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**SENATE BILL NO. 1413** 

Offered January 18, 2011

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 12.1-25.1, relating to discovery upon staff of the State Corporation Commission.

## Patron—Norment

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 12.1-25.1 as follows:

§ 12.1-25.1. Discovery upon Commission staff; discovery of settlement negotiations.

In all complaints, proceedings, contests, or controversies by or before the Commission made pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 13.1-501 et seq.) or 8 (§ 13.1-557 et seq.) of Title 13.1, Chapter 10.3 (§ 56-265.14 et seq.) of Title 56, or Chapter 26 (§ 58.1-2600 et seq.) of Title 58.1, or initiated by a rule to show cause, the Commission staff shall be treated as a party for purposes of the Commission's rules governing discovery and hearing preparation procedures. Discovery pertaining to settlement negotiations shall not be allowed to any party or Commission staff.