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HOUSE BILL NO. 1747

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE (Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice on Februray 19, 1995)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Hull)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-102.3, relating to unauthorized taking of newspaper; civil penalty.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-102.3 as follows:

§ 18.2-102.3. Unauthorized taking of certain newspaper; civil penalty.

Except with the consent of the publisher, no person shall take from a newsstand or other point of distribution, at any one time with intent to impede or prevent distribution, more than five newspapers or other periodicals that are distributed on a complimentary basis if the publisher has affixed, printed, or impressed upon the front of such publication a notice in bold type that not more than five such publications may be taken lawfully at any one time without the publisher's consent and with the intent to impede or prevent distribution.

A violation of this section shall be punished by a civil penalty of not more than \$500. Any attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which an alleged violation occurred may bring an action to recover the civil penalty, which shall be paid into the state treasury. Any law-enforcement officer may issue a summons for a violation of this section.