

24104916D

HOUSE BILL NO. 972

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 9, 2024

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-271.7, relating to prohibiting inquiry into the immigration status of defendant; notification of consequences.

Patrons—Lopez, Clark, Glass, Henson, Martinez, Rasoul, Simonds and Watts

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-271.7 as follows:

§ 19.2-271.7. Prohibiting inquiry into the immigration status of defendant; notification of consequences.

A. No circuit court, general district court, or juvenile and domestic relations district court shall, in connection with the prosecution of a criminal violation of state or local law, inquire into the immigration status of any defendant unless such inquiry is relevant to the offense for which such defendant is being prosecuted.

B. Prior to the start of proceedings, such courts shall advise any defendant that immigration consequences, including possible detention, incarceration, or deportation connected to an immigration action, are possible if such defendant is convicted of a criminal violation of state or local law.

INTRODUCED

HB972