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**HOUSE BILL NO. 797**

House Amendments in [ ] — February 7, 2018

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 53.1-35.1, relating to electronic visitation; state correctional facilities.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Hope

Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 53.1-35.1 as follows:**

**§ 53.1-35.1. *Electronic visitation and messaging with inmates; fees.***

*The Director is authorized to prescribe reasonable rules regarding electronic visitation systems or electronic messaging systems, including Voice-over-Internet Protocol technology and web-based communication systems, for communication between prisoners and third parties and collection of a fee for the system utilized. [ ~~However, no fee shall be charged for communication between prisoners and third parties within any state correctional facility or appurtenance thereto operated or controlled by the state correctional facility.~~ ] Any state correctional facility that utilizes such systems shall establish such system [ ~~with the lowest available rates~~ ] allowing for the security needs of the facility. Any state correctional facility that utilizes such system shall not prohibit in-person visitation.*

*This section does not apply to telephonic communication systems or to electronic video and audio communication systems used in judicial proceedings.*

ENGROSSED

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