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HOUSE BILL NO. 1310

Offered January 25, 1994

A BILL to amend and reenact § 13.1-514 of the Code of Virginia, relating to securities; exemption from registration requirements.

Patrons—Hall, Bennett, Bloxom, Callahan, Cohen, Cunningham, Deeds, Forbes, Hargrove, Heilig, Johnson, Jones, J.C., Keating, Mims, Morgan, Murphy, O'Brien, Parrish, Plum, Reynolds, Rhodes, Robinson, Scott, Shuler, Tata, Watkins, Wilkins and Woodrum; Senators: Barry, Bell, Chichester, Colgan, Hawkins, Holland, C.A., Holland, E.M., Holland, R.J., Nolen, Norment, Reasor, Russell, Saslaw and Wampler

Referred to Committee on Corporations, Insurance and Banking

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 13.1-514 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 13.1-514. Exemptions.**

A. The following securities are exempted from the securities registration requirements of this chapter:

1. Any security (including a revenue obligation) issued or guaranteed by the United States, any state, any political subdivision of a state or any agency or corporate or other instrumentality of one or more of the foregoing; or any certificate of deposit for any of the foregoing;

2. Any security issued or guaranteed by Canada, any Canadian province, any political subdivision of any such province, any agency or corporate or other instrumentality of one or more of the foregoing or any other foreign government with which the United States currently maintains diplomatic relations, if the security is recognized as a valid obligation by such issuer or guarantor;

3. Any security issued by and representing an interest in or a debt of, or guaranteed by, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or any national bank, or any bank or trust company organized under the laws of any state or trust subsidiary organized under the provisions of § 6.1-32.1 et seq.;

4. Any security issued by and representing an interest in or a debt of, or guaranteed by, any federal savings and loan association, or by any savings and loan association which is organized under the laws of this Commonwealth;

5. Any security issued or guaranteed by an insurance company licensed to transact insurance business in this Commonwealth;

6. Any security issued by any credit union, industrial loan association or consumer finance company which is organized under the laws of this Commonwealth and is supervised and examined by the Commission;

7. Any security issued or guaranteed by any railroad, other common carrier or public service company supervised as to its rates and the issuance of its securities by a governmental authority of the United States, any state, Canada or any Canadian province;

8. Any security which is listed or approved for listing upon notice of issuance on the New York Stock Exchange, the *NASDAQ National Market System* or the American Stock Exchange or any other security of the same issuer which is of senior or substantially equal rank; any security called for by subscription rights or warrants admitted to trading in any of said exchanges; or any warrant or right to subscribe to any of the foregoing securities;

9. Any commercial paper which arises out of a current transaction or the proceeds of which have been or are to be used for current transactions, and which evidences an obligation to pay cash within nine months after the date of issuance, exclusive of days of grace, or any renewal thereof which is likewise limited, or any guaranty of such paper or of any such renewal;

10. Any security issued in connection with an employee's stock purchase, savings, pension, profit-sharing or similar benefit plan;

11. Any security issued by a cooperative association organized as a corporation under the laws of this Commonwealth;

12. Any security listed on an exchange registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or quoted on an automated quotation system operated by a national securities association registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and approved by regulations of the State Corporation Commission;

13. Any security issued by any issuer organized under the laws of any foreign country and approved by rule or regulation of the Commission.

B. The following transactions are exempted from the securities, broker-dealer and agent registration

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60 requirements of this chapter except as expressly provided in this subsection:

61 1. Any isolated transaction by the owner or pledgee of a security, whether effected through a
62 broker-dealer or not, which is not directly or indirectly for the benefit of the issuer;

63 2. Any nonissuer distribution by a registered broker-dealer and its registered agent of a security that
64 has been outstanding in the hands of the public for the past five years, if the issuer in each of the past
65 three fiscal years has lawfully paid dividends on its common stock aggregating at least four percent of
66 its current market price;

67 3. Any transaction by a registered broker-dealer and its registered agent pursuant to an unsolicited
68 order or offer to buy;

69 4. Any transaction in a bond or other evidence of indebtedness secured by a real or chattel mortgage
70 or deed of trust or by an agreement for the sale of real estate or chattels, if the entire indebtedness
71 secured thereby is offered and sold as a unit;

72 5. Any transaction in his official capacity by a receiver, trustee in bankruptcy or other judicially
73 appointed officer selling securities pursuant to court order;

74 6. Any offer or sale to a corporation, investment company or pension or profit-sharing trust or to a
75 broker-dealer;

76 7. Any sale of its securities by an issuer or any sale of securities by a registered broker-dealer and its
77 registered agent acting on behalf of an issuer if, after the sale, such issuer has not more than thirty-five
78 security holders, and if its securities have not been offered to the general public by advertisement or
79 solicitation. The number of security holders of an issuer shall not be deemed to include the security
80 holders of any other corporation, partnership, unincorporated association or trust unless it was organized
81 to raise capital for the issuer. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 15, the merger or
82 consolidation of corporations shall be a violation of this chapter if the surviving or new corporation has
83 more than thirty-five security holders and all the securities of the parties thereto were issued under this
84 exemption, unless all of the parties thereto have been engaged in transacting business for more than two
85 years prior to the merger or consolidation;

86 8. Any transaction pursuant to an offer to existing security holders of the issuer including holders of
87 transferable warrants issued to existing security holders and exercisable within ninety days of their
88 issuance, if either (i) no commission or other remuneration (other than a standby commission) is paid or
89 given directly or indirectly for soliciting any security holder in this Commonwealth, or (ii) the issuer
90 first notifies the Commission in writing of the terms of the offer and the Commission does not by order
91 disallow the exemption within five full business days after the date of the receipt of the notice;

92 9. Any offer (but not a sale) of a security for which registration statements have been filed under
93 both this chapter and the Securities Act of 1933; but this exemption shall not apply while a stop order is
94 in effect or, after notice to the issuer, while a proceeding or examination looking toward such an order
95 is pending under either act;

96 10. The issuance of not more than three shares of common stock to one or more of the incorporators
97 of a corporation and the initial transfer thereof;

98 11. Sales of an issue of bonds, aggregating \$150,000 or less, secured by a first lien deed of trust on
99 realty situated in Virginia, to thirty persons or less who are residents of Virginia;

100 12. Any offer or sale of any interest in any partnership, corporation, association or other entity
101 created solely to provide residential housing located in the Commonwealth, provided that such offer or
102 sale is by the issuer or by a real estate broker or real estate agent duly licensed in Virginia;

103 13. The Commission is authorized to create by rule a limited offering exemption, the purpose of
104 which shall be to further the objectives of compatibility with similar exemptions from federal securities
105 regulation and uniformity among the states; providing, that such rule shall not exempt broker-dealers or
106 agents from the registration requirements of this chapter. Any filing made with the Commission pursuant
107 to any exemption created under this subdivision shall be accompanied by a \$250 fee;

108 14. The issuance of any security dividend, whether the corporation distributing the dividend is the
109 issuer of the security or not, if nothing of value is given by stockholders for the distribution other than
110 the surrender of a right to a cash dividend where the stockholder can elect to take a dividend in cash or
111 in a security;

112 15. Any transaction incident to a right of conversion or a statutory or judicially approved
113 reclassification, recapitalization, reorganization, quasi-reorganization, stock split, reverse stock split,
114 merger, consolidation, sale of assets, or exchange of securities;

115 16. Any offer or sale of a security issued by a Virginia church if the offer and sale are only to and
116 by its members who are Virginia residents and who do not receive remuneration or compensation
117 directly or indirectly for offering or selling the security.

118 C. In any proceeding under this chapter, the burden of proving an exemption shall be upon the
119 person claiming it.