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HOUSE BILL NO. 1524

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 5, 2023

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-116.8, relating to Virginia Opioid Use Reduction and Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund; established.*

Patrons—Coyner, Lopez, McQuinn, Sickles, Taylor and Ward; Senator: 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 in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-116.8 as follows:

§ 9.1-116.8. Virginia Opioid Use Reduction and Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund.

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Opioid Use Reduction and Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of funding and supporting the planning and implementation of locally administered jail-based addiction recovery and substance use disorder treatment and transition programs in local and regional jails. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director of the Department or his designee.

B. The Fund shall be administered by the Department, and the Department shall adopt guidelines, in consultation with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, to make funds available to local and regional jails for the planning or operation of substance use disorder treatment services and transition services for persons with substance use disorder who are incarcerated in local and regional jails. The guidelines shall direct the distribution of funds to programs including medical assisted treatment therapies, addiction recovery and other substance use disorder services, or reentry and transitional support.

C. The Department shall establish a grant procedure, in consultation with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, to govern funds awarded for this purpose. No grant funds shall be used by the grantee to supplant funding for an existing program.