

## 2002 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE BILL NO. 161

Offered January 9, 2002

Prefiled December 28, 2001

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-203.3, relating to posting of the Ten Commandments in the public schools.*

Patrons—Lingamfelter, Black, Cole, Cosgrove, Cox, Sears and Wright

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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

#### **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-203.3 as follows:**

*§ 22.1-203.3. Guidelines for posting of Ten Commandments in public schools.*

*The Board of Education shall, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, develop guidelines regarding the posting of the Ten Commandments in the public schools. Local school boards may authorize the posting of the Ten Commandments in a manner consistent with such guidelines.*

*The Board's guidelines shall include, but shall not be limited to, provisions that address relevant state and federal constitutional concerns, such as freedom of religion and speech, separation of church and state, and federal and state judicial decisions addressing the permissible and appropriate display of the Ten Commandments.*

*These guidelines shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.). However, in order to provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing such guidelines. Thirty days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give written notice by mail of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and shall publish notice of its intention to hold such hearings in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present information prior to the adoption of such guidelines.*

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