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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1025**

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 11 of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 a section numbered 51.5-177.1, relating to vocational rehabilitation and employment services for former law-enforcement officers with a disability.*

Patrons—Adams, L.R., Byron and Marshall

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 11 of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 a section numbered 51.5-177.1 as follows:**

**§ 51.5-177.1. Vocational rehabilitation and employment services for law-enforcement officers with a disability.**

A. The Commissioner shall establish a program that provides vocational rehabilitation and employment services to former law-enforcement officers who have a disability as a result of their service as a law-enforcement officer in the Commonwealth. Such program shall provide services to assist eligible participants in preparing for, obtaining, and maintaining suitable employment. Such services shall include short-term or long-term employment preparation training, assistance with the purchase of supplies and equipment necessary for employment, on-the-job training, increased access to employment opportunities, and assistance with opportunities for self-employment. In the case of an eligible participant who is unable to work, either temporarily or permanently, due to a disability, services shall be offered to improve the participant's ability to live independently and remain engaged in the community.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of any person participating in the program established by this section to access any other services such participants are otherwise eligible to receive, including any services available in this article. All other provisions of this article, as appropriate, shall apply to the program created pursuant to this section.

C. For the purposes of this section, "former law-enforcement officer" means any person who, in his official capacity, was authorized by law to make arrests and was a nonprobationary officer of one of the following agencies: (i) the Department of State Police, the Division of Capitol Police, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the Virginia Port Authority, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, the Department of Motor Vehicles, or the Department of Conservation and Recreation or (ii) the police department, bureau, or force of any political subdivision, a sheriff's office, or the campus police department of any public institution of higher education of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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