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## SENATE BILL NO. 1274

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 7, 2019

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 9.1-1101.1, relating to Department of Forensic Science; purchase of forensic laboratory services.*

Patrons—Chafin, Locke and Mason

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 9.1-1101.1 as follows:****§ 9.1-1101.1. Purchase of forensic laboratory services.**

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department shall make and enter into contracts or agreements for forensic laboratory services with laboratories located in the Commonwealth that are operated by an institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or a corporate entity that is wholly owned by an institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth, which institution offers a program leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. No such contract or agreement for forensic laboratory services shall be made or entered into with any other laboratory, except as provided in subsection B.

B. The Department may request, and the Director of the Division of Purchases and Supplies of the Department of General Services may be granted, an exemption from the provisions of subsection A in any case in which (i) a laboratory described in subsection A does not meet the reasonable requirements of the Department, (ii) a laboratory described in subsection A cannot provide the forensic laboratory services required by the Department, or (iii) forensic laboratory services identical to those provided by the laboratory described in subsection A can be obtained at a cost that is at least 10 percent less than the cost of obtaining such forensic laboratory services from the laboratory described in subsection A, as evidenced by a verified request for pricing. In any case in which an exemption is granted pursuant to this subsection, the Director of the Division of Purchases and Supply of the Department of General Services shall submit a written justification for the exception to the Directors of the Department of Forensic Science and the Department of General Services.

INTRODUCED

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