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## **HOUSE BILL NO. 2050**

Offered January 14, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.1-162.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to amendment of local budgets.

Patron—Cooper

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.1-162.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.1-162.1. Amendment of budget; no reduction of funds to constitutional officers.

A. Every county, city and town may amend its budget from time to time to increase the aggregate amount to be appropriated during the current fiscal year as shown in the currently adopted budget as prescribed by § 15.1-161. However any such amendment which exceeds one percent of the total revenue shown in the currently adopted budget or the sum of \$500,000, whichever is lesser, must be accomplished by publishing a notice of a meeting and a public hearing once in a newspaper having general circulation in that locality seven days prior to the meeting date. The notice shall state the local government's intent to amend the budget and include a brief synopsis of the proposed budget amendment. The governing body of every county, city and town may adopt such amendment at the advertised meeting, after first providing a public hearing during such meeting on the proposed budget amendments.

B. Once the governing body of a county or city has approved its annual budget, it shall not reduce funds appropriated for any constitutional officer which were not set by the compensation board pursuant to  $\S 14.1-51$ , if any, without the approval of the officer.