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**SENATE BILL NO. 775**

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance  
on February 10, 2016)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Dunnavant)

*A BILL to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to require Medicaid eligibility workers to apply certain protocols and conduct certain searches and to amend the Virginia Medicaid application.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

*1. § 1. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall require Medicaid eligibility workers to verify income, using currently available Virginia Employment Commission data, for applicants and recipients who report no earned or unearned income. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall, at the earliest date feasible but no later than October 1, 2017, require all Medicaid eligibility workers to apply the same protocols when verifying income for all applicants and recipients, including those who report no earned or unearned income.*

*§ 2. The Department of Medical Assistance services shall amend the Virginia Medicaid application, after obtaining approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to require a Medicaid applicant to opt out if such applicant does not want to grant permission to the state to use his federal tax returns for the purposes of renewing eligibility.*