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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1200** 

Offered January 17, 2014

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-500.1, relating to qualifications of candidates; residency of candidates for General Assembly.

Patrons—Minchew, Fariss and LaRock

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-500.1 as follows: § 24.2-500.1. Residency as qualification for candidacy.

A person who seeks to qualify as a candidate for the General Assembly and establishes residency in a General Assembly district in which he was not previously a resident within 60 days prior to either the primary or general election for the office shall be allowed use his new domicile to serve as his residency for purposes of candidate qualification for that office upon a finding of the circuit court having jurisdiction in the locality of the claimed domicile that there is clear and convincing evidence that he had the intent to abandon his prior domicile and the intent to make his new domicile his permanent residence regardless of the outcome of the election. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable in the year a decennial redistricting law is enacted.