

1997 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 956

Offered January 17, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact § 17-116.010 of the Code of Virginia, relating to opinions of the Virginia Supreme Court and the Virginia Court of Appeals.

Patrons—Newman, Barry, Benedetti, Bolling, Earley, Hanger, Martin, Potts, Quayle, Stolle, Stosch, Trumbo and Woods

Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 17-116.010 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 17-116.010. Opinions; reporting, printing and electronic publication.

A. The Court of Appeals shall state in writing the reasons for its decision (i) rejecting a petition for appeal or (ii) deciding a case after hearing. Subject to rules promulgated under § 17-116.03 the Court in its discretion may render its decision by order or memorandum opinion. All orders and opinions of the Court of Appeals shall be preserved with the record of the case. Opinions designated by the Court of Appeals as having precedential value or as otherwise having significance for the law or legal system shall be expeditiously reported in separate Court of Appeals Reports in the same manner as the decisions and opinions of the Supreme Court. The clerk of the Court of Appeals shall retain in the clerk's office a list and brief summary of the case for all unpublished decisions and opinions of the Court of Appeals. The list of cases and summary shall be made available to any person upon request.

B. The Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court shall contract for the printing of the reports of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals and for the advance sheets of each court. He shall select a printer for the reports and prescribe such contract terms as will ensure issuance of the reports as soon as practicable after a sufficient number of opinions are filed. He shall make such contracts after consultation with the Department of General Services and shall distribute these reports in accordance with the applicable provisions of law. *He shall also provide for the electronic publication on the Internet of the opinions of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals subject to conditions and restrictions established by each court regarding the electronic publication of its opinions.*

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