

# 2014 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## SENATE BILL NO. 284

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 6, 2014

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 63.2-900.01, relating to kinship care; regulations.*

Patron—Howell

Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

### Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 63.2-900.01 as follows:

#### § 63.2-900.01. Kinship care.

The Board shall adopt regulations for the placement of children in kinship care to avoid foster care placement. The regulations shall include (i) a description of the rights and responsibilities of local boards, birth parents, and kinship caregivers; (ii) a process for placement or transfer of custody; (iii) a model disclosure letter to be provided to the parents and potential kinship caregivers, including information about the differences between kinship care and kinship foster care, the impact of transferring custody from the birth parent to the kinship caregiver, the birth parent's role following transfer, and the plan requirements for custody to be returned to the birth parent; (iv) a process for developing a safety or service plan for the family, which shall include gathering input from birth parents, potential kinship caregivers, and other community and family supports; (v) a description of funding sources available to support safety or service plans; (vi) a process for gathering and reporting data regarding the well-being and permanency of children in kinship care; and (vii) a description of the training plan for local workers.

2. That the Board shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.

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