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Offered January 10, 2018

A BILL to require the Virginia Employment Commission to develop and submit a plan for a paid family-medical leave program.

Patron—Favola

Referred to Committee on Rules

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

- 1. § 1. That the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) shall, in consultation with a work group composed of representatives of interested groups, develop a plan for a program for private employers in the Commonwealth with 50 or more salaried employees, as defined by the VEC, to offer paid family-medical leave for their employees. The program shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:
 - 1. Minimum coverage of 60 working days in each 365-day period;
- 2. A benefit that pays not less than 80 percent of an employee's usual earnings during the period family-medical leave is taken;
- 3. A requirement that an employee work one year before being eligible for the paid family-medical leave:
- 4. A process by which the employee is required to apply to the VEC and provide any documentation that might be required;
- 5. Funding provided through a periodic payment schedule that is equally shared by the employer and the employee, using the same payment structures and pooled resource concepts available for funding health insurance plans;
 - 6. Participation in the paid family-medical leave program shall be voluntary; and
- 7. Subject to the enactment of implementing legislation, the anticipated effective date of the program would be January 1, 2020.

The VEC shall submit its plan for the program to the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2018.