

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act for the relief of Jeffrey D. Cox.*

3 [H 789]

4 Approved

5 Whereas, Jeffrey D. Cox (Cox) was arrested on October 18, 1990, in the City of Richmond and
6 charged with First Degree Murder, Abduction with Intent to Defile and Breaking and Entering; and7 Whereas, on February 13, 1991, Cox was convicted of these charges and sentenced to life
8 imprisonment plus fifty years; and

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

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

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

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

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

15 Whereas, while his Petition for Appeal had been denied, Cox continued to seek his freedom through
16 habeas corpus proceedings; and17 Whereas, new evidence was revealed which supported Cox's innocence of the crimes including
18 confessions by other parties; and19 Whereas, based on this new evidence, the Office of the Attorney General reached a settlement
20 agreement with Cox resulting in the Richmond Circuit Court entering an order on November 14, 2001,
21 vacating the convictions; and22 Whereas, Cox was incarcerated from the time of his arrest on October 18, 1990, until he was
23 released on November 14, 2001; and24 Whereas, at the time of his arrest, Cox was employed as an air conditioning repairman and was
25 working towards obtaining his tradesman's certification as an electrician; and

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

27 Whereas, Cox has also suffered severe physical, emotional and psychological damage as a result of
28 this wrongful incarceration and has no other means to obtain adequate relief except by action of this
29 body; now, therefore,30 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**31 1. § 1. That there shall be paid for the relief of Jeffrey D. Cox from the general fund of the state
32 treasury, upon execution of a release of all claims he may have against the Commonwealth or any
33 agency, instrumentality, officer, employee, or political subdivision in connection with the aforesaid
34 occurrence, (i) the sum of \$350,000 to be paid to Jeffrey D. Cox on or before August 1, 2002, by check
35 issued by the State Treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller and (ii) an annuity for the primary benefit
36 of Jeffrey D. Cox providing for equal monthly payments, for a period certain of ten years commencing
37 on or before September 1, 2002, in the cumulative amount of \$400,000. The State Treasurer shall
38 purchase the annuity at the lowest cost available from any A+ rated company, including any A+ rated
39 company from which the State Lottery Department may purchase an annuity, and such annuity shall
40 contain beneficiary provisions providing for the annuity's continued disbursement in the event of the
41 death of Jeffrey D. Cox.