduct which violates this section.

INTRODUCED

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