

## 2002 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE BILL NO. 789

Offered January 9, 2002

Prefiled January 9, 2002

*A BILL for the relief of Jeffrey D. Cox.*

Patrons—Miles, Amundson, Barlow, Baskerville, Bland, Brink, Crittenden, Darner, Hull, Jones, J.C., Petersen, Scott, Spruill, Stump and Woodrum

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Whereas, Jeffrey D. Cox (Cox) was arrested on October 18, 1990 in the City of Richmond and charged with First Degree Murder, Abduction with Intent to Defile and Breaking and Entering; and

Whereas, on February 13, 1991, Cox was convicted of these charges and sentenced to life imprisonment plus fifty years; and

Whereas, Cox subsequently filed a Petition for Appeal with the Virginia Court of Appeals; and

Whereas, on March 16, 1992, the Virginia Court of Appeals denied the Petition; and

Whereas, Cox continued to work tirelessly towards having the conviction appealed; and

Whereas, on August 16, 1995, the Virginia Supreme Court restored his right to appeal and Cox subsequently filed another Petition for Appeal; and

Whereas, the Virginia Supreme Court denied the Petition on March 8, 1996; and

Whereas, while his Petition for Appeal had been denied, Cox continued to seek his freedom through habeas corpus proceedings; and

Whereas, new evidence was revealed which supported Cox's innocence of the crimes including confessions by other parties; and

Whereas, based on this new evidence, the Office of the Attorney General reached a settlement agreement with Cox resulting in the Richmond Circuit Court entering an order on November 14, 2001 vacating the convictions; and

Whereas, Cox was incarcerated from the time of his arrest on October 18, 1990 until he was released on November 14, 2001; and

Whereas, at the time of his arrest, Cox was employed as an air conditioning repairman and was working towards obtaining his tradesman's certification as an electrician; and

Whereas, Cox has lost income and a promising career during his eleven years of incarceration; and

Whereas, Cox has also suffered severe physical, emotional and psychological damage as a result of this wrongful incarceration and has no other means to obtain adequate relief except by action of this body; now, therefore,

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

**1. § 1.** *That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund of the state treasury the sum of \$ 750,000 for the relief of Jeffrey D. Cox, to be paid by check issued by the State Treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller, upon execution by him of a release of all claims he may have against the Commonwealth or any agency, instrumentality, office, employee or political subdivision in connection with the aforesaid occurrence.*

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