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## HOUSE BILL NO. 2047

House Amendments in [ ] — February 8, 1999

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 11 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-1119.1 and in Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 a section numbered 58.1-346.9, relating to State Forests System Fund.

Patrons—Weatherholtz, Blevins, Davis, Harris and Landes; Senator: Miller, K.G.

Referred to Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 11 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-1119.1 and in Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 a section numbered 58.1-346.9 as follows:**

**§ 10.1-1119.1. State Forests System Fund established.**

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the State Forests System Fund, hereafter referred to as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All contributions from income tax refunds and any other source shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of developing and implementing conservation and education initiatives in the state forests system. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the State Forester.

**§ 58.1-346.9. State forests voluntary contribution.**

A. [ For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 1999, ] any individual eligible to receive a tax refund pursuant to § 58.1-309 may designate at the time of filing his return a specified dollar amount of such refund, such amount to be not less than one dollar, to be used for the development and implementation of conservation and education initiatives in the state forests system.

B. All moneys collected pursuant to this section or through voluntary payments by taxpayers designated for state forests system fund purposes over refundable amounts shall be deposited into the state treasury.

C. The Tax Commissioner shall determine annually the total amount designated on all state income tax returns and shall report the same to the State Treasurer, who shall credit that amount to a special fund known as the State Forests System Fund, established in § 10.1-1119.1. All moneys so deposited in such fund shall be used by the State Forester for the purposes set forth herein.

ENGROSSED

HB2047E