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HOUSE BILL NO. 997**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
on January 19, 2012)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Ransone)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.2-501 of the Code of Virginia, relating to application for public assistance; information to applicant.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 63.2-501 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 63.2-501. Application for assistance.

A. Except as provided for in the state plan for medical assistance services pursuant to § 32.1-325, application for public assistance shall be made to the local board and filed with the local director of the county or city in which the applicant resides. The application shall be in writing on forms prescribed by the Commissioner and shall be signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury in accordance with § 63.2-502.

If the condition of the applicant for public assistance precludes his signing an application, the application may be made on his behalf by his guardian or conservator. If no guardian or conservator has been appointed for the applicant, the application may be made by any competent adult person having sufficient knowledge of the applicant's circumstances to provide the necessary information, until such time as a guardian or conservator is appointed by a court.

B. Local boards shall provide each applicant for public assistance with information regarding his rights and responsibilities related to eligibility for and continued receipt of public assistance. Such information shall be provided in an electronic or written format approved by the Board that is easily understandable and shall also be provided orally to the applicant by an employee of the local department. The local department shall require each applicant to acknowledge, in a format approved by the Board, that the information required by this subsection has been provided and shall maintain such acknowledgment together with information regarding the application for public assistance.

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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