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23 24 **HOUSE BILL NO. 2099**

Offered January 15, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.1-159.7 of the Code of Virginia, relating to law-enforcement mutual aid agreements.

Patrons-Crouch, Abbitt, Bennett, Bryant, Putney and Wilkins; Senators: Hawkins, Holland and Newman

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.1-159.7 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.1-159.7. Mutual aid agreements among governing bodies of contiguous counties, cities, towns and institutions of higher learning.

The governing bodies of counties, cities, towns and state-supported institutions of higher learning having a police force appointed pursuant to § 23-233 as well as sheriffs with law-enforcement authority within localities without a police force or any combination thereof whose boundaries are contiguous, by proper resolutions, may enter in and become a party to contracts or mutual aid agreements for the use of their joint police or other law-enforcement forces, both regular and auxiliary, their equipment and materials to maintain peace and good order. Any police or other law-enforcement officer, regular or auxiliary, while performing his duty under any such contract or agreement, shall have the same authority in any county, city, or town as he has within the county, city, or town where he was appointed.

In counties where no police department has been established and the sheriff is the chief law-enforcement officer, the sheriff may, in his discretion, enter into mutual aid agreements as provided by this section.