

2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 349

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 63.2-905.1:1, relating to foster care; housing support for persons between ages 18 and 21.*

Patrons—Tata, Guzman, Maldonado, McGuire and Williams Graves

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 a section numbered 63.2-905.1:1 as follows:

§ 63.2-905.1:1. Housing services.

Local departments shall provide housing support to any person who (i) is 18 years of age or older but less than 21 years of age, (ii) was in foster care under the custody of a local department (a) upon turning 18 years of age or (b) immediately prior to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice and is transitioning from such commitment to self-sufficiency, and (iii) declines to participate in the Fostering Futures program pursuant to § 63.2-919. Such housing support shall be provided in the form of payments not less than the amount that such person would otherwise receive for housing support through participation in the Fostering Futures program. The local department may send such payments directly to the housing provider or to the person receiving housing support, as agreed upon by the local department and the recipient. Policies and decisions regarding housing options shall take into consideration the recipient's autonomy, developmental maturity, and safety needs.

Local departments shall provide any person who chooses to decline or terminate such housing support prior to the person's twenty-first birthday written notice of the person's right to request restoration of housing support in accordance with this section. Such notice shall be included in the person's transition plan, which shall be created within 90 days prior to the person's discharge from foster care.

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