075245220 1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 2397** 2 3 4 5 6 Offered January 10, 2007 Prefiled January 9, 2007 A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 25.1-205.2, relating to the burden of establishing public use in condemnation cases. Patrons—Athey, Frederick, Jones, S.C., McQuigg and Sherwood 7 8 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 9 10 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia: 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 25.1-205.2 as follows: 11 12 § 25.1-205.2. The burden of establishing public use; condemnor. 13 In any condemnation action the condemnor shall establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that 14 the proposed public use being relied upon as the basis for the taking is a public use that directly benefits adjacent landowners and the community in proximity to the property that is the subject of the 15

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condemnation action.