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HOUSE BILL NO. 2967

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled January 10, 2007

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-3115 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; disclosure requirements for local government officers and employees.*

 Patron—Bell

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-3115 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-3115. Disclosure by local government officers and employees.

A. The members of every governing body and school board of each county and city and of towns with populations in excess of 3,500 shall file, as a condition to assuming office or employment, a disclosure statement of their personal interests and other information as is specified on the form set forth in § 2.2-3117 and thereafter shall file such a statement annually on or before January 15.

The members of the governing body of any authority established in any county or city, or part or combination thereof, and having the power to issue bonds or expend funds in excess of \$10,000 in any fiscal year, shall file, as a condition to assuming office, a disclosure statement of their personal interests and other information as is specified on the form set forth in § 2.2-3118 and thereafter shall file such a statement annually on or before January 15, unless the governing body of the jurisdiction that appoints the members requires that the members file the form set forth in § 2.2-3117.

Persons occupying such positions of trust appointed by governing bodies and persons occupying such positions of employment with governing bodies as may be designated to file by ordinance of the governing body shall file, as a condition to assuming office or employment, a disclosure statement of their personal interests and other information as is specified on the form set forth in § 2.2-3117 and thereafter shall file such a statement annually on or before January 15.

Persons occupying such positions of trust appointed by school boards and persons occupying such positions of employment with school boards as may be designated to file by an adopted policy of the school board shall file, as a condition to assuming office or employment, a disclosure statement of their personal interests and other information as is specified on the form set forth in § 2.2-3117 and thereafter shall file such a statement annually on or before January 15.

B. Nonsalaried citizen members of local boards, commissions and councils as may be designated by the governing body shall file, as a condition to assuming office, a disclosure form of their personal interests and such other information as is specified on the form set forth in § 2.2-3118 and thereafter shall file such form annually on or before January 15.

C. The disclosure forms required by subsections A and B shall be provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the clerks of the governing bodies and school boards not later than November 30 of each year, and the clerks of the governing body and school board shall distribute the forms to designated individuals no later than December 10 of each year. Forms shall be filed and maintained as public records for five years in the office of the clerk of the respective governing body or school board. Forms filed by members of governing bodies of authorities shall be filed and maintained as public records for five years in the office of the clerk of the governing body of the county or city.

D. Candidates for membership in the governing body or school board of any county, city or town with a population of more than 3,500 persons shall file a disclosure statement of their personal interests as required by § 24.2-502.

E. Any officer or employee of local government who has a personal interest in any transaction before the governmental or advisory agency of which he is an officer or employee and who is disqualified from participating in that transaction pursuant to subdivision A 1 of § 2.2-3112 or otherwise elects to disqualify himself *because of a present or past personal interest in the transaction*, shall forthwith make disclosure of the existence of his *present or past* interest, including the full name and address of the business and the address or parcel number for the real estate if the interest involves a business or real estate, and his disclosure shall be reflected in the public records of the agency for five years in the office of the administrative head of the officer's or employee's governmental or advisory agency.

F. In addition to any disclosure required by subsections A and B, in each county and city and in towns with populations in excess of 3,500, members of planning commissions, boards of zoning appeals, real estate assessors, and all county, city and town managers or executive officers shall make annual

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HB2967

59 disclosures of all their interests in real estate located in the county, city or town in which they are
60 elected, appointed, or employed. Such disclosure shall include any business in which such persons own
61 an interest, or from which income is received, if the primary purpose of the business is to own, develop
62 or derive compensation through the sale, exchange or development of real estate in the county, city or
63 town. Such disclosure shall be filed as a condition to assuming office or employment, and thereafter
64 shall be filed annually with the clerk of the governing body of such county, city or town on or before
65 January 15. Such disclosures shall be filed and maintained as public records for five years. Forms for
66 the filing of such reports shall be prepared and distributed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the
67 clerk of each governing body.

68 G. An officer or employee of local government who is required to declare his interest pursuant to
69 subdivision A 2 of § 2.2-3112 shall declare his interest by stating (i) the transaction involved, (ii) the
70 nature of the officer's or employee's personal interest affected by the transaction, (iii) that he is a
71 member of a business, profession, occupation, or group the members of which are affected by the
72 transaction, and (iv) that he is able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public
73 interest. The officer or employee shall either make his declaration orally to be recorded in written
74 minutes of his agency or file a signed written declaration with the clerk or administrative head of his
75 governmental or advisory agency, as appropriate, who shall, in either case, retain and make available for
76 public inspection such declaration for a period of five years from the date of recording or receipt. If
77 reasonable time is not available to comply with the provisions of this subsection prior to participation in
78 the transaction, the officer or employee shall prepare and file the required declaration by the end of the
79 next business day. The officer or employee shall also orally disclose the existence of the interest during
80 each meeting of the governmental or advisory agency at which the transaction is discussed and such
81 disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

82 H. An officer or employee of local government who is required to declare his interest pursuant to
83 subdivision A 3 of § 2.2-3112, shall declare his interest by stating (i) the transaction involved, (ii) that a
84 party to the transaction is a client of his firm, (iii) that he does not personally represent or provide
85 services to the client, and (iv) that he is able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in
86 the public interest. The officer or employee shall either make his declaration orally to be recorded in
87 written minutes for his agency or file a signed written declaration with the clerk or administrative head
88 of his governmental or advisory agency, as appropriate, who shall, in either case, retain and make
89 available for public inspection such declaration for a period of five years from the date of recording or
90 receipt. If reasonable time is not available to comply with the provisions of this subsection prior to
91 participation in the transaction, the officer or employee shall prepare and file the required declaration by
92 the end of the next business day.