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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1103

Offered January 26, 1998

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 36-139 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; administration.*

Patrons—Almand, Councill, Grayson, Stump and Thomas

Referred to Committee on General Laws

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 36-139 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 36-139. Powers and duties of Director.

The Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Collecting from the governmental subdivisions of the Commonwealth information relevant to their planning and development activities, boundary changes, changes of forms and status of government, intergovernmental agreements and arrangements, and such other information as he may deem necessary.

2. Making information available to communities, planning district commissions, service districts and governmental subdivisions of the Commonwealth.

3. Providing professional and technical assistance to, and cooperating with, any planning agency, planning district commission, service district, and governmental subdivision engaged in the preparation of development plans and programs, service district plans, or consolidation agreements.

4. Assisting the Governor in the providing of such state financial aid as may be appropriated by the General Assembly in accordance with § 15.1-1412.

5. Administering federal grant assistance programs, including funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration and other such federal agencies, directed at promoting the development of the Commonwealth's communities and regions.

6. Developing state community development policies, goals, plans and programs for the consideration and adoption of the Board with the ultimate authority for adoption to rest with the Governor and the General Assembly.

7. Developing a Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy to guide the development and implementation of housing programs in the Commonwealth for the purpose of meeting the housing needs of the Commonwealth and, in particular, those of low-income and moderate-income persons and families.

8. Determining present and future housing requirements of the Commonwealth on an annual basis and revising the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, as necessary to coordinate the elements of housing production to ensure the availability of housing where and when needed.

9. Assuming administrative coordination of the various state housing programs and cooperating with the various state agencies in their programs as they relate to housing.

10. Establishing public information and educational programs relating to housing; devising and administering programs to inform all citizens about housing and housing-related programs that are available on all levels of government; designing and administering educational programs to prepare families for home ownership and counseling them during their first years as homeowners; and promoting educational programs to assist sponsors in the development of low and moderate income housing as well as programs to lessen the problems of rental housing management.

11. Administering the provisions of the Industrialized Building Safety Law (§ 36-70 et seq.).

12. Administering the provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (§ 36-97 et seq.).

13. Administering the provisions of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (§ 27-94 et seq.).

14. Establishing and operating a Building Code Academy for the training of personnel in building regulations promulgated by the Board of Housing and Community Development.

15. Administering, in conjunction with the federal government, and promulgating any necessary regulations regarding energy standards for existing buildings as may be required pursuant to federal law.

16. Identifying and disseminating information to local governments about the availability and utilization of federal and state resources.

17. Administering, with the cooperation of the Department of Health, state assistance programs for public water supply systems.

18. Advising the Board on matters relating to policies and programs of the Virginia Housing Partnership Revolving Fund.

19. Designing and establishing program guidelines to meet the purposes of the Virginia Housing

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60 Partnership Revolving Fund and to carry out the policies and procedures established by the Board.

61 20. Preparing agreements and documents for loans and grants to be made from the Virginia Housing  
62 Partnership Revolving Fund; soliciting, receiving, reviewing and selecting the applications for which  
63 loans and grants are to be made from such fund; directing the Virginia Housing Development Authority  
64 as to the closing and disbursing of such loans and grants and as to the servicing and collection of such  
65 loans; directing the Virginia Housing Development Authority as to the regulation and monitoring of the  
66 ownership, occupancy and operation of the housing developments and residential housing financed or  
67 assisted by such loans and grants; and providing direction and guidance to the Virginia Housing  
68 Development Authority as to the investment of moneys in such fund.

69 21. Advising the Board on matters relating to policies for the low-income housing credit and  
70 administering the approval of low-income housing credits as provided in § 36-55.63.

71 22. Establishing and administering program guidelines for a statewide homeless intervention program.

72 23. Carrying out such other duties as may be necessary and convenient to the exercise of powers  
73 granted to the Department.

74 24. *Administering the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), or any successor*  
75 *program thereto, furnishing federally funded, short-term heating or cooling assistance, home*  
76 *weatherization and associated services to low-income households within the Commonwealth.*

77 **2. That all administrative and operational functions of the LIHEAP program shall be transferred**  
78 **from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Housing and Community**  
79 **Development on or before the effective date of this act.**

80 **3. That all records necessary for administration of this act shall be transferred by the Department**  
81 **of Social Services to the Department of House and Community Development on or before the**  
82 **effective date of this act.**

83 **4. That regulations promulgated by the State Board of Social Services prior to the effective date of**  
84 **this act regarding the LIHEAP program shall continue in effect and shall be deemed to be the**  
85 **regulations of the Board of Housing and Community Development.**