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20 21 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1909** 

Offered January 13, 2021 Prefiled January 9, 2021

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-131.1, relating to certain school board property; establishment of gun-free zone permitted.

Patrons—Subramanyam, Murphy, Helmer, Levine, Lopez, Reid and Samirah; Senators: Bell and Favola

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-131.1 as follows: § 22.1-131.1. Certain school board property; establishment of gun-free zone permitted.

In addition to ensuring compliance with the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, 18 U.S.C. § 922(q), any school board may deem any property that it owns or leases outside of school zones, as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, as a gun-free zone and may prohibit any individual from knowingly possessing any firearm designed or intended to expel a projectile by action of an explosion of a combustible material while such individual is upon such property, provided, however, that such prohibition does not apply to (i) any law-enforcement officer; (ii) any retired law-enforcement officer qualified to carry firearms pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-308.016; (iii) any individual who possesses an unloaded firearm that is in a closed container in or upon a motor vehicle or an unloaded shotgun or rifle in a firearms rack in or upon a motor vehicle; or (iv) any individual who has a valid concealed handgun permit and possesses a concealed handgun while in a motor vehicle in a parking lot, traffic circle, or other means of vehicular ingress or egress to the school board property.