

2011 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 845

Offered January 12, 2011

Prefiled January 7, 2011

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 8.01-223.3, relating to speech or debate immunity; local officials.*

Patron—Petersen

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 8.01-223.3 as follows:

§ 8.01-223.3. Speech or debate immunity for local officials.

An elected or appointed official of a local or regional public body with legislative powers shall be immune from civil liability or criminal prosecution for any speech or debate engaged in by the official during the exercise of such legislative powers, and shall not be compelled by law to be questioned on such speech or debate in any other place without leave of court. However, the provisions of this section shall not restrict the power of the public body to regulate the conduct of its members.

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SB845