

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-235.1:2, relating to public*  
3 *utility ratemaking; reasonableness of costs of contracting with small, women-owned, or*  
4 *minority-owned businesses.*

5 [H 432]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 56-235.1:2 as follows:**9 **§ 56-235.1:2. *Costs of using small, women-owned, or minority-owned businesses.***

10 *In any proceeding under this title in which the Commission is required to determine whether costs*  
11 *incurred by a public utility in its delivery or provision of any goods or service are reasonable or*  
12 *prudent, the incremental portion of the costs incurred as a result of the public utility's contracting with*  
13 *a small, woman-owned, or minority-owned business to deliver or provide the goods or service rather*  
14 *than contracting with a business that could have delivered or provided the goods or service at lower*  
15 *costs shall not be found to be unreasonable or imprudently incurred, provided that the costs of the*  
16 *delivery or provision of the goods or services by the small, woman-owned, or minority-owned business*  
17 *do not exceed, by more than three percent, the costs thereof that would have been incurred had the*  
18 *public utility contracted with the lowest-cost qualified business. As used in this section, "small,*  
19 *woman-owned, or minority-owned business" means a business that is certified by the Department of*  
20 *Small Business and Supplier Diversity as a small, women-owned, or minority-owned business pursuant*  
21 *to the conditions and provisions in § 2.2-1604.*

ENROLLED

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