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HOUSE BILL NO. 470

Offered January 18, 1996

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.1-21.01, relating to economic growth sharing by localities.

Patrons—Orrock, Davies, Dickinson, Drake, Hall, Howell, Katzen, May, McDonnell, Morgan, Murphy, Watkins, Weatherholtz and Wilkins; Senators: Bolling, Chichester, Houck and Miller, K.G.

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.1-21.01 as follows:

§ 15.1-21.01. Voluntary economic growth sharing.

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 15.1-21 and 15.1-1167.1, any county, city or town may voluntarily enter into an agreement with any other county, city or town or combination thereof containing one or more binding economic growth sharing arrangements for fixed time periods. Such an agreement may be entered into for any purpose, including the provision on a regional basis of one or more public services or facilities.

B. The governing body of each locality participating in such an agreement shall hold a public hearing on the agreement. Each hearing shall be advertised once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality. The agreement shall be submitted to the Commission on Local Government, which shall make findings of fact in accordance with subdivision 4 of § 15.1-945.3. After the hearings and issuance of the Commission on Local Government report, the agreement shall become effective if approved by resolution adopted by a majority of the members of the governing bodies of each locality.

C. Before a county, under the terms of a voluntary agreement pursuant to this section, contracts a debt pursuant to Article VII, Section 10 (b) of the Constitution of Virginia, the board of supervisors shall petition the circuit court of the county for an order calling for a special election in accordance with § 15.1-1167.2.